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From the editors

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With some gentle prodding from one of the editors, we received again many contributions for this latest issue of FAME, thereby assuring that our members start the new millenium up to date with the publications on physical anthropology in the past two years.

It is your contribution which makes this newsletter what it is, so please keep dipping your goose quill in the inkwell.

## TRACES IN THE SAND

Beek, Cora van\*, G.J.R. Maat\*\* and R.W. Mastwijk\*\*

In: Parade, official organ of the Royal Military Academy (K.M.A.) in Breda, 1999-3.

During archaeological investigations in 1995 in the grounds of the Royal Military Academy (K.M.A.) - the former Breda castle - a skeleton of a young man was found. As Breda was repeatedly besieged during the Eighty Years War (1568-1648), it seems likely that we are dealing here with a soldier, probably a foreign mercenary, who was killed during one of the many battles that took place all around the castle.

An in-depth investigation of the remains was made at the department of Barge's Anthropologica of Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC). This revealed the following: the skeleton belonged to a young man, 22-24 years of age, with a height of 164-173 cm.

A few noticeable anomalies were found. Firstly, the unknown man had a round hole in his sternum, which at first glance gave the impression as having been caused by a (musket) bullet. It was, however, a harmless congenital defect. Also found was an open vertebral arch of the fifth cervical vertebra. This, also congenital, defect is comparable with the better-known variant spina bifida occulta of the sacrum, also known in Dutch as 'open back'. If in such a case the spinal cord is exposed as well, it is referred to as spina bifida aperta, a condition not compatible with life. Another interesting find was a stress fracture in the 5th cervical vertebra (spondylosis C5). Such a fracture is caused by repeated mechanical pressure. It is not totally inconceivable that this fracture was caused by the carrying of a musket over the shoulder, as such a shouldergun weighed as much as 15 kg. The last interesting find was that this individual had an 'abraded groove' in the occlusal surface of his teeth. This condition may have been caused by smoking a (clay) tobacco pipe. Tobacco smoking was introduced into the Netherlands around 1570 by English and Scottish mercenaries.

\* History and archaeology of Breda

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## THE ROMAN BURIAL SITE OF TIEL-PASSEWAAIJ

Bos, Robert P.M. van den.  
Abstract MA thesis

The Roman burial site of Tiel-Passewaaij consists of burials of cremated remains. These remains were interred in square or circular ditches. The estimated number of graves amounts to approximately 500. Probably half of these contain no cremated remains.

In this thesis an attempt has been made to include the archaeological data as well as the anthropological data. Sixty-one graves were selected for their potential of a positive sex determination in order to establish whether a distinction could be made between the square and circular ditches. Not only the conventional morphological method was used for the determination of age, but also the histological one. While using this method, a fungal intrusion could be demonstrated in the transverse sections, which so far had not been observed or recognised in cremated remains.

This thesis is in the process of being translated and is in preparation for Barge's *Anthropologica*.



## TRENDS IN THE PREVALENCE OF MAXILLARY SINUSITIS

Bruintjes, Tjasse D.

Abstract of a talk given at the XIIth European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association, Prague/Pilsen, 26-29 August 1998

The presence of maxillary sinusitis has been documented in several archaeological skeletal samples. Nasal infection is a common factor in the production of maxillary sinusitis, but in many cases tooth infection is the responsible factor. In past populations odontogenic infection was probably a relatively common cause of maxillary sinusitis (Panhuysen *et al.* 1997). This paper presents an analysis of the data from the literature and the results of an ongoing study of the maxillary sinus in two skeletal samples from The Netherlands. Prevalences of maxillary sinusitis is compared and the role of odontogenic sinusitis is discussed. The problems concerning

interpretation of results are addressed.

reference:

Panhuysen, R.G.A.M., V. Coenen and Tj.D. Bruintjes 1997. Chronic Maxillary Sinusitis in medieval Maastricht, The Netherlands. *International Journal of Osteoarcheology* 7: 610-614.



#### THE SKELETONS FROM THE GRAVE MONUMENT IN RIJNSBURG: A RE-INVESTIGATION

Cordfunke, E.H.P., K. van der Borg and G.J.R. Maat  
*Bulletin van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Oudheidkundige Bond* 97: 1-14, 1998.

