



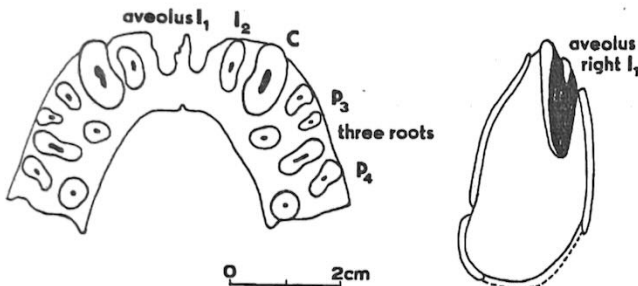
BERICHTE * NEWS * NOUVELLES

AUSTRALOPITHECUS BAHRELGHAZALI WEST OF THE EAST AFRICAN RIFT

The anterior part of a hominid mandible (KT12/H1) was found in January 1995 in Chad, east of Koro Toro in the Bahr el Ghazal region at site KT12, some 2,500 km west of the East African Rift. A P3 was found in January 1996 (KT12/H2). This is the first Australopithecus found west of the East African Rift, and calls for reconsideration of our ideas that plio-pleistocene hominids existed only in East and South Africa.

The animal remains found on the same site (KT12) are similar to the Hadar palaeontological finds, and may be dated to 3.0 – 3.5 million years. The sediments and animal remains demonstrate a fluvio-lacustrine environment with Silur fish, tortoise, crocodile and hippopotamus, and prove by its composition the mosaic character of the landscape: riverine forests (*Kolpochoerus afarensis*), woodland savannah (*Loxodonta*), and prairie (*Ceratotherium*).

The dental arc of the mandible has a parabolic shape of average height and narrow corpus, with the mental foramen situated low on the external side of the mandibular body.



The symphyseal part of the mandible is flat and vertically-oriented and the subvertical internal side of the symphysis has a weak transversal torus. The canines are large and asymmetrical, with a strong lingual crest. Both P3 have two cusps and the P4 are molarized with a small talonid. All the premolars have three roots. Their molarisation and the shape of symphysis are derived characters, but the presence of three roots is evidently a very primitive feature. In all Australopithecines, including *Ardipithecus*, the lower premolars have two or even only one root. Three roots are found only in the upper premolars in robust Australopithecines. Recent gorilla, chimpanzee and orang-utan have premolars with three or only two roots. A triradicular condition is, therefore, archaic, and the original mono- and biradicularism arises through a fusion of two of the original three roots. It seems that *Australopithecus bahrelghazali* retained the original archaic condition of this character. If this is the case, then *A. bahrelghazali* spread fairly early through the tropical forests of East and Central Africa to West Africa. This poses the question of his geographical origin.

Let us hope that a survey of the promising palaeontological sites in Chad and farther west will bring further discoveries.

Jan Jelínek

10th ANTHROPOLOGY DAYS OF THE CZECH ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

From 22 to 24 October 1996 anthropologists from Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia met at the castle in Liblice (50 km from Prague) to inform

one another about the results of their work in various areas of anthropology, both at formal sessions and in informal discussions. This meeting was organized by members of the Prague branch of the Czech Anthropological Society, in cooperation with members of the Department of Anthropology of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Charles University in Prague.

This exceptionally festive meeting was held on the occasion of the jubilee anniversary of Prof. Dr. Jan Jelínek, DrSc., an important Czech anthropologist and long-time chairman of the Czech Anthropological Society.

The working session of the meeting was divided into two days. The first day included numerous papers on osteology and much information on basic research of an interdisciplinary nature or in several areas of applied anthropology:

