



Volume 1 Number 3 Spring 1987

A PUBLICATION OF THE DENTAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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### 1987 PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Dental Anthropological Association has now celebrated its first anniversary in New York City on April 3rd, 1987. It has been very gratifying for me to watch this organization take root and grow from its deciduous beginnings to a more permanent status.

A number of issues vital to the well being of the DAA were raised at the business meeting and I will address three of them at this time. My first concern is the lack of communication between members and the board. To facilitate this flow, the association now has added elected executive committee members who will be responsible for informing the membership about the annual meeting, organizing scientific sessions and symposia, and coordinating nominations. Secondly, the success of the Dental Anthropology Newsletter depends on not only the talent of the editor, but also on the active participation of the membership at large. It is imperative that you share your professional expertise, experience and interests through this instrument. Finally, I must stress the importance of input from all of you regarding the future direction of this organization. I am particularly anxious to see that the gap between our various specialties be narrowed and integrated into a wide ranging, but unified field. Without this type of cooperation, our differences could become divisive and undermine the basic premise of the DAA, which is to establish dental anthropology as a discipline in its own right.

Mehmet Yaşar Işcan, Ph.D.  
President, DAA

### NEW YORK MEETING

The second annual meeting of the DAA was held in New York City in conjunction with the American Association of Physical Anthropologists on April 3, 1987. A Dental Anthropology symposium organized by M. Y. Işcan was held during the afternoon as part of the AAPA meetings, and a business meeting was held that evening.

## Dental Anthropology Symposium

At this year's Dental Anthropology session 12 papers were presented by our membership. Attendance was nearly 100. Topics included dental disease, morphology, odontometrics, genetics, moire fringe photography, attrition, lysozyme concentration variation, and race and sex differentiation. Details on the symposium, and the abstracts, are published in the February, 1987 American Journal of Physical Anthropology (Vol. 72, No. 2).

M.Y. İşcan is pleased to announce that Dr. William Stini (AJPA editor) has asked him to put together a special issue of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology based on the papers presented at this session.

### 1987 Business Meeting

Firstly, there are some new offices and officers. The following individuals were elected to serve on the newly formed executive board and will be responsible for next year's activities:

Program Chairman: Marc Kelley (University of Rhode Island, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Chaffee Building #501, Kingston, RI 02881. Telephone: (401) 792-4147).

Meeting Facilitator: Gloria y'Edynak (Armed Forces Medical Museum, Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, DC 20306-6000).

Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman: Richard Koritzer (7367 Furnace Branch Rd., Glen Burnie, MD 21027. Telephone: (301) 761-3119).

If you are interested in one of these areas, please contact one of these people.

### Editor's Report

The first issue of the Dental Anthropology Newsletter came out one year ago, and was a scant three pages. The second issue of the DAN came out during the Summer of 1986. This 9 page issue contained one contributed article and the bylaws of the DAA. Both of these issues were duplicated at the expense of the University of Illinois, College of Dentistry and shipped to Florida for mailing. The third issue includes a section of contributed Book Reviews, another first. A newsletter is only as good as what's in it, and the editor hopes that members will continue to submit short papers, reviews, and news items for the DAN. Send anything and everything to: Dr. R.L. Costa, Jr., Editor, DAN, Department of Oral Anatomy, College of Dentistry, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Il. 60612.

## ELECTIONS

Several DAA officers must be elected in the near future, including the President, Secretary/Treasurer and one Board Member to replace a current board member. Please send your recommendations of qualified individuals to fill these posts to the nominations committee headed by Dr. Koritzer. Nominations will appear in a future issue of the DAN.

## SPONSORED MEMBERSHIPS

Because some of our members from different countries are having problems with currency exchange and difficulty getting money out of their countries, we are asking that some of you in a position to do so, would please sponsor foreign members so that they can join the DAA, receive the DAN, and contribute their experiences and knowledge. At the same time we would like to hear from those dental anthropologists who are facing currency transfer problems. Please notify the DAA Treasurer, Dr. Robert Isler, Department of Anthropology, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Fl 33431-0991.

## 1988 DAA MEETING

The third annual meeting of the DAA will be held in Kansas City, MO, March 24 - 26, 1988 along with the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. There will be one or two sessions cosponsored by the DAA. Please contact Dr. y'Edynak for local arrangements and Dr. Kelley for the scientific program/presentation of papers.

