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the Oc. I by the double manoeuvre of dividing S3 by S'3 and then either calculating the Oc. I, or looking it up in Tildesley's table.

It is recommended that Pearson's Occipital Index be abandoned in future cranioanatomical studies and replaced by the simple median sagittal Chord-Arc Index. There are other many metrical characters which should be re-examined and interpreted biologically, in much the same way as has been attempted in the present series of studies, if we are ever to place on a sounder footing the use of metrical methods in physical anthropology. For the science is cluttered up with too many measurements and too many indices, the usefulness of which is not apparent and the biological significance of which is slight or unknown. Perhaps a certain ruthlessness in abandoning such time-honoured but 'dead wood' metrical characters would aid the forward march of physical anthropology.

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References


Sergi, S., Crania Halesinica, Rome, Loescher, 1912, pp. 519.


Surface stone implements were collected during the spring of 1959 by Dr. Z. R. Beydoun, Iraq Petroleum Company geologist, at Hairat al-'Ul (lat. 17°39' N. and long. 48°38' E.) near Wadi Ath Thuwairi, which leads from the plateau just east of Kushner al-Jabal into the Rub' al Khali. Dr. Beydoun wrote that the implements were sparsely scattered on a sandy surface between sand-dune ridges, not far from the Kushner al-Jabal area which forms the northern-western tip of the northern plateau ('The Jil') of the Hadhramaut where this meets the dunes of the Rub' al Khali. This site, located between parallel dune ridges running east-north-east by west-south-west, lies very near the southern margins of the sand-dune area. In the Rub' al Khali, dune ridges run for considerable distances, parallel to one another and separated by shuqq, which are virtually representative of the surface of the area, as it is below the blown dune sand cover. These shuqq can also extend for long distances, but are seldom more than about half a mile or so wide. The Hairat al-'Ul site is one such shuqq, but of a limited extent, occupying a depression which at times in the past filled up with flood water from the Wadi Ath Thuwairi. The surface shows silty patches often covered with a thin veneer of blown sand. Scattered here and there are limestone fragments, often silicified, and Cretaceous sandstone concretions, as well as unworked flint or chert fragments. Associated with the silty 'soil' were patches of apparently recent freshwater shells and ostrich-egg fragments.

The implements include arrowheads, points and scrapers. The material is flint, chert and fine-grained quartz. The specimens showed some effect of aolithic action. The flint and chert implements range in colour from greyish-white to mottled grey-brown. The few quartzite specimens range from milky white to light brown. The thinness and delicate retouching of the arrowheads indicate skilled pressure-flaking techniques similar to that observed at other surface sites in the Rub' al Khali and assigned to a 'neolithic' phase.

The location of this small camp site at Hairat al-'Ul lies about 65 miles south-east of Aramo camp G-2554 (lat. 18°18' N. and long. 49°46' E.), and about the same distance from Shiban beside the Wadi Hadhramaut where Miss Gertrude Caton-Thompson collected palaeoliths as well as obsidian and chert microliths.

Mr. J. A. Wallace sent me on 2 December, 1958, the central part of a honey-coloured flint blade which he collected on 13 November, 1958, in the gravel bed of a wadi at Boy (lat. 19°3' N. and long. 57°30' E.), 20 kilometres west of Ras Duqm on the south-west coast of the Gulf of Masirah in Oman. This is an excellent example of delicate pressure-flaking comparable in technique to that of the ancient Egyptian or Danish craftsmen.

As each site is plotted on the map, the spread of Stone Age cultures becomes clearer. Additional data will be welcomed especially from within the huge rectangle (lat. 15°-26° N. and long. 50°-61° E.).

Notes

1 Identified as Zooticus insularis [EHERNBERG] by Dr. Fritz Haas, Chicago Natural History Museum, who commented that this species is widely distributed in south-western Asia extending westward to the Cape Verde Islands.

2 Five pieces ranging from light brown (3) to dark brown (4) and black (1). The two last specimens show marked aolithic action and appear to be considerably older than the lighter fragments.

3 F. E. Zeuner, "Neolithic" Sites from the Rub' al Khali, Southern Arabia, Man, 1934, 209, with bibliography; H. Field.
The Congress of Czechoslovak Anthropologists. By Dr. F. P. Lisowski, Department of Anatomy, University of Birmingham

The Congress of Czechoslovak Anthropologists was held in Bratislava from 21 to 26 September, 1959, in ideal surroundings. Participants were transported some 40 miles from the city on a castle at Smolenice which had been put at the disposal of the congress by the Slovak Academy of Sciences. This castle, which is beautifully situated, is entirely modern inside and is specially designed for scientific meetings and for the accommodation of the participants. On the one hand there were the formal meetings and on the other opportunities for informal discussion and exchanges which went on in various smaller rooms and over meals.

The majority of foreigners who attended the congress came from Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany. Soviet and Roumanian delegates had sent their papers and these were read in title only. There were two representatives from West Germany and one each from the United Kingdom and Mexico. Professor V. Suk, the doyen of Czechoslovak anthropology, was also present. Each paper was followed by discussion, language difficulties being surmounted with the kind help of colleagues who were always ready to translate. With some of the younger members it was often only possible to converse in Russian. A list of the titles of the papers gives an idea of the scope of the congress.


I missed the last two days of the congress and paid a flying visit to Prague by the kind invitation of Prague anatomists and anthropologists. On Friday afternoon Dr. E. Vlček took me to the Archaeological Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and demonstrated various finds from Kanovec. He showed some fossil mandibular fragments and teeth of a thersus-like primate found at Zlatý Kun and some fossilized fragments of papio-like extremities. Dr. Vlček also discussed some of the anthropological and serological results obtained on a recent expedition to Mongolia. He brought back a large number of skulls and coloured slides from there and I understand that the work is continuing.

My Prague colleagues then showed me some of the historic churches and other buildings in the city which are truly magnificent. These have either been redecorated or rebuilt or are in the process of restoration, and every effort is made to restore them to their original state.

Next morning the National Museum was visited where the director showed the actual endocranial cast from Kanovec as well as various artifacts from the same site. (Anybody interested in