A New Oreopithecus Skeleton

On the morning of 2 August 1958 a presumably complete skeleton of what is apparently an *Oreopithecus* bambolii, was discovered by a coal-miner at Baccinello, Italy, some 200 meters below the surface. All previous *Oreopithecus* specimens have been fragmentary. This discovery therefore is particularly noteworthy, since it may provide the evidence needed to settle definitely the controversy about the taxonomic position of *Oreopithecus,* a matter of prime importance [see *Science* **126**, 345 (23 August 1957)].

The block of lignite containing the skeleton will eventually be studied at the Natural History Museum, Basel, Switzerland, by Johannes Hürzeler, who, supported by the Wenner–Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research of New York City and some Swiss friends, has collected many specimens of *Oreopithecus* at Baccinello. Hürzeler was in Baccinello at the time of this latest discovery and personally supervised the difficult removal of the fossil from the mine. Incidentally, I write this from Basel, where I am studying *Oreopithecus* fossils through the generosity of the Wenner–Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. It so happens that I visited the mine at Baccinello in company with Dr. Hürzeler the day before this new skeleton was found.

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Russian Journals Available in English

The National Science Foundation has just released a compilation of translations that indicates that approximately 60,000 pages a year of key Soviet scientific and technical journals are now available in English to United States scientists and engineers. The compilation shows that there are now in print 53 English editions of Russian journals, four extensive series of translated Russian abstracts, and four series of partial translations of important Russian journals. Support for the translations is provided by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Office of Naval Research, and the Atomic Energy Commission (the latter two working through the National Science Foundation), and by six commercial translating and publishing firms working without government funds.

The National Science Foundation has maintained a foreign science information program since early 1952; its first Russian-to-English translation program was initiated in June of that year. The number of translated journals supported by the foundation has now reached 31, with most of the major fields of science being served.

Foundation-supported translation projects, continually increasing in number, are conducted by United States professional scientific societies and university groups which have chosen the Russian material to be translated and which have requested the financial support of the foundation. These organizations administer their own projects and provide expert consultation to translators to help insure accuracy. The translations are sold on a subscription basis, with the resulting income used to defray part of the costs of the projects, thus reducing the need for government support. The new NSF compilation gives a complete list of translated journals; information on the source of financial support, if any; the names and addresses of publishers; and annual subscription prices.

Education Research

The Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, has released a report of the 78 projects started during the first year of its Cooperative Research Program, begun in July 1956, under a Congressional appropriation of $1,020,190. Most of the projects the first year were for research on education of the mentally retarded, since two thirds of the original appropriation was designated for that purpose. The remaining projects concerned identifying and developing unusual talent, educational aspects of juvenile delinquency, staffing schools and colleges, and other educational problems.

Research proposals submitted by colleges, universities, and state departments of education are reviewed by the Office of Education Research Advisory Committee. Seventy-two of the 78 first-year projects were undertaken by 30 colleges and universities, and the other six by state departments of education.

The Office of Education report was prepared by Romaine P. Mackie, Harold M. Williams, and Alice Y. Scates. Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., at 25 cents.

Biophysical Science

A 4-week Study Program in Biophysical Science, the first of its kind, was held recently at the University of Colorado in Boulder under the sponsorship of the Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry Study Section of the National Institutes of Health. Richard H. Bolt of Massachusetts Institute of Technology served as the program's executive director. It is expected that advances in the field will be accelerated through the exchange and critical evaluation of ideas and recent information.

More than 100 scientists from about 50 research organizations attended the study program. About 70 of these researchers presented lectures or presided as workshop chairmen. The lectures will be published in book form early in 1959.

Portable Nuclear Power Plant

The Argonne Low Power Reactor (ALPR), the prototype of a nuclear reactor designed to produce electric power and space heat at remote military stations, achieved criticality on 11 August at the Atomic Energy Commission's National Reactor Testing Station, Idaho Falls, Idaho. The ALPR-type plant is a "package" plant designed to be erected on any type of terrain and with a minimum of on-site construction. It contains a direct-cycle, natural-circulation boiling-water reactor fueled with enriched uranium and moderated with light water. The heat from the reactor can be used to generate 260 kilowatts of electricity and 400 kilowatts of space heat. The reactor is designed to operate for 3 years with each fuel loading.

Foreign Geologists to Receive Photogeologic Training

Training in the latest techniques of photogeology is being given by the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington to young geologists from abroad. The first group of four geologists from Chile, Ghana, and the Philippines has arrived. Although the 7-month training program is being given by staff members of the Geological Survey, it is sponsored by the State Department. Three additional groups of six participants each will begin training periods on 1 October 1958, 1 January 1959, and 1 April 1959.

Primary emphasis will be placed on geologic interpretation of air photographs. The techniques taught will be applied to the preparation of geologic maps of specific areas and regions. Participants are encouraged to bring a geological mapping program from their own country so that they may work on an area of high personal or national interest. In addition to instruction in photogeology during the course, participants will receive orientation in many other phases of geologic investigations as normally carried out by the Geological Survey.