



A FESTSCHRIFT IN HONOUR OF Prof. MUDr. PhDr. EUGEN STROUHAL, Dr.Sc.



Prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal, Dr.Sc, still working at full strength and fulltime, has recently passed a major milestone in his life. He is a very important person not just in medical circles, but also among experts from the fields of archaeology, anthropology and paleopathology – particularly for his scientific investigations and notes from his numerous expeditions to Ancient Egypt.

Eugen Strouhal was born on the 24th of January 1931 to a medical family in Prague. After elementary school in Prague I, he went on to study at the 1st Masaryk Grammar School in Křemencova Street, Prague II. After it was shut down after the Communist putsch in his last year, he went on to study at the Vančura Grammar School in Prague-Smichov and did his leaving exams in 1950.

He graduated from the Faculty of General Medicine of the Charles University in Prague, in 1956. Even then his interests in history led him to take distance studies in the field of prehistoric archaeology at the Faculty of Arts (graduation in 1959).

His professional life started with a position as a spa physician in Františkovy Lázně (1956–1957). He then won the place of a lecturer, assistant to prof. B. Krajník at the Institute of Medical Biology, Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen (1957–1960). Later in 1960, he returned to the practise of medicine as an intern at the Radio-isotope Department of the Endocrinological Research Institute at the Prague-Motol Hospital. This position allowed him the opportunity to get to practise of the work of some other medical fields

and to extend his clinical know-how, which proved very useful in his subsequent activities in Egypt.

In 1961, he was accepted as a member of the Czechoslovak Egyptology Institute of Charles University in Prague and Cairo, where he took up the position of an expedition doctor and also as an archaeologist and anthropologist. His first publication on the anthropology of living Egyptians won the Dean's award of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University (1963). Besides working in excavations of the Mastaba of Ptahshepses at Abusir near Cairo, he also participated in the preparation and execution of three epigraphic and archaeological expeditions to Nubia as part of the International UNESCO Action to save Nubian monuments (1961, 1964, and 1965). Moreover he initiated, negotiated and organised two Egyptian-Czechoslovak anthropological expeditions to New Nubia Egypt in the vicinity of the city of Kom Ombo. He cared for an equal number of Czechs and Slovaks in the Czechoslovak team (1965, 1967). Connected with the Egyptian team's preparation, Prof. J. Valšík, the head of the Czech team, and dr. Strouhal realized a semester-long course on the basics of anthropology and its field research at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine Kasr El-Aini, Cairo University, Giza (1965). In 1968, Strouhal completed his post-graduate studies in physical anthropology at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, and was awarded the then used title of Candidate of Biological Sciences.

After the Russian invasion to Czechoslovakia in 1968, Strouhal withstood pressure from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts to join the Communist Party and accepted the offer of E. Herold, director of the Náprstek Museum, section of the National Museum in Prague, to continue his activities there. It happened that he worked in it for the coming 24 years (1969–1992).

In the museum he set up a new Department of Prehistory and Antiquity of Near Asia and Africa and became its head. Through his collecting activities he increased the collection from 600 to 12 000 items, most of which came from the Czechoslovak expeditions to Egypt. All were categorised in the records of 2nd degree and a part of these had to be restored under his supervision. Using these he created and organised six large exhibitions, around 20 small "shows of the month" and took part in two collective exhibitions. During that time he published a long series of archaeological, anthropological and paleopathological scientific and popular science articles as well as catalogues. He became author of eight books, of which the greatest success was achieved by his *Life of the Ancient Egyptians* (first Czech edition 1989). By 2007, 19 editions in 9 languages and in 10 countries had been published (incl. USA, Brazil and Japan). It won the J. Rothbaum award for the best book of 1992 published by the Oklahoma University Press in Norman, USA.

During this time Strouhal managed to convince his superiors, even the then Minister of Culture, to let him accept invitations to long-term research activities abroad.

His first task was processing extensive anthropological items from Austrian excavations at Sayala as part of the UNESCO Nubian Protection Action, in the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, Austria (1969–1970, 1985, and 1989). A study grant from the endowment of Aleš Hrdlička in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington enabled him to study the anthropological series brought by Hrdlička from Lsht in Upper Egypt and Oasis of Kharga, as well as other Egyptian skeletal materials in several of other U.S. Institutions.

