

14th YUGOSLAV CONGRESS OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS WITH  
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION, ZAGREB, 17-19 NOVEMBER, 1975

School of Biological Anthropology,  
Zagreb, 20-21 November 1975

The congress took place in Zagreb with the participation mainly of anthropologists from Western nations. Mr. N. Xirotiris was sent by the Institute for Balkan Studies to represent Greece.

The conference opened in the «Mošu Pijade» Worker's University with speeches by Professors Vlahović (on Anthropology in Yugoslavia), Maver (on the role of Biological Anthropology in Education), and Konačević (on the Relation between Governmental Science and Biological Anthropology). The intended division of the conference into five sections was not strictly adhered to, seeing that such a thing would have been virtually impossible because the range of anthropological study in Yugoslavia is not as limited as in the West.

The papers concerning the anthropological structure of the Balkan populations were relatively few in number: Mičić and Schwidetzky on the Illyrians of Glasinac, Xirotiris on the Pomaks of Thrace, and a paper in Serbo-Croat on a Slavonic cemetery near Ljubljana.

This paucity reminded us yet again of the post-war backwardness of anthropological science in the Balkans, which, with its attempted conversion into a propaganda weapon, particularly since 1972, has begun to make one wonder whether any reasonable scientific objectivity can be maintained in this subject. Especially disappointing was the situation in Palaeoanthropology, which was represented by only one paper, and this basically archaeological.

The second day of the conference was taken up by a visit to Croatian Zagorje and Krapina, with a trip to the cave where remains of Neanderthal-type Man have been found. We had the chance to examine the finds in the Palaeontological Museum of Zagreb.

On the final day a meeting of the advisors to the editorial board of the *Journal of Human Evolution and European Anthropology* took place. Here the idea of the formation of a European Anthropological Society, to be organized on a national basis, was discussed, since the present system of representation has proved deficient, especially in our own country.

The panel discussions which followed were chiefly occupied by subjects connected with Anthropology and Ergonomics and, unfortunately, could once again be seen to deviate from the original plan.

The conference ended with the Annual Assembly of the Anthropological Society. Upon its conclusion, receptions were given by the President and staff of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and by the Mayor of Zagreb. These were notable for their excellent spirit of friendship.

The two following days (20-21 November) were taken up with talks by Messrs Kesić, Olivier, Wolanski and Chiaraveli in the School of Biological Anthropology, and visits to the Ethnological Museum and the Institute of Medical Research and Occupational Health.

N. I. XIROTIRIS