

DENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY. By John R. Lukacs. Pictures of Record, Inc. 119 Kettle Creek Road, Weston, CT 06883, U.S.A. 1993. 90 slides, 29 pages explanatory text in binder. \$150.00.

Research and Travel. What anthropologist denies the opportunity to do either? What student can resist the lure? The slide sets produced by Pictures of Record allow the viewer a taste of the field, whether it is on Easter Island or a physical anthropology laboratory in India. These and other specialized topical slide collections are designed for both instructional and archival purposes. The slides are the products of professionals in archeology, anthropology, and art history.

The slide set, *Dental Anthropology*, produced by John R. Lukacs, was informally shown to a class of ASU dental anthropology students and members of the Dental Anthropology Association. The following review is a synthesis of comments and opinions from that viewing.

Lukacs has organized this slide set from his vast research in south Asia. Most of the slides are photographs of material from sites in India and Pakistan, supplemented by some Canary Island dental examples. The slides are accompanied by a 29-page guide containing explanations and background of the sites from which the material was excavated, and a numbered inventory of the slides with a paragraph of provenience data, physical description, as well as additional information and comments for each.

This packet is a "must read" for anyone viewing and especially for a person presenting the slides. It is also a fascinating summary of some of Lukacs' and others' research in this field. The explanatory text is followed by a bibliography appropriate to the short discussions. Many of our test viewers commented on the usefulness of the packet descriptions. However, they felt that without a good sense of dental anthropology (or if slides are not in order), one could get confused about which slide was on screen. The solution offered to this problem was a discreet number somewhere on the slide image, allowing the viewer (and presenter) to easily match slide to text commentary.

The 90 slides are divided into six sections. These are: Location Maps and Archaeological Context, with a map and examples of the burials and other archeological details; Pathological Lesions; Morphological Traits; Wear Patterns; Anomalies and Occlusal Variation; and Data Interpretation: Graphics. Considering that most, if not all of the slides of the actual dental material were taken in the field, the test audience felt that the quality of the slides is surprisingly good.

The viewers had some minor critical remarks on the focus or composition of a few slides, but the overall commentary was "very good" to "excellent." However, one mystery slide, #22, raised a few questions. The text discusses the dental fluorosis that this maxillary dentition exhibits, but contains no explanation for the very weird shape of the palate. It is extremely narrow, and the audience could only guess that the shape is a result of either severe ground deformation or reconstruction attempt. This slide is very striking; an explanation would have been helpful.

The final slides are graphic representations of various data sets and comparisons, all specifically relevant to the India and Pakistan material. While such data could be more easily absorbed in printed context (why we read journals?), they did provide an example of visual presentation which is potentially useful for students and other workers who may not have attended many high-tech conferences. Certainly, the test audience saw merit in viewing some of the various ways in which information can be presented. The data themselves would best accompany a more detailed discussion of the archeology, anthropological goals, and specific research topics, perhaps not easily handled by the casual presenter.

Lukacs' slide collection, despite a few slides that lack the quality of the rest, is an excellent sample of dental anthropology of prehistoric India and Pakistan, as well as the Canary Islands. This collection is accompanied by a very useful and informative inventory and commentary on the slides. The topics are not just relevant to regional examples of dental variation, but would supplement a larger collection, on a world-wide basis. This slide set could certainly be useful for instructors who have not yet amassed their own collection of teaching slides. For those who are interested in south Asia, but have not had Lukacs' experience, *Dental Anthropology* provides an opportunity to examine first hand these examples of south Asian dentitions.

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