

Review of *Homo* (vol. 41, 1990, No 1)

Sujoldzic, A. *The analysis of population history and cultural (linguistic) microevolution of the Slavic settlements in Molise, Italy (1-15).*

This paper explores the consequences of the migration and subsequent cultural evolution of the Slavs who settled several centuries ago in the region of Molise, Italy. This investigation is based on the lexicostatistical method introduced by Swadesh and Lees, modified and detailed described by the author (1983, 87). Determination of linguistic distances between the dialect spoken in Molise and ten local dialects spoken in Yugoslavia, provides evidence of their specific place of origin. The linguistic analysis indicates that the Slavs in Molise are the highly isolated population.

Cocilovo, J. A., F. Rothhammer. *Paleo-population biology of the southern Andes: cranio-facial, chronological and geographical differentiation (16-31)*

To develop this study, mean values of nine craniometrical variables were obtained for 22 samples of chronologically distinct prehistoric populations. D^2 -distances between groups are calculated and an analysis using the Wagner-tree technique are used. The study of similarities and differences estimated from the hypothesis, in conjunction with mean vectors for each pair of groups, allows for the schematic construction of biological development. The present study represents an attempt to examine craniofacial variation exhibited by skeletal samples and to relate observed differences to the action of evolutionary forces; particularly gene flow.

Turner, C. G., M. A. Markowitz. *Dental discontinuity between Late Pleistocene and recent Nubians (32-41).*

Late Pleistocene and recent Nubian skeletal samples were examined to assess Nubian population history. All observations were made following the ASU dental anthropology system which is based on standardized ranked scale plaster reference plaques for scoring intratrait variation (Turner, Scott, 1977, Turner, 1979). It is hypothesized that the late Pleistocene people were not solely ancestral to the recent Nubians, and Holocene population replacement has occurred in the Nile Valley.

Irish, J. D., C. G. Turner. *West African dental affinity of Late Pleistocene Nubians (42-53).*

This study is build on the dental discontinuity finding of Turner and Markowitz (1990) between late Pleistocene and recent Nubians. Altogether 276 individuals are examined. The authors testing their results with additional dental traits and identifying a west African population that has a strong resemblance to the late Pleistocene Nubians. It is hypothesized that the late Pleistocene Nubians and/or northwest African late Paleolithic Mechta-type peoples who are phonetically similar to them, contributed significantly to the modern west African gene pool.

Welpel, E. Welpel. *Explanation of geometric patterns of Irish megalithic passage graves as endogenous patterns (54-71).*

The paper deals with the explanation of geometric patterns of Irish megalithic culture whose origin and meaning rested unexplained up to now. The hypothesis was put forward that the megalithic patterns of Ireland represent stroboscopically stimulated endogenous patterns, which the authors are explained as eigenpatterns of visual cortical nerve-nets. For examination of the

hypothesis Irish megalithic patterns were compared with stroboscopic patterns.

Riedl, B. I. *Morphological and metrical characteristics of the male and female leitmotif in mate-selection and its impact on the selection of the spouse (72-85).*

This paper deals with the morphology of the human face and its impact on mate selection process (over the "leitmotif", the "Partnerleitbild"

Knussmann, 1965). 192 individuals (=96 couples) between 20-40 years of age are investigated. Couples were asked to describe ideal faces with the help of a computer programme designed to establish phantoms of criminals. The ideal faces were compared with the real faces of the probationers. Moreover, it was tested whether the spouses resembled each other, whether the ideal faces of the same couple or the ideal face and the face of the probationer who had assembled it were alike.

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