

The second day of the conference focused on the lifestyles of mammoth hunters. B. Klíma discussed the question of reconstruction in the conditions of Paleolithic research aimed at the Dolní Věstonice site. O. Soffer reported on the problems of existence in textile manufacturing and basket-making in early Paleolithic times. The D. C. Hyland give proof of the existence of pattern prints on fragments of fired clay found in Dolní Věstonice and the Pavlov region. It is possible to consider the unique discovery of textile manufacturing and basket-making as the oldest evidence of this technique in the world. The papers of M. Buňatová and D. Sosna, whose efforts were to support the conclusions presented by the colleagues of O. Soffer, were dedicated to experimental verification of textile production in the later Stone Ages. Their reconstruction of textile manufacturing was carried out in conditions as they were originally found, plant material was cultivated with a simple technique, together with the impression of the finished products in clay.

O. Šedo reported on the reconstruction of a Paleolithic abode at the museum exhibition in Dolní Věstonice. L. Jarošová's paper reported on the verification of experiments (the production of tools, hunting, life in natural conditions, etc.) in the shooting of a film on the life of Paleolithic hunting. M. Lázničková spoke on the attempt of experimental production and firing of Paleolithic sculpture in a reconstructed kiln in Dolní Věstonice. P. Škrdla reported on technology dealing with stones in Paleolithic times and experimental verification in the production of tools. E. Drozdová presented the possibility of using experiments in the anthropological study of human tooth fragments (Mesolithic, Česká Lípa).

The current theme of reconstruction and modelling of both long-standing human activity and creation, of which to date only traces or indiscernible remnants remain, has aims which are partly for scholarly ends and partly for arousing public interest. In the experimental reconstruction of past events it is possible to become aware of different relationships and circumstances in the process of sourcing the most wide-ranging artefacts and subsequently to follow their reflection in anthropological situations, which enables not only the testing of theoretical hypotheses, but also, to no lesser degree, the presentation of science to the public.

This conference, whose theme of reconstruction and experiments in the field of archaeology and anthropology contributed to the exchange of knowledge and experience gained as well as to the discussion of results accessible to scholars in these fields, again proved that experiment makes it possible to verify the results of theoretical work.

Markéta Svenssonová

12th EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION IN PRAGUE AND PILSEN (CZECH REPUBLIC) IN 1998

The 12th European members meeting of the Paleopathology Association was included within the scope of activities celebrating the 650th anniversary of Charles University in Prague. Since its establishment in 1973, this scientific group has organized every year alternating conferences either in the USA, where most of its members live, or in Europe. This year's European meeting was the first one to be realized in a former socialist country; its organizers were the Institute for the History of Medicine, First Medical Faculty, CU Prague and the Institute for Histology and Embryology, Medical Faculty CU Pilsen, in co-operation with the Czech Anthropological Association, Prague, the Society for the History of Science and Technology, Prague, and the Institute of Anatomy, Medical Faculty, Masaryk University, Brno. Among the 17 member National Organizing Committee there were its President Prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal, DrSc., the Vice-President Prof. MUDr. RNDr. J. Slípka, DrSc., and the General Secretary RNDr. A. Němečková, CSc. The Meeting was held under the high patronage of the President of Charles University Prof. JUDr. Karel Malý, DrSc., the Dean of the

First Medical Faculty of CU Assoc. Prof. MUDr. P. Hach, CSc., and the Dean of the Medical Faculty of CU in Pilsen Assoc. Prof. MUDr. B. Kreuzberg, CSc. It was morally supported by a 27 member International Scientific Committee.

A hundred active participants together with 30 accompanying persons took part in the meeting, coming from 19 European countries and 4 overseas countries – the USA, Canada, Egypt and Jordan. The presence of 36 participants from former socialist countries and of 3 colleagues from the Third World countries was enabled by a generous grant from the Bioanthropology Foundation.

The conference was inaugurated by a festive opening session in the Great Hall of the Carolinum in Prague on August 27, 1998. After inaugural speeches by university authorities and the President of the Association, Ms. Eve Cockburn, the Vice-President of the University Prof. MUDr. J. Koutecký, DrSc., handed over jubilee and memorial medals of Charles University to three representatives of the discipline for their merits for the development of paleopathology. These were Prof. D. J. Ortner (Washington), Prof. Dr. Dr. M. Schultz (Göttingen) and Ms Eve Cockburn (Detroit). The dean of the First Medical Faculty Assoc. Prof. MUDr. P. Hach, CSc. granted memorial medals of the Faculty to four Czech paleopathologists – to RNDr. A. Němečková, CSc., Prof. MUDr. E. Vlček, DrSc., Prof. L. Vyhnaněk, DrSc., and Prof. MUDr. PhDr. E. Strouhal, DrSc. Having visited the exhibition celebrating the 650th anniversary of the University and the historic halls of the Carolinum, the participants were transported by buses to Pilsen. Scientific sessions took place in the Šafránek Pavilion of the local Medical Faculty.

Paleopathology, an independent scientific discipline since the foundation of the Association by the late Dr. Aidan Cockburn 25 years ago, is situated in the interdisciplinary cross between archaeology, physical anthropology and medical sciences. These disciplines provide its study material by exhumation of skeletons or mummies of people of past populations and furnish modern methods of natural and medical sciences for investigation. The object of paleopathology are diseases of past populations of humans and animals. In the Meeting, most attention was concentrated on infectious diseases, which were the theme of 22 oral and poster communications, followed by varia (19). Further presentations concerned populational paleopathology (12), disorders of metabolism (10), traumatic changes (9), tumours (9), degenerative – productive processes (6) and congenital disorders (6). Together there were 46 oral communications and 47 posters, in sum 93 presentations. Moreover, A. Němečková with collaborators prepared a methodological workshop on light and scanning electron microscopy of tumours and an international exhibition of interesting paleopathological specimens from Bohemian, Moravian, Austrian, Italian and Catalonian sites was organized.

The social programme of the participants was enriched by an excursion to the town of Klatovy (south-western Bohemia), where they could inspect the famous mummies and main historical monuments. They were received by the Mayor and at the local Town-Hall they were offered a festive dinner.

Eugen Strouhal

11th CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION IN JENA (GERMANY) 1998

The Institute of Human Genetics and Anthropology of the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena under the guidance of its Director Prof. Dr. Herbert Bach, supported by an efficient team of collaborators, organized splendidly this important scientific meeting on the premises of the 440 year old university of Jena (Thuringia) from 30th August to 3rd September 1998 as the first European Congress taking place in Germany. It was attended by 228 participants from most countries of Europe and by several ones from overseas.