## OTHER MEETINGS

The International Association of Forensic Sciences will hold its annual meeting in Vancouver, B.C., August 2 - 7 1987. The IAFS has a number of sessions of interest to members, including facial reconstruction and superimposition, and age and sex determination. For information contact either Mr. Jeff Coughlin, 801-750 Jervis St., Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6E 2A9, or Dr. Mark Skinner (Secretary, Forensic Anthropology Section), Department of Archeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. Canada, V5A 1S6.

The International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences meeting will be held in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, July 24-31, 1988. There are a number of symposia being organized. M.Y. İscan is organizing two symposia, entitled "Skeletal Biology" and "Forensic Anthropology," and a workshop on "Computer Application and Program Development in Physical Anthropology." Dr. V.R. Reddy (S.V. University, Tirupati 517 502, Andra Pradesh, India) is organizing "Dental Anthropology and its Applications." If you wish to participate in one of these activities, please contact either Dr. İscan or Dr. Reddy.

GORILLA FAVORS GOLD

(The following item was submitted by E.J. Neiburger.)

The December 1986 issue of Playboy (p. 183) reports an interview with Koko, a 15 year old female gorilla who was taught to communicate with humans using American Sign Language. One of the questions asked of Koko was:

"What makes you happy?"

Koko's signed answer:

"Gorilla Koko love good. Koko love good fake tooth," referring to a gold crown Koko noticed in a staff member's mouth. Another question asked Koko was:

"What is your most troublesome thought?"

Reply:

"That" referring to some gold colored fabric which the gorilla tried to wrap around her own molar in an attempt to make a gold crown.

Dr. Neiburger notes that this is the first case of a non-human primate communicating a desire for aesthetic dentistry and choosing gold over silver or porcelain. Chimps and some monkeys will dabble in oral surgery by removing each others' loose primary teeth, but none has been known previously to show an interest in cosmetic dentistry.

1988 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, please send in your 1988 membership dues to the DAA Treasurer, Dr. Robert Isler. Dues remain at \$10.00 for regular and \$5.00 for student members. Please encourage your colleagues to join the DAA using the handy form below.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: DENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY ASSOCIATION

NAME:

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ADDRESS:

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SPECIALTY:

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Dues are \$10.00/year for regular members and \$5.00/ year for students. Membership includes a year's subscription to the Dental Anthropology Newsletter (3 issues). Please send this application and cheque payable to "Dental Anthropological Association" to Dr. Robert Isler, Department of Anthropology, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Dr. Ellis J. (Skip) Neiburger submitted the reviews printed below. The editor hopes other interested individuals will submit material without his having to resort to having their teeth drilled without anesthesia.

A Biography of Illinois Archaeology by Gwen Patrice Bennett. Illinois State Museum Scientific Papers Vol XXI, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Il 62706. 1984. 356 Pages.

It has been a long time coming but this is a fairly complete biography of ALL that has been published on Illinois archaeology from the mid 1800's to present.

This thick text lists all publications by author and has a county cross-reference.

3 star rating.

Quaternary Extinctions, A Prehistoric Revolution by P. Martin and R. Klein. Ed. The University of Arizona Press, 1615 E Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719. 882 pages 1984. \$65.00.

This book is a collection of 38 well written articles on the extinction of many Pleistocene animals and the circumstances in which they died out. This text is well illustrated, organized and indexed. The topics include animals throughout the world. There are some interesting and plausible conclusions in the last chapters that completes the picture of one of the world's greatest environmental disasters. 3 star rating.

Paleontology and Paleoenvironments by B. Skinner Ed. William Kaufmann Inc. 1 1st. st, Los Altos, CA 94022. 1981 206 pages. \$10.95.

This book is a collection of essays on evolution, the environment and paleontology. There are some good sections on geography, fossil birds, dentition and early man. It is easy reading and very thought provoking. 3 star rating.

Testifying In Court by J. Horsley JD. Medical Economics Books, Oradell, NJ. 07649 154 pages, 1985 \$25 , 0-87489-315-1.

If you ever have to testify in court as an expert witness (e.g. forensic) or plaintiff/defendant, this book will be of great help. It is a manual for doctors in court. It is well written, easy to read, very enlightening and practical. The ins and outs of the legal world are explained with ample suggestions, warning signs, tricks lawyers use and tips on what will impress a jury. 4 stars.