A series of sixteen skeletons, interred in a tomb under a monument dedicated to the Dukes of the House of Holland in the village of Rijnsburg, was investigated. After an earlier investigation in the 1950's and 60's, the skeletons were thought to be the remains of Duke Floris V of Holland and a number of his relatives who had been buried in the local abbey church during the period AD 1133-1299. From the never before published original archaeological records of the excavators, from the carbon dating and the palaeodemographi-cal and palaeopathological results it appeared that the skeletons were part of an older (9-11th century) cemetery which was only partially covered by the more recent abbey church. In addition it was shown that the palaeodemo-graphical and palaeopathological results did not match with the documented historical data of the members of the House of Holland.



#### CANONS BURIED IN THE 'STIFTSKAPEL' OF THE SAINT SERVAAS BASILICA AT MAASTRICHT, 1070-1521 AD. A PALEOPATHOLOGICAL STUDY

Janssen, H.A.M. and G.J.R. Maat  
*Barge's Anthropologica* 5: 1-40, 1999.

To gain an insight into the life and health status of the Chapter Canons ('Stiftsheren') of the Saint Servaas Basilica at Maastricht a physical anthropo-logical and

palaeopathological study was done of their skeletons. They had been interred in the Chapter Chapel ('Stiftskapel') of the same church from AD 1070 to 1521. All 27 skeletons were males. Their average age at death was 56 years.

All results confirmed the historical data that the Canons were socio-economically 'prosperous', even when compared to their already rather affluent civilian contemporaries in The Low Countries. Parameters used to reach this conclusion were age at death, stature and palaeopathological changes. In every aspect the Canons did better. Of particular significance was the extremely high occurrence of DISH (100%), an affection already associated before with high social status and with an affluent (calorie-rich?, protein-rich?) diet, which corroborated our conclusion.



## MEASUREMENTS OF SKULLS FROM THE 13TH TO 17TH CENTURY, EXCAVATED IN DELFT

C.J.F. Klaassen

Unpublished essay of the Faculty of Archaeology, as part of the subsidiary subject Physical Anthropology

Excavations in Delft from 1994 to 1996 made skulls available for measuring, which could be divided into four groups. A churchyard, used from 1264 until 1433 yielded 101 skulls, 45 of which were male, 54 female and 2 skulls were from children under 18 years of age. A convent cemetery furnished 64 nuns and 3 fathers, as well as 16 children under 18. This cemetery was in use from 1450 until 1566. A third cemetery was used from 1433 until 1652 and produced 23 male and 16 female skulls for measuring. Six skulls of children under 18 were not included. The fourth cemetery contained the remains of the plague epidemic between 1557 and 1654. Of these 31 male and 21 female skulls could be measured, as well as one child under the age of 18. Of a total of 276 skulls, 264 could be used for statistical analysis.

For the measurements the following distances on the skulls were taken: glabella-opisthocranium, eurion-eurion, and basion-bregma. A scatterdiagram was constructed with these three measurements whereby

$\frac{\text{eurion-eurion}}{\text{glabella-opisthocranium}} \times 100$  (W/L) gave the points on the X-axis  
 and  $\frac{\text{basion-bregma}}{\text{glabella-opisthocranium}} \times 100$  (H/L) the points on the Y-axis.

By means of this scatterdiagram the place of a skull in the whole can be easily found, as well as its place in the classification.

The scatterdiagram clearly shows a shift in time towards dolichocephalisation, in which the males were the trendsetters and the females caught up later.

The measurements showed a decrease in time in the average width of the skulls of 0.4708 cm, whereas the average length increased by 0.856 cm. There was no difference in the average height of the skulls. The conclusion can be drawn that debrachycephalisation resulted from an increase in the length of the skull at the expense of the width. This process was first discernable in males, and was later followed by females.

Stroud and Kemps' investigations (1993) on material from a cemetery in York, dating to before 1142 until before 1538, showed that there a brachycephalisation was noticeable, by an increase in the width of the skull at the expense of the length.

According to Hulse (1957), who investigated Swiss population groups, there is no genetic basis for these transformations and he attributes them to social factors, in the form of exogamy. More contacts of the Delft population with other population groups could therefore have been the cause of the debrachycephalisation observed there, a process which was apparently reversible.