- The reliability of selected methods of determining age and sex (M. Dobisíková, P. Velemínský, V. Kuželka)
- Examples of burial rites from the Bronze Age (M. Dočkalová)
- The neurocranium of the Old Slavs: a model study (L. Dohnalíková, V. Novotný)
- The Pohansko-Jihozápadní předhradí Old Slav burial site (analysis of bone material) (E. Drozdová, J. Beneš)
- Growth of the splanchnocranium of immature individuals in the 13th – 18th centuries (Z. Hodačová)
- Demography of an Old Bronze Age population from Jelšovice (J. Jakab)
- Post-cranial skeletons from a find at Zlatý kůň u Koněprus (V. Kuželka)
- Metrical and morphological indications on the humerus (E. Loubová)
- Sexual dimorphism of the patella (V. Novotný, J. Brůžek)
- New evidence of malignant tumors in medieval to early modern Moravia (E. Strouhal, L. Horáčková, L. Benešová, L. Vyhnanek, A. Němečková)
- Sphenoid defects in past centuries (P. Trefný, V. Kuželka)
- Kinship among bone remains (P. Velemínský, M. Dobisíková, V. Kuželka)
- Research on remains attributed to St. Adalbert and molecular biology (E. Vlček, I. Mazura, M. Dobisíková)
- Method of repeated names and isonomes in two isolated locations in Slovakia (D. Siváková)
- Ecological awareness of 16-year-old students (V. Šedivý)
- Cultural anthropology at Charles University yesterday and today (J. Wolf)
- New information on footwear in the Late Stone Age (P. Hlaváček)
- Analysis of footwear of a child population in relation to the corresponding size of shoes (J. Pavlačková, M. Zvončáková)
- The diabetic foot in relation to footwear (P. Štátná)
- Evaluation of the relationship of the anatomical structure of feet and somatotypes (J. Riegrová)
- Fundamental growth trends in *Macaca mulatta* and their importance for the study of human growth and development (V. Vančata, V. Přivratský, H. Zlámalová, Z. Jebavý)
- Teething in laboratory monkeys of the species *Macaca mulatta* (Z. Jebavý, L. Jebavý)
- A guide through life: longitudinal studies (M. Prokopec)

The ceremonial evening session opened with a lecture by Prof. Jan Jelínek, entitled "Czech anthropology – a thirty years' view". Drawing on his long years of experience and the genesis of scientific attitudes which he came to accept in the course of his professional development, Prof. Jelínek defined the decisive moments in his scientific career. He lent his attention to those figures in university education who perceive the work of anthropological science in broad terms and yet with sufficient

exactness, as the science of Man with his ability to change and evolve under the conditions that determine him in his biosocial interrelations: People who are able to make anthropology attractive to the coming generation of educated Czechs, regardless of the current social climate. Who have the courage to set out ideas and hypotheses and verify them by gathering data. Who do not ask only "how?" and "how much?" but also "why?". Who in all circumstances inquire about the causes and then look for their consequences. Who always bear in mind that data – however important – are not the goal, but rather a mere means of gaining knowledge. Who cultivate the minds of the younger generation by offering them attractive programs and making materials accessible. Who lead young anthropologists to gain the courage to test their strength against foreign researchers and their ideas. And, finally, who broaden the possibilities for publication by young anthropologists in particular.

V. Vančata presented a summary of Prof. Jelínek's extensive activities and an assessment of his important contributions to anthropology (not only in this country), and a number of colleagues joined him in sharing their memories of scientific collaboration and long-term friendship with Prof. Jelínek.

The second day of the meeting was devoted entirely to auxology and functional anthropology, that is, to areas which have a relatively long tradition in Czech and Slovak anthropology:

- The achieved level of bodily growth in newborns (E. Neščáková, Y. Netriová)
- Changes in body structure over twenty years among students at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Charles University (M. Pospíšil)
- Acceleration among younger school-age children in Olomouc (M. Přidalová)
- School maturity (B. Vacková)
- Growth diagnosis – the current approach (H. Krásničanová)
- Some socioeconomic factors influencing child growth and development (J. Vignerová, P. Bláha)
- The current trend in development of the head and chest in Czech children (P. Bláha, J. Vignerová, J. Riedlová)
- Selected head measurements of children between 3 and 15 years of age in contemporary Prague (P. Bláha, J. Vignerová, J. Riedlová)
- Selected head measurements of children from the Czech urban population (J. Riedlová, P. Bláha, J. Vignerová)
- Selected head measurements of children between 3 and 15 years of age in Olomouc (L. Krejčovský, T. Krejčovský)
- Somatic development of children with diabetes of the mellitus I type (M. Beránková, J. Strmová)
- The suitability of using bioimpedance on obese children (P. Bláha, R. Hájková, J. Šrajer)
- Anthropological and strength characteristics of women working in agriculture (M. Cvičelová)
- Somatometry of mature children in the Czech Republic (J. Krátoška, J. Šteigl, H. Zieglerová)
- Body fat and blood lipids (A. Novotný, V. V. Novotný)
- Pluses and minuses of using Bodystate 500 to define body composition (V. V. Novotný, A. Novotný)
- Evaluation of the relation between somatotypes and morphological structures of the foot (J. Riegrová)
- Fat percentage in secondary school youths as determined by three different methods (B. Vacková)