Ontario Prehistory by J.V. Wright. University of Chicago Press, 5801 So. Ellis, Chicago, IL 60637. 120 pages, 1972 \$10.00.

This easy to read paperback book is a well written summary of Ontario prehistory (10,000 yrs to present). It is well illustrated with many fine color and black and white photos of 'type' artifacts, maps and period identification charts. It is directed towards the amateur rather than technically directed professional. This book recently was introduced to the US through U of Chicago press's Canadian Prehistory Series. Three stars.

Patterns of Activity-Induced Pathology In A Canadian Inuit Population by C. Merbs. National Museum of Man, Scientific Records Section, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M8. 200 pages. Free.

This is an excellent physical anthro text about a now extinct Eskimo (Sadlermuit) group and how their life style affected their skeletal remains. Good photos, delightful and informative reading. The price is right.

Two books from The Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Harvard University Press, Uniserv Corp. 525 Great Road, Littleton, MA 01460

Bones from Awatovi by S. Olsen and R. Wheeler. 1978 74 pages. This book describes the animal bones and their uses that were found at this Northeastern Arizona site. It is an excellent taxonomic guide to many North American animal bones.

The Human Skeletal Remains of Altar De Sacrificios by F. Saul. 124 pages 1972.

This book is an excellently written text on the human osteology of the victims found at the Mayan Altar De Sacrificios. There are many good photos and statistical data on health, growth and manner of death.

Archaeology of the Central Mississippi Valley by Dan and Phyllis Morse. Academic Press. 111 5th Ave. New York 10003. 1983 345 pages.

This is another excellent book in Academic Press' New World Archaeological Record Series. The Morses describe the Central Mississippi area in a series of chapters on Geology, History, Paleontology and archaeological techniques and folk lore of the river lands. The bulk of the book is devoted to archaeology including sections on Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, Hopewell and Mississippian occupations.

The text is well organized and written, easy to read and filled with drawings, photos and good references. There is an excellent index.

4 star rating.

Origins of the Domestic Dog by S. Olsen. University of Arizona Press, 1615 E Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719 118 pages 1985 \$20.

This is an excellent book on the fossil and historic record of the domestic dog. There is a difference between wild dogs, wolves and what is called 'domestic' throughout the world. This text shows the evolutionary difference in an excellent, well documented way which is easy to read and understand. There are many photos, good references and index. 3 star rating.

Paleoanthropology and Paleolithic Archaeology In The People's Republic of China by Wu Rukang and J. Olsen ed. Academic Press Orlando 1985. 293 pages.

China is a vast territory which is seldom heard from in archaeological circles. This book is an excellent source of paleolithic archaeology data from China. A vast wealth of research, excavation sites and specimens are available to modern science. This well written text is the key to this data on early hominids and their environment. Index, maps, photos. 3 star rating.

Archaic Hunters and Gatherers in the American Midwest by J Phillips and J Brown ed. Academic press, Orlando 1983. 350 pages. \$47.50.

This is a collection of 15 well written articles on the Archaic Indians of the Midwest. The text is easy to read and covers the classic sites, population, environment-ecology and artifacts of this interesting age. Unfortunately there is little mention of the Old Copper Culture of Wisconsin and Michigan which in previous years, was considered the technological highpoint of this period. Good index, maps, references and photos. Three star rating.

Data Bank Applications In Archaeology by S. Gaines ed. The University of Arizona Press, 1615 E. Speedway, Tucson, Az 85719. 1981 \$14.95.

This book contains a series of articles on the use of computers in archaeology. It is mini computer in orientation and covers data base, equipment-program design, site mapping, etc. Most of the work centers on 1972-9 technology mentioning little of the microcomputers then available. Though limited by today's technologym it is one of the only books available on computer use in archaeology. Good index, references. 2 star rating.

Bones-Ancient Men and Modern Times by L. Binford. Academic Press, Inc.111 5th Ave., NY, NY 10003. 1981 320 pages. \$37.50.

This is an excellent book about a long neglected subject; the interpretation of bones as tools. Too many generalizations and assumptions have been made in archaeology based on faulty bone analysis. This book is a good guide to diagnosis of man, animal and nature's manipulations of bone. References, index. 3 star rating.

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The Dental Anthropology Newsletter  
A Publication of the Dental  
Anthropological Association  
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33431-0991