## INHUMATIONS IN A ROMAN CEMETERY AT VALKENBURG-MARKTVELD (ZUID-HOLLAND) IN THE NETHERLANDS

Lonnée, H.A. and G.J.R. Maat  
Barge's *Anthropologica* 3: 1-50, 1998.

From 1985-1988 the larger part of a former Roman cemetery, dating from AD 50-225 was excavated near the village of Valkenburg in the western part of The Netherlands. Of the recovered human remains, the skeletons of 47 inhumed adults and children were taken to the department of Anatomy of Leiden University for laboratory analysis. In a separate study, the remains of tens of inhumed babies and hundreds of cremations from the same burial place were analysed at the Institute of Pre- and Protohistory of the University of Amsterdam (Smits 1987, in prep.). Lack of uniformity in orientation and positioning of the uncoffined dead suggested a hasty and/or negligent interment. But no evidence was found that the dead were victims of an epidemic disease or acts of violence. Sex and age distribution of the deceased indicated that it was not a

community of families. Were they socially related to the much larger group of cremations from the same cemetery? It seems more probable that this was a socially separate group of people, for instance native labourers. The palaeopathology found in the individual skeletons strongly supports the latter point of view. Adequate growth conditions had resulted in a tall stature of the adults. The average stature of the males was calculated to be c. 176 cm. This also seems to indicate that the deceased originated from the native Romano-Dutch population. The tough physical lifestyle of the adults was for instance expressed by multiple cases of fractured lumbar vertebrae, and by the early onset of degenerative joint diseases. Like in other contemporary Romano-British communities, the latter had affected at least 50% of the adults. Evidence of (occupationally?) overstrained upper extremities was frequently found, e.g., fractures and degenerated joints of the bones of the shoulder girdle, and coracoclavicular facetting. Remarkable in this context was the absence of fractures, and the low frequency of degenerative joint disease in the lower extremities. From the distribution pattern of these pathological changes it is our impression, that these individuals were non-agriculturalists, straining the upper half of their body by, for example, carrying heavy loads at the local granaries and landing stages along the Rhine. Despite the tallness of the adult males, local growth conditions seemed to have fluctuated. Indications of seasonally related outbreaks of scurvy were found, as well as enamel hypoplasia due to health insults, and cribra orbitalia from chronic anemia. The equal prevalence of cribra orbitalia among the sexes seemed to reflect that life conditions for both sexes were similar during growth. But at the same time, the age distribution of enamel hypoplasia indicated an increasing frequency of health insults with age for girls. Skeletal evidence of frequent squatting was found. A frequency of caries in 6.5% of the inspected teeth is considered to be rather low when compared to contemporary data. Is a relationship between the coarseness of an unrefined unromanised diet and dental caries supportable? The serious molar attrition from such an abrasive diet, probably due to ground cereal grains from the granaries, explained the mainly interproximal position of carious lesions. Another interesting and frequent finding was the chipping off and serious attrition of incisors. The teeth appear to have been used as tools.



## WILLEM BARENTSZ. THE FLYING DUTCHMAN OF THE NORTH CAPE

Maat, G.J.R.

Proceedings International Willem Barentsz Symposium 1997. Terschelling-West, Stichting Willem Barentsz Herdenking Terschelling, 75-76, 1997 (issued 1998).

(No abstract available.)



## THE SEARCH FOR WILLEM BARENTSZ. REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL NOVA ZEMBLA EXPEDITION 1998

Maat, G.J.R. and J.-J. Verlaan

Barge's Anthropologia 4: 1-22, 1998.

In continuation of the Nova Zembla expedition 1995, a further search was made for the possible double grave of Willem Barentsz and Claes Andriesz Goutijk who died along the west coast of Nova Zembla during their return to Holland after their wintering at "IJshaven" AD 1596-1597. Willem Barentsz, after whom the Barents Sea is named, was a Dutch explorer who tried to find a northeastern sea passage to Asia in 1594, 1595 and 1596. In our 1995 expedition the coast from Cape Marii to Cape Ermolaev was surveyed at two levels:

- the pebble beach with its snow/ice banks, and
- the edge of the coastal plateau.

In 1998, in a similar way, the following additional stretches of coast were searched:

- from the bay between Cape Loshkin and Cape Carlsen, that is opposite the Oransky (Orange, Oranje) Islands, to Cape Marii,
- from Cape Velken to Cape Bolshoy Ledyanoy,
- Cape Anna,
- from Cape Otvazhnych to Cape Maly Ledyanoy,
- from Cape Medvezhy to Cape Kushakov.

