

Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano to visit its exhibits comprising the body of the South Tyrolean "Iceman".

The Congress, attended by more than 200 participants, was perfectly prepared and the scope of the famous warm Italian hospitality proved to be unparalleled. Two opulent dinners and a guided visit of the rich Egyptian Museum of Turin filled up the evenings. Sincere thanks to the organizers!

*Eugen Strouhal*

15th EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION AT DURHAM, U.K., AUGUST 10–14, 2004

The well-known British paleopathologist Charlotte Roberts, who has moved from Bradford University to Durham University after the successful ICEPID congress on leprosy in 2001, organized the regular biennial meeting of the Paleopathology Association (PPA) in her new post, the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, England, from 10th to 14th August, 2004. She was supported by the local organising committee and an international scientific committee.

The meeting was inaugurated in the evening of 10th August by a representative of the University and Keith Manchester, who mentioned his scientific activities during the forty years of the PPA.

The programme of oral communications during the first two days was divided into thematic sessions as population health, dental disease, trauma, infectious disease, metabolic and endocrine disease and miscellany.

In the morning of the third day, a specialized session under the title "Studies of bioarchaeology in Greece" was organized by Chryssi Bourbou of Crete. It comprised 10 papers, mainly concerning paleopathological topics.

In the afternoon of the same day, Aidan and Eve Cockburn Memorial Session in presence of members of the Cockburn family was chaired by Jane Buikstra. Of its six lectures the one by Donald Ortner was cancelled due to his acute disease.

The contents of 50 posters were discussed during coffee and tea breaks.

The social programme of the meeting consisted of a reception in the Oriental Museum of the University, a dinner sponsored by members of the Cockburn family (for invited guests), and a conference dinner with dance at Durham Townhall. The latter event was introduced by the mayor of Durham. After her, Eugen Strouhal paid a personal tribute to the late Eve Cockburn who acted as an unpaid editor of Paleopathology Newsletter and an informal President of the PPA for almost three decades.

Of the scheduled conference tours, the one to the Hadrian Wall was cancelled, the other to the castle Alnwick took place on 14th August.

As a whole, the meeting was an exciting event, extremely well organized, except for the cast sky, wind and rain during the two first days, which was naturally out of reach of the organizers.

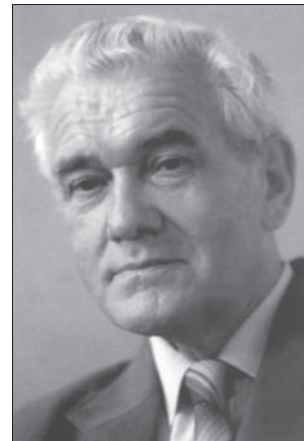
The dates for the next European meeting of the PPA Fira on the Island of Santorini, Greece, have been set to 29th August – 2nd September, 2006.

*Eugen Strouhal*

OBITUARY

PROF. MUDr. ET RNDr. H.C. EMANUEL VLČEK, DrSc.  
MARCH 1, 1925 – OCTOBER 24, 2006

Emanuel Vlček was born March 1, 1925 in Rožmítal pod Třemšínem in the family of a police officer. He graduated from Grammar School in Prague-Smíchov in 1944. Already in his teens he became interested in archaeology and speleology. Until the end of the WWII he worked in the AERO factory. He took an active part in the upheaval of Prague citizens against the Nazi Germans in 1945, was wounded and afterwards



decorated with a War Cross. He enrolled in the Medical Faculty, Charles University in Prague, became a demonstrator at the Institute of Legal Medicine and simultaneously studied Anthropology at the Faculty of Science. He started his scientific work in anthropology by describing a travertine endocranial cast of a skull ascribed to Neanderthal man from Gánovce in east Slovakia; he became internationally famous through his publication "Neanderthals in Czechoslovakia" (in German). He was the first full time anthropologist at the Archaeological Institute in Nitra (SR) and lectured at Comenius University in Bratislava (SR).

He later worked at the Archaeological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Science in Prague. In the course of time he analysed and researched on human fossils deposited at the Musée de l'homme and at the Musée de paléontologie humaine in Paris, those from Weimar, Arago, Verteszelez, Petralona, Bilzingsleben, Kiik Koba, Teshik Tash, Šala I. etc. He studied skeletal remains from Dolní Věstonice, Pavlov, Mladeč and Předmostí u Přerova, and compared their morphology with Upper-Paleolithic finds from various parts of Europe. He ascribed the skeletons from Sunguir and Kostienky to the east Brno type. He also anatomically corrected the famous French "Negroid" skull from the Grotte des enfants from Mentone and the "Eskimoid" skull from the department of Dordogne.

Professor Vlček undertook an anatomical study of muscles in the hand of Neanderthal and recent children, took part in an expedition to Mongolia and published a study of the Chalcha Mongols; he also contributed to the issues of determining age from the bones and teeth, and of the thyroid bone.

Since 1955 he studied remains of persons important for the Czech history. In 1967 he founded the Anthropological Department at the National Museum in Prague and in 1977 he made of the study of historically important persons and the development of Man the main research objectives of the museum department which he led until his retirement. He performed medical and anthropological analyses of the Czech kings of the Přemyslid, Luxemburg, Jagiellonian and Habsburg dynasties, as well as of Albrecht of Wallenstein, canonized Hroznata, St. Procopius, composers W. A. Mozart, Bohuslav Martinů and Bedřich Smetana, poet K. H. Mácha, Macedonian king Phillip, and others.

Emanuel Vlček obtained the titles of CSc. (PhD.) in 1962, DrSc. in 1969, *venium docendi* in 1991 and Professor in 1992. The P. J. Šafarik University in Košice (SR) awarded him the title of RNDr. h.c.

He published over 530 scientific publications, including 70 monographs, 140 studies, 170 reports and 23 popularising articles.

Professor Vlček has undoubtedly been one of the main figures in Czech and European anthropology in the second half of the 20th century. He married a colleague from the medical studies. One of his sons is a leading endocrinologist, and the other an economist. Professor Vlček died suddenly at the age of 81 amidst his work on several further monographs. The funeral took place at the Prague-Motol cemetery on November 1, 2006.

*Miroslav Prokopec*