

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 gave 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. Lázníčková 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. 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 Catalan 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.

The rich scientific programme of the congress comprised more than a hundred oral presentations and over 150 posters.

Oral communications were delivered each morning in a plenary session in the Great Hall of the University where main papers lasting 30–45 minutes were delivered. The first morning, 31st August, was reserved for a short opening ceremony and paleoanthropology, the following morning to auxology, the third one to genetics and the environment, and the last one, 3rd September, to the biology of human populations. The authors of these communications were invited speakers and other leading authorities in each particular field who presented mostly very well the topical problems of the pertinent subdisciplines of European anthropology on a high scientific level.

The afternoon programme was divided into two parallel sessions in which short papers (of 10–15 minutes each) concerning the same topics plus free papers were delivered. Parallely with them the inspection of posters divided according to the respective topics was scheduled. The alternation of themes in the three parallel choices was arranged suitably so that each participant interested in one of the four major themes could follow it easily.

For each late afternoon or evening an additional scientific or social programme was scheduled. On 30th August professor Dr. W. Schiefenhövel (Andechs, Germany) presented a fascinating and well illustrated evening lecture on the knowledge and usage of nature among the Eipo tribe of West New Guinea (Irian Jaya) where his expedition studied human ethology. On 31st August the Academic Orchestral Union of the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena presented a concert composed of works by J. S. Bach, his sons W. E. Bach and C. Ph. E. Bach and the Czech composer C. Stamitz (K. Stamic). On 1st September a splendid Congress Dinner was offered in the great halls of the New Mensa. On 2nd September there were possibilities to visit Ernst Haeckel's house, his Phyletic Museum and the local Institute of Anatomy, each of them possessing precious collections. The late afternoon of 3rd September was reserved for the General Assembly of the European Anthropological Association, in which its newly elected President, Prof. Dr. P. Rudan (Zagreb, Croatia) presented his ideas about further development of this important scientific organisation.

*Eugen Strouhal*

3rd CONGRESS OF THE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ANTHRO-POLOGIE  
IN GÖTTINGEN (GERMANY) 1998

The new German Anthropological Association which was founded 4 years ago as the result of a unifying process between the West and East German anthropologists invited its members and other Central European colleagues to its 3rd Congress under the title "Point of Intersection Man – Environment in the Past, Present and Future" in the beautiful university town of Göttingen (Hessen) from 1st to 3rd October 1998. The event was well organized by the President of the Association, Prof. Dr. Dr. M. Schultz and his team and took part in the former Teachers' Training Institute, now part of the Georg-August-University Göttingen.

The scientific programme was divided in two parallel sessions and comprised five thematic blocks, viz. I. Evolution of the hominids, II. Applied anthropometry – man between childhood and senescence, III. Man and his environment in the mirror of historic anthropology, IV. Population biology and genetics, V. Free contributions. Some blocks were subdivided into more specific themes, e.g. block I. Taxonomy, Primatology, Ethology, block III. Historic epidemiology and Molecular anthropology. Introductory lectures of each theme were longer (25–35 minutes), the standard presentations shorter (20 minutes), both comprising discussion. Besides leading German anthropologists, several specialists from abroad gave in their introductory lectures a survey on the recent state of research in the pertinent field. Altogether about 90 oral and 50 poster communications were delivered during the two-and-half day congress.

In a special evening lecture on 1st October Mr Lösch, a young historian of the Göttingen University, presented an overview on the history of German anthropology in the first half of the 20th century admitting that it actively collaborated with the Nazi regime except for K. Saller and W. Scheidt. Prof. Dr. B. Herrman of the Institute of Anthropology of the same University traced the present state of the discipline stressing the importance of the study of social aspects of Man, unlike the mere biologism of the past.

In the plenary session of the Anthropologische Gesellschaft its former President Prof. Dr. Dr. M. Schultz was re-elected and new Board members were elected.

*Eugen Strouhal*