Even though for various reasons not all members of the Society could attend the Anthropology Days, it was unquestionably a valuable meeting. And this not only because it was a chance to make personal contact, but also because it gave us a signal about the current state of this field of science in this country, and also served as a kind of mirror to reflect the status of Czech anthropology in the context of world anthropology.

In this regard, it would seem that Czech anthropology is gradually reaching a point where, based on an analysis of its own and world developments up to the present, it should make certain decisions that will bring this "Sleeping Beauty" of Czech science back to the place where it was traditionally to be found.

The 10th Anthropology Days sent out a signal that steps have been

taken, at least at some anthropological institutions, to ensure that Czech and Slovak anthropology are well-prepared to fulfill their obligations with regard to tradition, and take their place in the context of world anthropology at the start of the next millennium. Let us hope that this meeting has also served this end in its small way.

Vladimír Přivratský

XIth EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALAEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

About 120 palaeopathologists from European countries, as well as a few from overseas, gathered at the Conference Centre in the Rolduc Monastery in Kerkrade near Maastricht, the Netherlands, from 14 to 18 August 1996. The topics of the conference included methods, stress indicators, arthropathies, tumours, infectious diseases, ancient DNA, cannibalism, trauma, epidemiology, metabolic diseases, Paget's disease and miscellaneous subjects. Abstracts of the papers were published beforehand in the *Journal of Paleopathology*, vol. 7 no. 2, 1995. All presentations were delivered at plenary sessions in a suitable lecture hall, and were usually followed by discussions. Besides this, there were poster sessions scheduled in the cloisters, enabling authors to deliver oral explanations to the audience. In the evenings two workshops were organized, on fractures in ancient bones and dry bone histotechniques, as well as two computer demonstrations, on the archaeological skeleton archiving system and computer-assisted diagnosis in palaeopathology. Lodging and accommodation were offered in the monastery, with a nice conference dinner held in its cellars. The Dutch organising committee, under G. J. R. Maat, must be warmly thanked for its flawless organisation of the meeting, enabling participants to resume contacts and exchange much of the most recent knowledge.

Eugen Strouhal

XVth CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

XIXth CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PRIMATOLOGISTS

August 11–16, 1996, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

The XVth IPS Congress was organised by the Wisconsin Primate Regional Research Center on August 11–16, 1996 in the Campus of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. All ceremonies and some of the scientific sessions, workshops and symposia were held in the Memorial Union Building of the University of Wisconsin. However, most sessions took place in other university buildings, which caused some trouble for the participants wishing to hear lectures in different buildings.

This IPS Congress was extraordinarily large, with more than 1300 participants from 37 countries. Nevertheless, in comparison to the XIIIth IPS Conference which was of a comparable size, young scientists and primatologists from the U.S.A. prevailed in Madison. In my estimate, about two thirds of the participants were from the U.S.A. I missed many colleagues from Europe, Africa, Japan, India and other Asian countries who had taken part in Strasbourg.

The contributions to the very well organised XVth IPS Congress were presented in six parallel sessions running from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. The papers were organised into 31 oral sessions, 28 symposia, 17 workshops, four round tables, one video-session and there were also four poster sessions, one each day till Thursday.

It is absolutely impossible to report on all the scientific topics presented at the IPS Congress. Most of the contributions are summarised in the Abstracts book containing 799 abstracts. Individual disciplines of primate research were not equally represented, some of them were even missing. It is surprising in traditional fields of primatology. There was