breitung

K. Valoch

WORKSHOP ON TRAUMATOLOGY IN MUNICH 1995

The working group on Paleoanthropology and Prehistoric Anthropology of the German Anthropological Society, under the leadership of Professor Maria Teschner-Nicola, organized its 3rd international workshop, this on traumatology in osteological materials. It took place at the Institute for Anthropology and Human Genetics of the University of Munich, whose director, Professor Gisela Grupe, was a perfect host.

The introductory series of lectures dealt with modern clinical and forensic aspects of traumatic lesions and with the new spiral-CT method used in their evaluation. Further group of papers was devoted to the osteological fractures of pyramids, the mandible, the teeth and jaws, the nasal region and the whole facial skeleton. One case was presented as evidence for neuropathic arthropathy. Populational studies showed contrasting patterns of traumatic lesions in two successive Nubian populations; a repertoire of cranial traumas from the time of the Battle of Nations near Leipzig; a great frequency of mostly unhealed traumas in a Neolithic population group from Lower Austria as evidence of an early massacre; the occurrence of rib fractures in a Bajuwarian row cemetery; permortal cranial traumatism in Palaeolithic Europe; an incidence of cranial vault traumatism in a medieval population from Italy; and the battle at Dornach in 1499 as viewed by palaeopathologists. A case of serial traumatata from the end of the Neolithic period, an analysis of trephination as an indicator of traumatism of the cranial vault, and differential diagnostic questions on amputations complemented the scientific programme. A film on „Trephination of the Kisti“ in East Africa, directed by Rolf Messig, from an expedition by the Institute for the History of Medicine in Düsseldorf, was projected.

At the closing meeting, the authors commented in their posters on the identification of Johann Libeरa, traumatic lesions of a historical skull from Berlin, contributions to trephination techniques, the aging and sexing of osteological finds, traumatic lesions on a series from different localities and dates from Germany and Austria, and the skull of Colonel Kallenberg, shot dead in Brno in 1645.

Eugen Strouhal

REPORT ON ANTHROPOLOGICAL AND PALEOPATHOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES IN EGYPT, 1995.

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Abusir

Together with Mgr. Viktor Černý, we processed human skeletal remains found in a few recent seasons during excavations by the Czech Institute of Egyptology at Abusir, South Field, in 8 mastabas dating from the 5th–6th Dynasty. These were mainly in a poor state of preservation, but taphonomic, demographic and paleopathological observations could be performed. Of the total of 43 individuals, 40 were adults (26 males, 13 females, 1 of undetermined sex), the remaining 3 children.

A mummy found in autumn 1994 in the Pyramid Lepsia no. 24, located southeast of the Pyramid Temple of Raneferef, proved to belong to a 21–25-year-old female. Her body was well-embalmed by copious use of resin, and her brain was removed. These features gave evidence against the dating of the mummy to the 5th Dynasty. Further, an almost complete skeleton of a perinatal child from the 5th Dynasty Mastaba of Hedenjetneb was examined. It originated from a secondary burial in a wooden coffin, which was buried in the northern offering chamber 1 m under the top of its eastern wall.

Tomb of Maya and Meryt at Saqqara

Anthropological material from the remaining shafts of the tomb, not yet explored during previous seasons, was processed. In all of them were found human skeletal remains scattered, fragmented and partially destroyed, lacking the natural anatomical position, so that they could be studied only by the anatomical method (separately by single bones), complemented by a calculation procedure introduced in previous seasons. Only in a few cases, due either to the characteristic colour of the bones or their identical age (as was the case with immature remains), some individuals could be reconstructed.

Shaft III yielded a minimum number of 9 adults (5 males, 4 females) and one 14–16-year-old juvenile.

In Shaft IV only 4 individuals were identified, 2 males (20–30 years old), one adult female (20–60 years old) and a child (6–10 years old).

Shaft VII was a collective burial place for a minimum number of 27 fragmented adults (15 males, 12 females), to which another 4 reconstructed individuals could be added. These were a 18–19-year-old juvenile (probably female), a 50–60-year-old female, 12–14-year-old child and an infant who died in its first year.

A further three burials of individuals found in situ were examined. One of them, a 23–27-year-old male, originated in Room E, belonging to the upper level of Shaft I. The other two, labelled Burial 11, were found in the Outer Courtyard of the tomb in March 1995, while excavating a pit fulfilling the three decorated burial chambers from the lower level of the tomb, adjoining Shaft IIb. These were a 35–40-year-old female buried together her 4–6 month-old infant.

Concerning dating, burials in Shafts III and IV were of late New Kingdom date, in Shafts VII and the upper level of Shaft I of Late Period date, and Burial 1 of mid-18th Dynasty date, according to the pottery found together with the bones.

