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### The Days of Anthropology 2017

The annual international conference "The Days of Anthropology 2017" took place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in the beautiful historical city of Olomouc (Moravia, Czech Republic). The conference was organized by the Czech Anthropological Society in cooperation with the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine of the Palacký University Olomouc where it was held.

The welcome notes were presented by the main organizer and Vice President of the Czech Anthropological Society doc. Miroslav Kopecký from the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences doc. Jaroslav Vomáčka and the President of the Czech Anthropological Society doc. Eva Drozdová from the Scientific Faculty of the Masaryk University in Brno

who commemorated the deaths of Prof. Eugen Strouhal and Dr. Markéta Šaňková and suggested to pay tribute by one minute of silence to both of these scientists the Czech anthropology lost during the last year.

Opening papers dealing with obesity in children and adults were presented by M. Kopecký, P. Sedlak and A. Jopkiewicz. Altogether, researchers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland presented 53 papers in 6 conference sections and one student section. Themes of papers varied from anthropology of recent populations, kinanthropology, historical anthropology and archaeology, paleogenetics, forensic anthropology to social and cultural anthropology. Unfortunately, some sections with similar themes overlapped, so it was not possible to hear all interesting papers.

The scientific program of the first day of conference was ended by the General assembly of the Czech Anthropological Society, followed by a visit of the Olomouc Town Hall with a view of the city from the



FIGURE 1: The participants of the conference The Days of Anthropology 2017 in front of the building of Medicine Faculty of Palacký University Olomouc where the lectures were held. Photo K. Kikalová.

tower and sport activity in the form of an archery lesson. A social event took place in the rectorate dining hall where a banquet was held accompanied by dance music.

The conference was very well organized and as usual, it offered the opportunities to meet colleagues from several Central European countries, listen to their papers, discuss their research and thus deepen scientific cooperation during the official as well as social part of the conference programme.

Next meeting will be the 6<sup>th</sup> International Anthropological Congress of Ales Hrdlicka in 2019.

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### **A Workshop on Gerasimov's Plastic Facial Reconstruction - 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Association of Craniofacial Identification, Brisbane, July, 2017**

Following the written correction of 20 years of entrenched but erroneous accounts of Gerasimov's method in the English literature, the 2017 IACI meeting presented an ideal opportunity for students and experts in the field to gain experience with Gerasimov's authentic methods, as taught by Herbert Ullrich and first described in full-length in *Anthropologie* (2016, Vol 54, Issue 2, Pp. 97–107). Representing one of the first, hands-on, workshop of its kind outside of Russia, the session outlined the unambiguous evidence for Gerasimov's heavy reliance on mean facial soft tissue thicknesses and avoidance of the muscles of facial expression. The workshop provided delegates with the opportunity to build a face using the wax modelling mastic specially formulated by Gerasimov and access to a comprehensive range of Gerasimov's original volumes that outline the basis of his methods, including e.g., the hard-to-come-by *Osnovy Vostanovleniia Litsa po Cherepu*, 1949 and *Vosstanovlenie lica po cerepu*, 1955. Delegates were therefore able to independently verify teachings with Gerasimov's own written instructions during the session to dismiss mistaken views otherwise broadly circulated in the established craniofacial identification literature.

For at least the past 20 years, the field of facial reconstruction has been confused about its historical methods, and subsequently its overarching thematic classification. It is advocated that: 1) Russian facial

reconstruction methods did not use mean tissue depths making them distinct from American methods that use these metrics; and 2) Russian methods require the construction of the muscles of the face, including those of facial expression. In reality, Gerasimov's methods heavily relied upon mean facial soft tissue thicknesses and there was no building of the muscles of facial expression (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955, Stephan 2006, Ullrich and Stephan 2011, Ullrich and Stephan 2016). While readily observable from Gerasimov's primary sources (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955), these facts have been lost in the English literature due to reliance on other influential secondary literature, e.g., Prag and Neave's hallmark work *Making Faces* (Prag and Neave 1997), that have set false standards. Other works include: *The reconstruction of face on the base of structure of skull: Translation with some shortages by W. Tshernezky*, which represents an incomplete translation of Gerasimov's 1955 work; and *The Face Finder; Translated from the German by Alan Houghton Brodrick* (Gerasimov 1971), which is an incomplete English translation of the German *Ich suchte Gesichter* (Gerasimov 1968) that describes an unusual circumstance of Gerasimov working by eye, from memory, and under a time-pressure challenge.

The theme of the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the International Association of Craniofacial Identification (IACI), *Science Supercharged Methods*, presented an excellent opportunity for a hands-on full-day workshop on Gerasimov's authentic methods based on: 1) Gerasimov's primary sources (Gerasimov 1949, Gerasimov 1955); 2) teachings made by Gerasimov to Herbert Ullrich during five training sessions held between 1959–1969 as previously summarized in *Anthropologie* (Ullrich and Stephan 2016).