newsletter

Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology
L'Association pour l'Anthropologie Physique au Canada

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc., has provided a grant-in-aid to our president, Dr. Emöke Szathmary (McMaster), for the specific purpose of improving the CAPA/AAPC *Newsletter*. Beginning with the next number the *Newsletter* will be taking on a more professional appearance. It will be issued in a regular journal format and will be typeset rather than typewritten. The editorial board hopes that this change will result in a larger subscription base so that the *Newsletter* can eventually become self-supporting. In future, contributors should follow the Wistar Institute Guide for Authors, which appears from time to time in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. Papers not in the Wistar style will be returned for re-typing.

- Dr. Jamshed Mavalwala (Toronto) has been elected president of the International Dermatoglyphics Association (as of July, 1978), for a term of 4 years. This is the first time that a Canadian physical anthropologist has functioned as the president of the IDA. Dr. Mavalwala, who had previously been the secretary of the IDA from 1972-78, is also the youngest president the association has yet had. He has just authored *Dermatoglyphics--An International Bibliography* and edited *Dermatoglyphics--An International Perspective*. Both volumes were published by Mouton (Holland).

- Your help is needed in locating the following persons, who appear on the CAPA/AAPC membership list but are without current correct addresses: Rharteris, J.; Droessler, J. B.; Hreczko, T. A.; Ireland, J.; Kettel, D. W.; Kolar, J.; Ralph, S. S.; McDonald, J. A.; and Roth, E. Please send address information to Dr. N. S. Ossenberg, secretary-treasurer, Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Hamilton, Ont., K7L 3N6.

The new logo for the *Newsletter* was designed by Anna Malynycz and submitted by F. J. Melbye (Toronto). The artist is a graduate of the University of Toronto. On behalf of the Association's membership, the editorial board wishes to extend our warm thanks to Ms. Malynycz for her concept.

The *Newsletter* accepts letters, short articles, book reviews and other materials relevant to physical anthropology and its sister disciplines. Authors may submit their manuscripts to any member of the editorial board:

Ross D. E. MacPhee
General Editor
Department of Anthropology
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Man.
R3T 2N2

Nancy S. Ossenberg
Editor (Past Populations)
Department of Anatomy
Queen's University
Kingston, Ont.
K7L 3N6

Larry Sawchuk
Editor (Living Populations)
Department of Anthropology
Scarborough College
West Hill, Ont.
M1C 1A4

George Ellis
Editor (Primates)
Department of Anthropology
University of Western Ontario
London, Ont.
N6A 5C2

The *Newsletter* is an official publication of the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology/l'Association pour l'Anthropologie physique au Canada, and is published in February, July, and October of each year. Membership inquiries and address corrections should be sent to Dr. N. S. Ossenberg, Department of Anatomy, Queen's University, Hamilton, Ont. K7L 3N6

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TEACHING FORUM

SKELETAL BIOLOGY

(Ed. note--Teaching Forum is about courses, programs, and instructional media. This issue features a description of Erindale College's osteology course by its instructor, F. Jerome Melbye.)

Anthropology 334 (Skeletal Biology) is for third-year students who have completed an introductory course in physical anthropology. It is also open to other students who possess sufficient background in biology and related subjects.

The course runs 26 weeks. It meets for three hours once a week, and usually consists of an hour of lecture and two hours of lab exercises. Organizationally, the course is divided into four segments with an exam at the end of each segment. The first seven weeks are devoted to normal skeletal anatomy based primarily on a combination of Grant's and Gray's anatomy texts. Students are required to familiarize themselves completely with skeletal gross anatomy. This is often considered to be the most difficult part of the course because it requires rote memorization. The next four weeks are devoted to metrical analysis. Students learn the definitions and practical pitfalls of osteometry. They are introduced both to 'classical' measures and the 'new' osteometric techniques (cf. Howell, 1973). This section includes a lecture and lab on odontology. The exam at the end of this section is a bell-ringer, but notebooks are permitted. This encourages students to keep neat and complete notebooks.

The third segment of the course is six weeks in length and includes such subjects as morphological variation and sex/age determination. Coverage includes both 'classical' variation (e.g., brow-ridges, form of orbit, etc.) and the 'new' discrete traits. There is also a lab and lecture on bone histology in this section. The final part of the course is five weeks long, and its object is to talk about how bones are analyzed. Lectures cover paleopathology, paleodemography, field excavation techniques, and statistical manipulations for the determination of population relationships.

