

BOOK REVIEW

A.A. Zubov and N.I. Khaldeyeva (1989) *Odontologiya v Sovremennom Antropologii* [Odontology in Contemporary Anthropology]. Moscow: Nauka. 231 pages, 5 tables, 44 figures.

Alexander Zubov and Nataliya Khaldeyeva, in their second major book-length collaborative work, have produced a much needed synthetic opus on current work on human dental anthropology in the world today. The book has been divided into four chapters.

The first chapter, "Odontology as a Division of Anthropology", reviews a broad spectrum of theoretical and practical issues. Herein the authors describe studies of tooth crown traits, suites of diagnostic traits, methodologies of major workers, and dental metrics. Additional sections deal with an examination of studies of sexual dimorphism of dental traits, fluctuating asymmetry, inheritance, dental morphological traits as genetic markers, dental features in fossil hominids, dental reduction, age estimation from teeth, and the lack of measurable interobserver error among major dental anthropologists engaged in morphological studies. In fact, one of the examples mentioned by the authors (Zubov and Khaldeyeva, 1989:53) dates to 1972 when one of us (AAD) received a telephone call from Bjorn Hedegard. The message was, "Zubov is here; can you come?" The result was a session at the Dental School at the University of Gothenburg where Zubov, Anders Lundstrom, a genetist in the Department of Orthodontics in the University of Stockholm, Pentti Kirveskari of the Institute of Dentistry at the University of Turku, and myself (AAD) examined morphological dental traits in the same collection and found the results to be comparable.

The second chapter, "General Questions of Human Dental Morphology in the Light of Anthropology", contains detailed descriptions and well-captioned sketches of basic dental crown structures, Zubov's odontoglyphic features, and variations of premolar and molar cusp surfaces.

The third chapter, "Ethnic Odontology", deals with worldwide dental morphological variation. Even a non-Russian reader can appreciate the authors' grasp of worldwide variation by an examination of table 1, which contains mean, minimum, maximum, and sample number for two metric, ten ranked, and two odontoglyphic features for 79 major world groups. The table is well-reverenced for those interested in more detailed information. The text also contains many of the conclusions about dental variation among Soviet peoples published in the authors' 1979 (Zubov and Khaldeyeva, 1979) edited volume and in subsequent publications. A separate section deals with dental variation among peoples living outside of the Soviet Union. The authors and other Soviet anthropologists were responsible for nearly all of the studies cited here.

The third chapter also contains graphic comparisons among world peoples for separate features and two maps showing distributions of four cusped lower first molars and deflecting wrinkle superimposed on a map of the Soviet Union west of the Urals (the regions occupied by peoples with Zubov's northern gracile, central European, northern European relict, and southern gracile dental types). The first dendogram, and therefore the first quantitative comparison that I have seen in any of Zubov's publications, illustrates a clear distinction between European Russians, east and west Finns, Indians and Asiatic Russians, Lapps, and northern Finns.

The fourth chapter focuses on evolution of the dentition. The chapter begins with a discussion of the evolution of the molar tooth crown, and moves on to a review of major issues in dental aspects of hominid evolution, a comparative discussion of Neanderthal dental morphology, hominid tooth size, and ends with a flow chart showing how evolutionary and selective forces act on human dental reduction and the acquisition of new traits. The final page contains a summarizing statement concerning the importance of considering the role that environmental mechanisms play on the continuing evolution of dental size and morphology.

This book is the second collaboration between Zubov and Khaldeyeva, the first having been their 1979 work on dental variation in Soviet Union peoples. The work represents a much needed synthesis of worldwide human dental anthropological studies in

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addition, this is Zubov's fourth major book-length contribution to dental anthropology. Zubov's first (1968) work is the major dental anthropology textbook in the Soviet Union. Zubov's second (1973) volume presented the first book-length overview of worldwide dental variation. Were it not for their cyrillic script, both would also be standard texts worldwide.

Unfortunately, our previous access to Zubov's and other Russians' work has been through books sent by the authors to their American colleagues or through long waits for inter-library loan to locate one of the few copies in American libraries. Recently, one east coast bookstore (Victor Kamkin) has listed several books on Soviet anthropology in each catalogue. Hopefully, while the aura of glasnost' continues, we can work out a method for broader and more efficient access to such key works as Zubov and Khaldeyeva's new book.

References Cited

Zubov AA (1968) *Odontologiya* [Odontology]. Moscow: Nauka.

Zubov AA (1973) *Etnicheskaya Odontologiya* [Ethnic Odontology]. Moscow: Nauka.

Zubov AA and Khaldeyeva (1979) *Etnicheskaya Odontologiya SSSR* [Ethnic Odontology of the USSR]. Moscow: Nauka.

A.M. Haeussler and A.A. Dahlberg

SOVIET DENTAL ANTHROPOLOGIST

A Soviet dental anthropologist has recently written to Christy Turner asking for help in emigrating. She is seeking a position anywhere in the U.S. Her background: In 1968 she finished special English schooling, and the same year entered Moscow State University in the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Biology. Her diploma was awarded in 1974 on the basis of her studies, which included an analysis of premolar occlusal surface variation. Her post-graduate work, from 1974 under the supervision of Alexander A. Zubov, dealt with the dental anthropology of Russians in the European part of the U.S.S.R.

Since 1979 she has lived and worked in Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, where she has gathered an immense amount of data on every national and subethnic group in the Caucasus (87 groups involving more than 12,000 individuals). These data include living and archeological series dating back to the Bronze Age. She has also studied dental variation in the Nivkh, Nanajan, and Tasié populations of the Soviet Far East. Her articles have appeared in Russian and Georgian publications.

Anyone with suggestions or any possible employment opportunity can call (602-965-6213) or write Christy G. Turner II (Department of Anthropology, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-2402) for additional information.

Christy G. Turner II

FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP

Since one of the primary objectives of the DAA is the exchange of educational, scientific and scholarly knowledge in the field of dental anthropology, an increase in foreign membership is always welcome. Currently, we have 42 members who reside in countries other than the United States. If you know of someone outside the U.S. who would be interested in applying for membership in the DAA, please send names and addresses to the Secretary-Treasurer.

As in the past, the DAA has continued to sponsor a limited number of foreign members. Please contact the Secretary-Treasurer if you would like to sponsor a specific individual, or if you wish to contribute to the general fund for foreign sponsorship. Contributions in any amount are always appreciated.

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