In total an approximately 180 km intensive search was accomplished by foot. No 'traditional arctic grave' covered by boulders (cairn), nor (parts of) an 'ice burial' were found. Still the possibility exists that both men were buried into one of the many snow/ice banks along the coast. To our regret it is impossible to investigate the interior of these vast structures.



A PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF BURIALS FROM THE GRAVEYARD OF THE FRANSISCAN FRIARY AT DORDRECHT (CIRCA 1275-1572 AD)

Maat, G.J.R., R.W. Mastwijk and H. Sarfatij

With an English summary and tables. Reports of Archaeological Conservation/Rapporten Archeologische Monumentenzorg 67: 46; State Service for Archeological Investigations in The Netherlands/ROB, Amersfoort, 1998 (issued 1999).

The remains of 316 citizens who had been buried during the late medieval period (AD 1275-1572) in the churchyard of a Fransiscan friary in the city of Dordrecht were analysed. At that time, Dordrecht was the prosperous main commercial centre of The Low Countries. From the demographical and paleopathological results it seems reasonable to assume that this group of citizens had a not unusual life expectancy for that period in history. The age at death distribution shows a slight lack of males in the 30-40 years interval, which might be the result of the manifold compulsory drafts for the armed forces of the Duke of Holland and/or of commerce related burials of men abroad. From the frequencies of paleopathological changes it can be concluded that the general health status was reasonable and typical for a city population. There were no unusual exposures to traumas, infections, dietary deficiencies, etc. From the calculated stature of the men, being a parameter of socio-economic status, and from the relative high frequency of DISH one may conclude that the population was even 'well-off' compared to Dutch citizens of the 17th and 18th centuries. All data presented in the figures and tables are subtitled in English.



MANUAL FOR THE PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL REPORT

Maat, G.J.R., R.G.A.M. Panhuysen and R.W. Mastwijk

Barge's Anthropologica 6: 1-50, 1999.

(No abstract available)



## HUMAN REMAINS FROM THE INFIRMARY "OUDE EN NIEUWE GASTHUIS" OF THE CITY OF DELFT IN THE NETHERLANDS 1265-1652 AD

Onisto, N., G.J.R. Maat and E.J. Bult  
Barge's Anthropologica 2: 1-43, 1998.

A study of the human remains from the infirmary "Oude en Nieuwe Gasthuis" of the City of Delft (1265-1652) has produced a series of results which have shown to be complementary to historical and archaeological observations. After comparison of the physical anthropological findings from two distinct, but subsequent periods (1265-c.1433 and c.1433-1452), we have to conclude that differences in health status were minimal. Consequently we may conclude that adjustments made by the municipality to meet the ongoing expansion of the city, its economic activity and its population during the covered period were adequate in terms of health status as reflected in the dead of the infirmary. In addition, life expectancy, stature, incidence of infectious diseases, deficiency diseases and joint degenerations show that the overall health situation in the City of Delft during the late Medieval Period was very reasonable. In particular this was so when compared to the 17th and 18th centuries. We should remember also that the buried had been the sick, the tramps and the poor of those days who had been given shelter by the infirmary.



## LA POPULATION MAASTRICHTOISE DU VIE AU VIIIÈ SIÈCLE

Panhuysen, R.G.A.M.

Abstract presentation Mosa Nostra, 8 oktober 1999 and Mosa Nostra, pp. 39-40.

A côté des zones d'habitation mérovingienne, on trouve, à Maastricht, plusieurs nécropoles. Quelques-unes d'entre elles ont été récemment fouillées par les archéologues. Des centaines de tombes ont fait l'objet de fouilles de squelettes humains. Ces restes anthropologiques nous éclairent davantage sur les conditions de vie à Maastricht, au Haut Moyen Age. En plus de la comparaison des données anthropologiques physiques nous pouvons gagner de la perspicacité dans l'interdépendance parmi les divers cimetières. De cette façon les restes humains deviennent une source valable qui nous fournit des informations sur les personnes

sises derrière les objets et les autres trouvailles archéologiques de la période mérovingienne.

