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## Section II

# America, Eastern Asia, Pacific

# Amérique, Asie orientale, Pacifique

# Amerika, Ostasien, Pazifik

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### *Introduction to the communications of section II*

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**T**wenty years ago, the ICAZ meeting was organized by Anneke Clason and held in Groningen. We owe Anneke and her associates gratitude for insuring that these meetings continue and grow and that we are meeting here today. The conference in 1974 was a turning point for me. Before it, I worked in isolation with few zooarchaeologists with whom to discuss research problems. At our national archaeological meetings, zooarchaeological papers were rarely given. At Groningen, I was for the first time in a whole room full of people who were dealing with the same problems: what to measure, how to quantify abundances of skeletal elements and their relationship to animals hunted, and how to get computers to help us in the task of organizing great volumes of data, and what do these remains mean. This was an exhilarating experience. I also met many esteemed colleagues to whom I owe so much for broadening my horizons.

Some of these horizons are an appreciation of the diversity of this field and the many solutions that have been devised to better understand how people used animals and through this use affected the world around them. It is a given that observations must be accurate, and that knowledge of contemporary animals and archaeological contexts is essential. It is also necessary to present data that are comparable to similar studies. Within these constraints, I believe that research approaches must be designed to fit the problem. For example, sieving with fine gauge screen is essential in sites along the Peruvian coast where anchovies powered a city state level of society, however, such fine scale recovery may not be necessary in some high Andean sites where deer and camelids

predominate. Testing for the appropriate scale of recovery for a particular deposit can guide this strategy. Likewise, some methods of quantification may be appropriate for the remains from one site and less so for another. The papers presented at this meeting demonstrate the ingenuity and diversity of our colleagues.

This is exemplified particularly well in the section II program which covers vast amounts of time and space. We will hear about studies of Late Pleistocene right up to contact period and early European deposits in the highest latitudes, both north and south, as well as in the tropics. Unfortunately, present day economics are standing in the way of the participation of four of our South American colleagues. I am sorry about that because I was looking forward to hearing more about Andean animal domestication particularly since Andean animal domestication is not exactly comparable to Near Eastern domestications. Despite this we have an excellent and varied program and will begin in the extreme south, in the region of Tierra del Fuego, and work our way north to the Aleutians.

A major theme of section II is a concern for the environmental conditions in the past and human adaptation to the prevailing conditions. We begin with a paper presented by Luis Borrero on the Pleistocene fauna of the Last Hope Sound and the environmental conditions of the Fuego-Patagonia region at the time of human colonization. Betsy Reitz will make a case for environmental change as seen in Archaic deposits from the coast of Peru. Jordi Estevez and Jorge Martinez will discuss changes in faunal exploitation during prehistoric and historic times along the Beagle channel. Moving north into

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the tropics, Richard Cooke<sup>(1)</sup> and his associates will compare the exploitation of resources in sites located in two neighboring locations, Parita Bay in Panama and the Nicoya Peninsula in Costa Rica. Three papers are based on material from northern North America: Diana Crader will talk about precontact use of beavers for fur along the coast of Maine, and in the extreme north, Ariane Burke and Jacques Cinq-Mars will speak about seasonality in the Pleistocene fauna from Bluefish Caves from the Yukon and Christine Lefèvre will speak about subsistence as seen in Aleutian sites.

Between these extremes of time and space are many interesting topics that are concerned with animal domestication or manipulation, trade, and studies that expand the traditional borders of archaeozoology. Papers that will add to our understanding of managed animals are possible domestication of rabbits by Oscar Polaco and Ana

Guzman<sup>(1)</sup>. Belem Zuniga-Arellano<sup>(1)</sup> will describe local and imported animals as seen at Palenque. Expanding traditional borders are reconstruction of animals use based upon their representations and animal pathologies by Brian Shaffer and Karen Gardner, settlement patterns by Lucretia and John Kelly<sup>(1)</sup>, and genetic analysis by K. E. Chambers and Rick Purdue<sup>(1)</sup>. The papers that are to be presented in this section reflect the archaeologically rich and diverse hemisphere.

To return to my first point, section II of this 1994 ICAZ meeting will be richly rewarding. We will learn new techniques and approaches and will be exposed to an array of different archaeozoological problems. I would like to thank the participants for coming to this conference and the organizing committee and Prof. Kokabi for organizing this meeting that brings us to this lovely venue.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Note from the Editors of *Anthropozoologica*: These communications have been presented to the Congress, but their author(s) did not give a paper for the proceedings.