

CONFERENCE COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE FIRST *SINANTHROPUS* SKULL

Thirty years have elapsed since the discovery of the first skull of *Sinanthropus pekinensis* on December 3rd, 1929. A jubilee meeting was held from December 21st to 24th in Peking in celebration of this monumental event in the history of Human Paleontology which has great significance and far-reaching influence in the development of the science of Paleoanthropology in China.

The Conference was held under the general sponsorship of Academia Sinica, with the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology in direct charge of its organization. One hundred and forty-one scientific workers from scientific institutions of 16 different cities and provinces were present in the meeting, and 28 papers in the fields of anthropology, paleolithic archaeology, vertebrate paleontology, Quarternary geology and other related sciences were read during the four days of meeting.

The Conference was opened with a speech by Prof. Chu Co-ching, the climatologist and vice-president of the Academy, who spoke on the significance of the discovery of *Sinanthropus* and the achievements of paleoanthropology made by the Chinese scientists since the liberation.

Prof. S. V. Kiselev, archaeologist and corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences gave warmest congratulations to the meeting on behalf of Soviet anthropologists.

During the third day of the Conference the delegates took a trip to Choukoutien to visit the fossil locality and the Museum of *Sinanthropus* there, and several interesting papers in connection with the Quarternary geology and Pleistocene physical environments of the Choukoutien region were read and discussed.

The Conference was closed in the afternoon of December 24th with speeches by Prof. Pei Li-sun, historian and Secretary General of the Academy, Prof. T. H. Yin, paleontologist and Head of the Department of Geology and Geography of the Academy, and Prof. C. C. Young, Director of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology. Pei and Yin spoke about the future prospects of the development of the science of paleoanthropology in China, while Young, on behalf of the Presidium of the Conference, proposed a plan for the future development of the studies of Fossil Man and their cultural remains in China and the cooperation and coordination of research work on a nationwide scale. The plan received unanimous support by all the attendants to the Conference.

Prof. W. C. Pei, the Secretary General of the Conference, who discovered the first *Sinanthropus* skull thirty years ago, though silver-haired now, was as cheerful and active during all the four days as he was thirty years ago when he made the important discovery.

Prof. J. K. Woo was the Second Secretary General of the Conference.

A technicolor film on "*Sinanthropus pekinensis*", which was made this year by Shanghai Studio of Scientific Films under the cooperation and scientific direction of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology, was shown on the evening of December 22nd. The film runs for about 40 minutes.

Several scenes of the activities of the Conference were shown to the public on the screen of Peking Television.

The conference is as a whole a very successful one. Besides reviewing the work of the past it inspires greatly the future development of paleoanthropology in China.

All the papers read in the meetings will be published as a special issue of *Paleo-vertebrata et Paleoanthropologia* (in Chinese). English versions of most of them are going to be published in the coming numbers of *Vertebrata Palasiatica*. Abstracts of them are now published in the following pages.

(M. Z.)