In addition, a project is assigned in order to allow students to acquaint themselves with the vast literature of skeletal biology. Although the projects are individually narrow in scope, they are broad in terms of available information. Students are assigned projects on a 'first come, first served' basis. This is necessary to ensure that library resources are available (and to avoid the boredom of reading 20 papers on syphilis). Projects based on an 'archaeologically defined people' are almost always the most difficult. The people may vary greatly in terms of available data, and successful completion of the project requires familiarity with both the archaeological and the osteological literature. For the most part, other project types are straightforward. They usually involve the exploration of etiology and variability, comparison of living and skeletalized specimens, and brief discussion of appearance in skeletal populations. Suggested topics for projects include the following:

1. The identification and distribution of specific pathology; e.g.:

syphilis	trauma
leprosy	mutilation
arthritis	trephination
multiple myeloma	attrition and abscess
tumours	cleft palate
	cranial deformation

2. The origin and distribution of specific variation, e.g.:

septal aperture	mandibular torus
squatting facets	Carabelli's Cusp
head shape	shovel-shaped incisors
fossa of Allen	accessory sutural bones
molar cusp pattern	spondylolysis

3. An evaluation of methods of:

   sexing the bones of the pelvic girdle
   sexing the skull and mandible
   determining age at death (infracranial bones)
   determining age at death (skull and teeth)
   detecting microevolutionary changes.

4. Burial practices of a specific, archaeologically defined people.

5. Palaeodemography of a specific, archaeologically defined people.

6. Palaeopathology of a specific, archaeologically defined people.

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F. Jerome Melbye
Department of Anthropology
Erindale College
Mississauga, Ontario
L5L 1C6

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BOOK REVIEWS

LIVING NEW WORLD MONKEYS (PLATYRRHINI), WITH AN INTRODUCTION TO PRIMATES. Vol. 1. By Philip Hershkovitz.

University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1977. XIV + 1117 pp., 520 figs. and 7 color pls., 111 tbls., app., addendum, 3 indices. U.S. $75.00 (cloth).

This monograph is the first fruit of a projected three-volume enterprise that will harvest Philip Hershkovitz' 30 years of research experience with New World primates. The proportions of this undertaking are formidable; vol. 1 was begun 12 years before its publication date, and it clearly exhibits the author's intention to be precise in detail and definitive in execution.

Living New World Primates is best classified as an encyclopedia for the practising morphologist and taxonomist, and one should keep this in mind when considering it for personal use or library purchase. The work is divided into three unequal parts. The first and shortest, entitled "History and Evolutionary Biology," is evidently intended as a general introduction to the series and is principally concerned with major primate characteristics. A simple but accurate objection to its form and content is that the promise contained in the section heading is not fulfilled. Very little mention is made of primate origins or diversification, while unnecessary stress is given to such tired subjects as LeGros Clark's evolutionary trends and what is wrong with them. The final chapter on locomotion is interesting and less typologically oriented than the preceding ones, but suffers from a lengthy and rather obtuse criticism of biometrical studies. The contributions by Oxnard and others scarcely deserve epithets like "sterile, futile, and unrealistic," however much one disagrees with their procedures or analyses.

The second part is a select comparative anatomy of the primates, with emphasis on New World forms. Chosen hard and soft features are described in exuberant detail; most discussions include comparisons to non-primate mammals and excellent literature reviews. Selection of anatomical features was obviously predicated on putative taxonomic importance. For example, 21 of the 43 chapters in this part are concerned with craniodental morphology, while only one is devoted to the visual apparatus. Nonetheless, this section of Hershkovitz' monograph, which runs to nearly 250 pages, is a rich mine of data and morphological interpretation for the systematically inclined. The reader will also find very useful discussions of such topics as "monkey rickets" and parasites, and a much improved and expanded version of the author's theory of metachromism. The quality of the hundreds of line drawings that accompany this and other sections varies from above average to superb. In fact, it is surprising to find such lavish artwork in a recent non-medical anatomy text, given the high price of good artistic help. The photographic illustrations are not so well chosen in some instances. Chapter 29, "Atlas of Tupaiid and Primate Skulls," is a rogue's gallery of low-magnification photos that do not always permit one to find the anatomical minutiae mentioned in the descriptions.

The third part, which constitutes nearly two-thirds of the text, is an exhaustive review of callitrichid and callimiconid systematics. Each species or species-group is separately profiled, with chief attention given to distribution, identification keys, discrimination of sub-species, and synonymic history. Also included are topics of more general interest, such as known habits and reproductive biology. It is quite clear that very little that is relevant to marmoset biology has escaped the author's scrutiny. The monograph's encyclopedic function is augmented by a gazeteer of collecting localities and informative subject, author and biotic indices.

This volume will be followed by equivalent treatments of living cebids and fossil platyrrhines. Together, they will represent a badly-needed replacement for vols. III-V of the late W. C. Osman Hill's Primates. These parts of Hill's monumental work were published in the period 1957-1962, before the explosion of interest in non-human primates, and are thus already a part of the antique primatological literature.

I must defend, rather than lament, the cost of Living New World Primates. This is a book produced according to the old standards: excellent paper, magnificent illustrations, and large, uncrowded type. For those of us who care, it is a welcome relief from the robbery of paying similar amounts for cheaply-made trade items published in catchpenny offset typescript.

R. D. E. MacPhee
Department of Anthropology
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N2