

EDITORIAL: THE 16TH CONGRESS OF THE INDO-PACIFIC PREHISTORY ASSOCIATION

Peter Bellwood and Doreen Bowdery

The 16th Congress of IPPA was co-organised with the Department of Museums and Antiquities (Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Malaysia), the Malaysian Archaeologists Association (Ikatan Ahli Arkeologi Malaysia) and the Melaka Museum Corporation. It was held in the Century Mahkota Hotel, Melaka, from 1st to 7th July 1998. Funding to support the attendance of delegates from developing countries was received from the Malaysian Ministry of Culture Arts and Tourism, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the Japan Foundation (Kuala Lumpur) and Unesco (Asia Pacific Region). The within-Malaysia organisation was headed by IPPA Vice-President Adi Taha, assisted by his many colleagues in the above-mentioned co-organising Malaysian institutions.

Approximately 225 papers were presented at the conference, in 24 separate sessions, running concurrently three at a time in separate lecture rooms. The speakers represented 35 countries.

The major session titles, with their original convenors, were as follows:

1. Current Research in Malaysian Archaeology (Zuraina Majid)
2. Pleistocene Archaeology in East Asia (Susan Keates)
3. The Hoabinhian and its Contemporaries (Adi Taha)
4. Environmental Change and Early Agriculture in Southeast Asia (Charles Higham and Bernard Maloney)
5. Early Farming Cultures of South Asia (Vasant Shinde)
6. Recent Advances in the Archaeology of Southern China (Magnus Fiskesjö)
7. Recent Advances in Taiwan Prehistory (Peter Bellwood)
8. Foragers and Farmers in the Japanese Islands (Mark Hudson)
9. Pottery in Archaeological Contexts: Origins and Distributions, Interpretation and Classification (Brian Vincent)
10. The Emergence of the Early Historic States of SE Asia (Ian Glover)
11. Later Prehistoric Cultures of Island and Mainland Southeast Asia (David Bulbeck)
12. Current Approaches to Sociopolitical Complexity in Asia (Lis Bacus)

13. Ethnoarchaeology in Theory and Practice in the Interpretation of Indo-Pacific Prehistory (Richard Engelhardt and Pamela Rogers)
14. Gender in Asian/Pacific Archaeology (Sarah Nelson)
15. Geoarchaeological Studies of Landscape Change and Human Settlement During the Past 2500 years (Jane Allen)
16. Ceramics and Obsidian in Island Southeast Asia and Oceania (Richard Shutler)
17. Settlement, Oral History and Archaeology in Micronesia (Felicia Beardsley and David Welch)
18. Biological Anthropology in Southeast Asia and Oceania (Kazumichi Katayama and Nancy Tayles)
19. Landscapes and Human Interaction in Oceania (Thegn Ladefoged)
20. Linguistic Correlations with Archaeological Units in the Indo-Pacific Region (Roger Green and Matthew Spriggs)
21. Cultural Resource Management and Historical Archaeology in Southeast Asia (Douglas Comer)
22. Recent Advances in Bornean Archaeology (Ipoi Datan and John Krigbaum)
23. The Biocultural History of the Orang Asli (Dee Baer)
24. Archeological Site Management and Heritage Conservation in the Context of the Rapid Urbanization of Southeast Asia (Richard Engelhardt)

Papers from Sessions 4, 6 and 20 have been published already in BIPPA volume 18, 1999.

SESSIONS PUBLISHED IN THIS ISSUE

The Biocultural History of the Orang Asli

This session (number 23, chaired by Dee Baer) is here published in full and contains four papers which examine the genetic and cultural history of the Orang Asli populations of Peninsular Malaysia.

Later Prehistoric Cultures of Island and Mainland Southeast Asia

This session (number 11, chaired by David Bulbeck) is also published here in full (as received so far) and contains 12 papers on a variety of topics. Seven papers focus on Mainland Southeast Asia, four on Island Southeast Asia, and a further one on India. It is possible that a few further papers from this session will appear in a future issue.

Early Farming Cultures of South Asia

This session (Number 5, chaired by Vasant Shinde) contains three papers devoted to the Chalcolithic sites and sequences of Gujarat and Rajasthan, a period of great significance for Peninsular Indian prehistory involving interactions between Indus influences and local cultures of presumed Mesolithic derivation. Other papers on Ganges sites will be published in a future issue.

Ceramics and Obsidian in Island Southeast Asia and Oceania

This session (number 16, chaired by Richard Shutler) was prepared with editorial assistance from Glenn Summerhayes and contains three papers focused on Melanesian archaeology. Several other papers already received from this session will be published in the next issue of BIPPA.

FUTURE ISSUES OF MELAKA PAPERS

It is necessary to keep BIPPA weights under 500 grammes to ensure maximum efficiency in postage rates and packing. Two more issues of Melaka papers are planned, to be published into 2001. IPPA has also received a grant from Unesco in Bangkok to publish the two sessions on Heritage Management chaired by Douglas Comer (Session 21) and Richard Engelhardt (Session 24). These will be put together in a volume separate from the other Melaka pa-

pers, to be marketed by Unesco in Bangkok. In addition to these heritage sessions we have a large number of papers in hand from Sessions 2 (Pleistocene), 3 (Hoabinhian), 7 (Taiwan), 8 (Japan), 10 (Early Historic States), 11 (Social Complexity), 15 (Geoarchaeology), 18 (Biological Anthropology) and 22 (Borneo). A few papers are also in hand or expected from the other sessions not listed or previously published.

All of this amounts to a large publication task and it is necessary to thank Doreen Bowdery who has given much of her time to the editorial task, also Dave Bulbeck and the remainder of the editorial team for this issue. It remains to thank again all those who were involved in the organisation of the Melaka Congress, plus of course all the funding agencies listed at the beginning of this editorial. It is also necessary to thank the Business Manager's Section of the Faculties Administration at ANU and staff of the National Museum of Malaysia for handling the financial affairs of IPPA and the Melaka Congress.

Our next conference will be held with the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, during 2002 (probably September). Planning for this conference will begin in 2001 and members will be kept informed of developments.

ERRATUM FOR VOLUME 18

Roger Green has drawn attention to the following errors in his paper in BIPPA 18, pp. 3-16:
Page 8, left column, line 8: for *Proto-Central Pacific* read *Proto-Central Polynesian*;
Page 12, Figure 10: for *Eastern Polynesian dialect chain* read *Eastern Fijian dialect chain*.