C'est pourquoi deux groupes de squelettes mérovingiens de Maastricht ont été récemment étudiés par des méthodes anthropologiques physiques. Le premier groupe comporte des ossements humains exhumés au site de 'Servaas'. Entre les murs de l'église actuelle de Saint-Servais, des restes d'un bâtiment funéraire et de deux églises ont été retrouvés. Ces constructions étaient entourées par des sépultures à inhumation allant du IV<sup>e</sup> au XI<sup>e</sup> siècle. Les tombes de la période mérovingienne étaient regroupées autour de la tombe de saint Servais et d'une église construite en pierre. La position près d'un saint, la construction comparativement coûteuse de certaines des tombes et la présence de mobilier funéraire précieux indiquent que ces tombes ont appartenu à des personnes du niveau moyen et supérieur de la société.

Le deuxième groupe de squelettes mérovingiens vient du site de 'Boschstraat'. Ils ont été trouvés parmi les restes d'une petite agglomération avec de nombreuses traces de la production d'objets de verre, de métal et d'os. Dans ce site, les tombes étaient simples et peu d'entre elles étaient pourvues d'un mobilier funéraire modeste. Le contexte de ces tombes et leur simplicité ont été interprétés comme une indication que les personnes inhumées étaient d'un niveau social bas. Sur base des résultats archéologiques, ces tombes datent du VII<sup>e</sup> siècle et quelques-unes du début du VIII<sup>e</sup> siècle.

Au total, 132 squelettes mérovingiens ont été étudiés. Des restes humains de 78 individus étaient rassemblés au site de 'Servaas'. Du site de 'Boschstraat' proviennent 54 individus. Des données démographiques et des informations relatives à la santé ont été rassemblées en utilisant des méthodes et des techniques d'anthropologie physique standardisées.

Cette présentation se concentre sur quatre sujets démographiques. Premièrement, la distribution des individus féminins et masculins à l'intérieur et entre les cimetières est envisagée. Les autres sujets sont: la mortalité infantile, la moyenne d'âge du décès et la stature moyenne. Les trois derniers sujets doivent être considérés comme des indicateurs pour la situation générale de la santé d'une population. En raison du contexte archéologique, on s'attendait à ce que la population du site de 'Servaas' par rapport à celle du site de 'Boschstraat' ait une mortalité infantile plus basse. Pour la moyenne d'âge du décès et la stature moyenne, on s'attendait à des moyennes plus élevées au site de 'Servaas'.

Au site de 'Servaas', le nombre de femmes était un peu plus important que le nombre d'hommes (une proportion de 1 à 1,25). La répartition des sexes est vraiment inégale au site de 'Boschstraat'. Dans ce site, la proportion entre hommes et femmes est de 1 à

4. Au site de 'Boschstraat', un plus grand nombre de squelettes d'enfants ont été retrouvés. Au site de 'Servaas', le pourcentage d'individus décédés avant l'âge de 18 à 20 ans s'élève à 14% et au site de 'Boschstraat', il est de 43%. Pour la moyenne d'âge du décès, les différences entre les deux sites étaient marginales. En ce qui concerne la stature moyenne, les femmes du site de 'Servaas' étaient sensiblement plus grande que celles de 'Boschstraat'.

La répartition inégale des sexes au site de 'Boschstraat' indique que la plupart des hommes ont été enterrés dans un autre cimetière. Cela démontre que les cimetières mérovingiens de Maastricht sont complémentaires. Les divers groupes de la société mérovingienne ont eu leur propre place dans un cimetière ou même leur propre cimetière. Dans ce contexte, le haut pourcentage d'enfants inhumés au site de 'Boschstraat' ne peut pas être interprété simplement comme un indicateur de la mortalité infantile pour le site de 'Boschstraat'. En fait, ces conditions de vie et la plus grande stature des femmes au site de 'Servaas' indique qu'il existe des différences entre les deux sites. Mais les données relatives à la moyenne d'âge du décès suggèrent que ces différences n'avaient pas un effet décisif à tous les aspects de la vie.



## STATUS AND HEALTH IN EARLY MEDIEVAL MAASTRICHT

Raphaël Panhuysen

Abstract presentation Reuvensdagen 19 November 1999

For the archaeology of the early Middle Ages, graveyards are one of the most important types of sites. In particular the grave goods and different types of graves can lead to the formulation of typechronologies and discussion. One of the issues is the question to what extent the organisation and equipment of the dead at such graveyards reflects the society of the living. Physical anthropological investigation of human skeletal remains can contribute to this discussion. In contemporary society differences in health are noticeable between different social groups. Based on physical anthropological data we can investigate to what extent also in the early Middle Ages there was a correlation between social status and state of health.