In all the reconstructed or discovered individuals, the usual demographic, anthroposcopic, anthropometric and paleopathologic programme was performed (Strouhal and Perizonius 1992).

Oasis Dakhla

At the invitation of the Canadian Archaeological Mission in Be shedni, I examined three cases suspected to be male tumours, found in the cemeteries of Ain Tirisli and Kellis and dated to the 3rd Inter mediary Period. In two of them, the diagnosis of metastatic appears most probable, while the third case is still under investigation.

Eugen Strouhal

WINKLER’S MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM – PERSPECTIVES IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF PAST AND PRESENT POPULATIONS.

29 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 1995. XANTHI, GREECE

This international symposium was held in Xanthi from 29 September to 5 October, in conjunction with the new Demokritos University. The university is located in the region of Thrace and was built with support from the European Union. Although this is a new academic institution, the international meeting followed up on ten previous anthropological symposia organized by the Anthropological Museum of the city of Xanthi, the first of which took place in 1981. The chief organizer of this successful symposium was the director of the Anthropology Laboratory of Demokritos University in Komotini, Prof. Nikolaos Xirotritis, with the support of the Demokritos International Foundation and the participation of the Xanthi city government.

83 anthropologists, geneticists, human biologists, archaeologists and paleon tologists from 22 mostly European countries (Albania, Austria 2, Belgium 11, Bulgaria 15, the Czech Republic 10, Denmark 2, France 2, Germany 6, Greece 3, Hungary 15, Italy 2, Israel 2, Lithuania 1, the Netherlands 2, Poland 5, Romania 3, Serbia 1, Slovenia 2, Spain 3, Switzerland 3, Turkey 2) took part in the symposium, and more than 65 papers were submitted. The EAA was represented by its president, Prof. Ch. Perizonius. The papers covered a wide range of problems in the sciences of man, both biologically and socially oriented. This was fully in accordance with the unusually broad professional scope of the prematurely deceased Prof.
E. M. Winkler, in whose honor the symposium was organized. Papers were read in paleoanthropology, historical anthropology, paleodemography, paleontology, primatology, growth anthropology and auxology, skeletal anthropological and human morphology, dermatoglyphics, social anthropology and ethnology, archaeology and demography, as well as in areas of applied biological anthropology such as medical, functional and sport anthropology. No little attention was given to methodological and ethical aspects of anthropology as the science of man. Summaries of individual papers, collected in a volume of more than 100 pages, were at the participants' disposal.

Considering the great variety of the papers, no arrangement into thematic sections was undertaken, though certain theme areas naturally prevailed. Besides traditionally-conceived contributions, a number of papers which had a modern, interdisciplinary character were given. The areas of paleoanthropology and evolutionary and historical anthropology, as well as other prehistoric sciences and paleodemography and paleoecology, were, as usual, quite abundantly represented. Also heavily represented were the areas of growth anthropology and auxology, indicating the long continuity and traditionally high standard of this kind of research in Europe.

In his introductory paper, Prof. Sussane emphasized the need for a more intensive interdisciplinary approach, which would not only yield completely new knowledge but also uncover new areas of investigation. Prof. B. Arensburg presented an entirely new view on the evolution of speech in hominids and the morphology of a vocal tract of the human type. Methodological papers by G. N. VanVarka and V. Novotný also deservedly aroused attention, as did the contributions by V. Přívratský, V. Vančata and H. Zlámalová, who presented results of a new project on the ontogenesis of primates.

The organizers devoted much space to discussion, whether as part of the presentations section or outside the scheduled lecture blocks. Discussion blocks were organized, and there was also the very pleasant opportunity of having discussions during lunch, dinner and coffee breaks. All the participants made abundant use of these opportunities, and so not only were a whole range of interesting or controversial points discussed, for instance in paleodemography or growth anthropology, but also many new kinds of collaboration were agreed upon.

A number of papers as well as joint declarations by participants stressed the link between the past and the present, and stated that many of today's social and ethnic problems unquestionably have their roots in past or more recent history. This highlights the importance of an interdisciplinarily conceived anthropology as the science of man and his environment.

Participants at the symposium also expressed support for the organization of further symposia, as well as the establishment of a European Center for Biological and Cultural Studies at Demokritos University in Greece.

In conclusion, we can say without any hesitation that the E. M. Winkler Memorial Symposium was in all respects a successful symposium. Our congratulations go not only to the chairman, Nikolaus Xirotiris, and all the sponsors, but also to the entire organizing committee, who undertook the enormous work of organization.

Václav Vančata, Vladimír Přívratský, Helena Zlámalová