Strouhal's scientific interests during this time gradually evolved from archaeology through anthropology to paleopathology, especially concerning ancient Egypt and Nubia. During his scholarship in the U.S. he was invited to take part in the autopsy of an ancient Egyptian mummy in Detroit. Here he could apply the experience gained in research of ancient Egyptian mummies in the Czechoslovak collection, which had recently been conducted in collaboration with L. Vyhnánek (1971–1972). After the autopsy, ten of its performers under the leadership of Dr. A. Cockburn decided to found a Paleopathological Club on the 2nd of February 1973, and after half a year they changed the name to Association. Strouhal became its only European founding member. With this a new independent scientific branch was institutionalized at the intersection of archaeology, anthropology and medical sciences. After his return to Czechoslovakia, Strouhal together with E. Vlček, L. Vyhnánek, M Stloukal and H. Hanáková developed this discipline further. In the 1970s, he started collaboration with A. Němečková, who had set up a paleohistological laboratory at the Pilsen Medical Faculty, the second of its kind in Europe, and with P. Klír, who had developed a method of determining blood type from bone remains at the Institute of Legal Medicine and the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education. In 1983 at the National museum in Prague M. Stloukal organized the first Czechoslovak paleopathological symposium with Strouhal's active collaboration.

In the field research in Egypt, Strouhal continued his external co-operation with the Czechoslovak Egyptological Institute taking part in its expeditions to Abusir near Cairo, now mainly in the field of anthropology. As a reputable expert he was invited to collaborate in the field seasons of the Egypt Exploration Society (London), organized later together with the Museum of Antiquities and the University of Leiden (Netherlands), during their excavations of the newly discovered New Kingdom necropolis at Saqqara (1976, 1979, 1982), during 1991–2002 annually with the exception of the year 1998.

In the years 1969–1973 he was also an external teacher at the 17th of November University in Prague, where in lectured about prehistory of Africa for foreign students in English and French. Over the following 15 years he was not permitted to accept invitations to lecture for students, with one exception. That was a semester-long course in anthropology at the University of Alexandria in Egypt (1979). The prohibition was broken with a semester-long

course on the basics of paleopathology at the 1st Medical Faculty of Charles University in collaboration with L. Vyhnánek (1988–1989).

After the Velvet Revolution, thanks to the success of these lectures and the political change, he was called back to the Charles University by the vice-dean of its First Medical Faculty R. Čihák, to its Institute for the History of Medicine. He worked there for the first 3 years part-time, alongside his continued work at the Náprstek Museum. When he was appointed head of the Institute, he gave up the position at the Náprstek Museum at the end of 1992.

He took over the Institute, which was deprived of staff, space and material and managed to expand it. He resumed his teaching activities, which had developed beyond lectures for beginners ("Introduction to the Study of Medicine"), to elective semester-long courses, such as "An Overview of the History of Medicine" and "Basics of Paleopathology" for the more mature audiences of 4th year medical students. Strouhal lectured not only for them, but also for anthropologists from the Natural Sciences Faculty and other students. An occasional series of lectures entitled "Anthropology of Ancient Egypt" were offered by him to students of Egyptology at the Faculty of Art. Strouhal accepted also the invitation from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the West Bohemian University in Pilsen to give once or twice weekly lectures and workshops in physical anthropology as well as lectures in cultural anthropology of ancient Egypt. From 1993 he has been lecturing for the "University of the 3rd Age" at First Medical Faculty, Charles University Prague.

In collaboration with members of the pertaining organizing committee Strouhal hosted a second Czech-Slovak Symposium on the history of medicine, pharmacy and veterinary medicine in Benešov near Prague (1996). As contribution to commemoration the 650th anniversary of Charles University, he and his collaborators put on the 12th European Conference of the Paleopathological Association in Prague and Pilsen (1998).

Strouhal, as an anti-Communist, was not allowed by the authorities and Communist party at the National Museum to defend his dissertation on the archaeological research of the village community in Qitna Wadi, Nubia, which he published in 1984 – even on his second application. At the invitation of his Polish colleague Strouhal successfully defended his dissertation at the Archaeological Faculty of The Warsaw University in 1989 and was awarded the scientific title "doktor habilitowany" in 1991. In the same year, the dissertation, with added aspects of cultural and social anthropology was defended also at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, where he attained the title of DrSc.

A year later Strouhal submitted a dissertation on the diachronic development of the Egyptian Nubian population, which he defended at the Natural Sciences Faculty of Charles University and thus became an Associated Professor of anthropology. Three years later he was appointed, on the basis of his published work in paleopathology, Professor

of Medical History and Medical Deontology at the First Medical Faculty of Charles University (1995).