In the last decades several early medieval graveyards were excavated in Maastricht, whereby human remains were recovered from hundreds of graves. As part of the Sint Servaas Project, two groups of early medieval skeletons were investigated on physical anthropological aspects. The first collection came from the Sint Servaas church.

Within the walls of the present church, traces were found of successive churches and burials dating from the 4th century AD to the 18th century. The majority of the graves dates from the Merovingian and Carolingian periods. In those days people were buried round the grave of St Servaas and a stone church building. The grave goods and at times expensive types of graves suggest that mainly individuals from the middle and upper classes were buried around St Servaas' grave. The second group of skeletons investigated came from a small settlement dating from the 7th to early 8th century. Amongst evidence of the production of objects of glass, metal and antler, there were small concentrations of simple graves with occasionally a few modest grave goods. It is assumed that these graves belonged to people from the lower classes.

Of all early medieval skeletons 155 could be assigned to one of the three status categories: 54 individuals from the lower classes, 40 from the middle and 61 from the upper classes. With standardised methods and techniques data were collected on demography and state of health. Three groups of data will be used as parameters in this presentation, viz. age at death, stature and the presence of Harris' lines (lines in the bone indicating growth disorders). All three are considered an indication of the health of a society. Based on the present-day situation, it was expected that groups with a higher social status would show a higher mean age at death, a taller stature and fewer Harris' lines.

The results of the physical anthropological investigation partly agreed with our expectations. There were no significant differences in females in the age at death between the three social classes. However, males from the upper classes died at a considerably higher age than males from the lower classes. In the mean stature, there was a significant difference in both sexes between the three groups. The variation in the average number of Harris' lines was on the other hand very limited. Two out of three parameters investigated demonstrate a relationship between social status and health in early medieval Maastricht. We should take into account though that this image could possibly be clouded, as the physical anthropological data show that the various graveyards had a complementary character. And that not only social status determines where somebody is buried but also sex and age. There are nevertheless sufficient indications for early medieval Maastricht that privileged groups had better living conditions.



## SEXUAL DIMORPHISM OF THE HYOID BONE?

Reesink, E.M.\*, A.A.H. van Immerseel\*\* and Tj.D. Brintjes\*\*\*

Poster presentation at the XIIth European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association, Prague/Pilsen, 26-29 August 1998.

**Introduction:** The hyoid bone is part of the skull and positioned at the base of the tongue. It consists of a body, two greater and two lesser horns. The shape of the hyoid bone is, to a certain degree, sex-related (Papadopoulos *et al.* 1989). This implies that the hyoid bone might be useful as sex-indicator in osteo-archeological research and forensic medicine. In this study we investigated sexual dimorphism in the hyoid bone and the usefulness of the hyoid bone as sex-indicator.

**Materials and methods:** We examined 59 hyoid bones from human cadavers of known age and sex. In each bone we took 13 measurements directly from the X-ray film. The data were statistically analysed.

**Results:** Generally, the overall size of the female hyoid bone is smaller than that of the male hyoid, but none of the 13 variables showed a statistically significant difference between the two sexes.

**Discussion and conclusion:** The results show that a reliable determination of sex based on one measurement of the hyoid bone is not possible. Combining three or four variables may give an indication of sex, but further research is needed to assess the value of such a combined method.

reference:

Papadopoulos, N. *et al.* 1989, The shape and size of the human hyoid bone and a proposal for an alternative classification, *Journal of Anatomy* 84: 7-18.

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XIth S.E.A.B. CONGRES IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA

Roede, Machteld J.

In Santiago de Compostella (Spain) from 20-24 September 1999 over 180 persons from at least 12 countries, including Mexico and Venezuela, attended the XI Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Antropología Biológica. We listened to the invited speakers Gian Franco De Stefano (on genetic variation in man; e.g. haplotype evolution), Alan Bittles (genome studies and consanguineous relationships on the Indian subcontinent; e.g. the effective purging of detrimental genes) and Rene Herrera (polymorphisms used as genetic markers). And to numerous well-presented, interesting short papers on a large variety of topics, including growth and development, genetics, paleoanthropology and osteology, as well as somatology and biodemography. For example: the effects of starvation on the growth pattern; differences in the menstrual cycle between Moroccan and Spanish adolescents; hypertension and menopause, or genetic distances based on molecular cellbiology research.