Thanks to the understanding of the 1st Medical Faculty he was able to continue in his field research in Egypt, cooperating with Czech, English, Dutch, French, German, Australian and American expeditions. He worked with human remains from both an anthropological and more importantly paleopathological perspective, and collected documents relating to Ancient Egyptian medicine. The opportunity also arose to identify or study the bone remains or mummies of important people such the pharaohs Raneferef, Djoser, Djedkare Isesi, Seqenenre Tao, Smenkhkare and Rameses V, and also several queens, princesses, dignitaries and priests.

As the head of the Institute, Prof. Strouhal became a member of the Scientific Council of the 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University, Faculty of Arts of the West Bohemian University in Pilsen and the Pedagogical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc and also on the Councils of Anthropology and Egyptology at Charles University Prague. He also assisted in the historical section of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic in Prague in the 90th. In 1992–1994, the Grant Agency awarded him a grant to study the history and paleopathology of tumours, particularly the malignant ones, which he used for two research trips to England and Scotland, where he collected a valuable material.

Prof. Strouhal also worked actively on the editorial boards of four scientific journals – Reports of the Czechoslovak Orientalist Society (1969–1989), Anthropologie, Brno (from 1986 until now), an Italia based Journal of Paleopathology (from 1987 until now) and the English International Journal of Osteoarchaeology (1991–1999).

Even though he retired in 1999, Prof. Strouhal continued in his work until Autum 2003, when he contracted a terminal illness (erysipelas complicated by sepsis) contracted while in Egypt. After an almost miraculous recovery he decided to stop working and concentrate on his domestic environment. Here he continued in a wide range of publications, which he hadn't had time to get to before.

The first Czech textbook "Basics of Paleopathology" by L. Horáčková, E. Strouhal and L. Vargová came out in 2004. After finishing work on elaboration of the material collected by him during the Egyptian-Czechoslovak expeditions to Nubia, Strouhal published, with the kind support of the journal Anthropologie, the monograph "Anthropology of the Egyptian Nubian Men" (2007). A book by E. Strouhal and A. Němečková, "Did ancient people suffer from tumours? History and paleopathology of tumors, especially malignant ones" collected material from 188 cases of malignant tumours from their own research and literature (2008). Its English version has been prepared for print. In cooperation with Egyptologists B. Vachala and H. Vymazalová, E. Strouhal published the book, "Medicine of the Ancient Egyptians, Surgery and Care of Mother and Child" (2010).

E. Strouhal was named an honorary member of the Austrian Anthropological Society in Vienna (1969),

Spanish Anthropological Society in Madrid (1980), Swedish Society for the History of Medicine in Stockholm (1985), Polish Anthropological Society in Warsaw (1988), Austrian Archaeological Institute in Vienna (1991), Society for the History of Science and Technology in Prague and in Pilsen (2001), Society for Connective Tissues of the Czech Medical Society of Jan Evangelist Purkyně (1992), the Czech Anthropological Society (2006), in which he worked most actively, even as Vice-President and the Czech Medical Association J. E. Purkyně (2011). He is or was a full member of 12 further domestic, foreign and international scientific societies.

For his activities Eugen Strouhal was awarded the Hrdlicka Memorial Medal (1981), Michalowsky Jubilee Medal (1987), three Medals of the 1st Medical Faculty and Charles University for the 650th Anniversary (1998), the Silver Medal of the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Hradec Králové (2001), The Bernard Bolzano Medal (2001), the Medal of the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Pilsen (2005), Medal of the Supreme Council of Antiquities of Egypt (2009), Medal of the City of Aswan, Egypt (2009) and Purkyně Medal of the Czech Medical Association (2011). He was also nominated, together with E. Vlček, for the International Balzano Prize by the President of the Charles University (1999).

A complete bibliography of Prof. Strouhal contains 347 scientific articles, 202 popular science articles, 13 scientific monographs and 3 travel books, further 292 news articles from scientific life and 250 reviews.

The scope of the professional, scientific, educational and publishing activities of Prof. Strouhal is clearly impressive. It is perhaps appropriate to complement this "not quite" complete anthology of his accomplishments with a short word about his human character.

Without a doubt the talent, but also the tremendous hard work and conscientious diligence of Prof. Strouhal contributed to the creation of his extensive work, especially in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, paleopathology, medical history and literature.

Despite this constantly exhaustive work rate, he is surprisingly kind, social and has a great sense of humour. He is always calm, deliberate and tolerant to others. I am grateful to fate that has given me many years of close cooperation with Prof. Strouhal in working on several of the mentioned research tasks, and through it a great friendship.

Our celebrated Jubilant – Prof. MUDr. PhDr. Eugen Strouhal, Dr.Sc. – let me wish you many years to come in a good and constant health, much joy and enthusiasm for life, and many more publications and scientific successes.

Ad multos annos!

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