There were papers on dentition of Spanish Neanderthals and a former relatively high frequency of fused primary teeth. And a lot about bones, like consequences for the orbits of induced deformation of the skull by prehispanic Mexicans. On possible evidence of cannibalism, such as specific perimortem manipulations of neolithic bones in Finland or postsacrificial artefacts on prehispanic Mexican bones. On the high rate of infants and children in a medieval Swedish churchyard. As well as on the risk of misleading conclusions when only skeletons excavated from a certain section of a cemetery are being studied.

Among the posters one from Torino discussed the essential empirical validation of the formerly postulated racial paradigm.

Outside, due to usual Atlantic depressions, it was almost continuously pouring with rain. But inside the university's auditorium the atmosphere was warm and stimulating. Coming from a country where physical anthropology is just a small, almost endangered field, it was impressive to notice how Biological Anthropology is well presented in Spain, with at all universities several full professors, and how many research projects are taking place in the Spanish speaking countries.

The excursion day took us to the Atlantic coast. To unique 'horreos', small stone granaries on stone pillars in Combarro (Pontevedra); to pre-roman, celtic dwelling-places and some petroglyphs on the Saint Tecla Mount. Before the farewell dinner, we gathered in and around Santiago's immense pilgrimage cathedral for either attending Mass or a guided tour; yet all enjoying the famous high swaying of the large censer; specially for us also performed at this late hour.

Tito Varela Lopez and co-workers: muchas gracias, for this inspiring week.



## HUMAN SKELETONS FROM MENTESE HOYUK NEAR YENISEHIR

Roodenberg-Alpaslan, S. and G.J.R. Maat  
*Anatolia* 25, 37-51, 1999.

Excavations of a prehistoric mound at Mentese in NW Anatolia were carried out. Mentese represents a late Neolithic/Early Chalcolithic village where eight human skeletons were uncovered (5600-5500 BC). Burial pits were oval in shape and rather small, which often made the dead lie in a compressed position. All were primary burials. The dead were lying on their right side, except for a child which was on its left side. The position of the dead varied between slightly to extremely flexed. The burials constituted the rare evidence of the use of wood in funerary traditions. The skeletons belonged to 3 juveniles and 5 adults. Among the adults, 3 females and 2 males were identified with the help of several cranial and postcranial traits. Considering the smallness of the sample, the following remarks on life expectancy, child mortality, sex ratio, stature and cranial index are made with reservation. The age at death distribution showed three groups: three juveniles in age between 2 and 4 years, three adults between 23-40 years, and two adults at the age of 52-60 years. The latter may indicate that life expectancy of males and females was equal. As it seems, males and females were equally represented in the age clusters. The obviously missing age groups were children from the age of 6 onward, and youngsters up to the age of c. 20 years. The average stature of adult females is c. 155 cm. Since pathological affections may have caused the small stature of one of the two adult males, the average length of the adult males can not be produced. The frequency of dental pathology was similar among age and sex groups. The individuals of all age groups had some carious teeth. Although the majority of the lesions were found on the occlusal surfaces, caries had also affected the roots, often with an abscess and a fistula. Intrasite population comparison on the basis of Mentese's small sample is believed to be ineffective.



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Future Meetings

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April 7-9, 2000

Cranial Trepanation in Human History

Information:

University of Birmingham, U.K.

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September 3-6, 2000

9th Congress of the International Association for Human Auxology

Information:

Centro Congressi internazionale srl., Via Cervino 60, 10155 Torino, Italy.

Tel.: +39 11 244 6911, Fax: +39 11 244 6900, e-mail: cci@fileita.it

web: <http://www.auxo2000.org>

September 8-11, 2000

12th Congress of the European Anthropological Association

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e-mail: bioanth-eaa2000@lists.cam.ac.uk

September 8-11, 2000

Annual Symposium of the SSHB on "Hominid evolution".

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September 18-23, 2000

XIIIth European Meeting of the Paleopathology Association

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