



PLEXUS

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF ANATOMISTS
DECEMBER 2005



Office Bearers of the IFAA:

President: Professor David Brynmor Thomas

Vice President: Professor Nobutaka Hirokawa

Secretary General: Professor Bernard Moxham

Treasurer: Dr Duane Haines

Secretaries: Professor Jacques Patrick Barbet
Professor Xu Qunyuan

Standing Committees of the Federation:

Anatomical Terminology (FICAT)

Chairman: Professor Ian Whitmore
Secretary: Professor Colin Wendell-Smith

Anatomical Education (FICAE)

Chairman: Professor John Morris
Secretary: Professor Mitsohiro Kawata

Medical Humanities and Ethics (FICMHE)

Chairman: Professor Gareth Jones
Secretary: to be announced

Congress 2009 (FIC)

President and Chairman: Professor B. Kramer
Secretary: Professor G. Louw

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Circumferential “spiders” - Human ground bone

Photograph obtained from the Histology Collection of the School of Anatomical Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, courtesy of Beverley Kramer.

Editorial

As the year draws rapidly to a close, anatomists all over the world are hard at work, teaching, doing research and revising curricula! Sadly, we are all so pressured for time that writing yet another article about what we are doing as anatomists is furthest from our minds. Yet in some part of the distant globe there are anatomists who are in the process of changing curricula, developing techniques and deciding on procedures who would love to hear about the experience of others. I recently reread an article written by a member of staff in 1994. The article began thus...."In medical education today the buzz-word is change.....". Over 11 years on, nothing much has changed and we are still in the midst of change. This is YOUR Newsletter. Help us to make it a place of interest and debate by sending us those "changes" that you are currently involved in.

On page 16, the Hungarian Society of Anato-

mists shares their ideas on the "commemoration of the deceased. Many Schools of Anatomy have a similar commemoration or dedication service. Please write and share the nature of your service with us. Does any one out there not have a service of this kind?

We hope that one of the continuing features of Plexus will be that of art and anatomy. This issue brings a really special article by Nick Cudworth and Bernard Moxham on "New Anatomical Drawings" (page 8). This article gives a fascinating insight into just where the mind can take us when anatomy and art are combined.

Happy reading!
With warm anatomical wishes.
The Editor

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International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA) Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Committee held at the Institute of Anatomy, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro on 5th June 2005

6.1 Members Present:

Members of the Executive Committee:

Professor David Brynmor Thomas (President)
Professor Bernard J. Moxham (Secretary-General)
Professor Patrick Barbet (Secretary)
Professor Ian Whitmore (Chair of FICAT)
Professor Beverley Kramer (President of XVII IFAA Congress)

Observers in attendance from the Brazilian, Japanese, Portuguese and Romanian Anatomical Societies/Associations

Apologies for absence were received from:

Professor Nobutaka Hirokawa (Vice-President)
Professor Duane Haines (Treasurer)
Professor Xu-Qunyuan (Secretary)
Professor Gareth Jones (Chair of FIC for Ethics and Medical Humanities)
Professor John Morris (Chair of FICAE)

6.2 Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes were approved of the meeting of the Executive Committee (with invited representatives of the FICs and of the Japanese Anatomical Association) that was held at Egham, Surrey, UK, on 8th January 2004 during the Winter meeting of the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

6.3 Matters arising from the last meeting:

Vide 5.5: It was noted that the names of the Officers of the IFAA proposed for election and a document describing the principles underlying the development of the new IFAA Constitution together with the proposed amendments were presented to constituent member associations for consideration at the IFAA General Assembly at Kyoto. The Japanese Anatomical Association suggested that Professor Nobutaka Hirokawa should be considered for election as Vice-President of the IFAA (see also agenda 6.5).

Constituent member societies were also informed that two societies/associations were seeking election as the hosts for the XVII International Congress of the IFAA (i.e. the Chinese and the South African associations) (see also agenda 6.5).

Vide 5.6: It was noted that, in line with the IFAA Constitution, the President had approached Professor Sprumont and Professor Pias to audit the accounts for the IFAA General Assembly (see also agenda 6.5).

Vide 5.7: The President wished to record his profound gratitude to the Japanese Anatomical Association for the organisation of an excellent IFAA Congress at Kyoto in August 2004. As a result, the Executive Committee formally recorded a vote of thanks.

6.4 Draft minutes of the IFAA General Assembly

The minutes (first draft) were approved of the meeting of the IFAA General Assembly that was held at Kyoto, Japan, on 25th August 2004 during the XVI International Congress of the IFAA. It was agreed that the draft minutes should be published in the IFAA Newsletter ("Plexus") and comments/amendments invited. The minutes would thus be available on the IFAA website.

6.5 Matters arising from the IFAA General Assembly

It was noted that, despite being mentioned in the minutes of previous IFAA General Assembly meeting, Honorary Officers of the IFAA are unconstitutional.

The Executive Committee was grateful to the Japanese Anatomical Association for providing a statement outlining the importance of Anatomical Sciences to Medicine and to Society (the "Kyoto Declaration"). The statement had been communicated to all constituent member associations and comments were invited and to be sent to the Vice-President.

It was recorded that the IFAA General Assembly had re-elected the Officers of the IFAA for a further (and final) term leading up to the next Congress in 2009. In addition, Professor Hirokawa was elected Vice-President of the IFAA.

It was recorded that the IFAA General Assembly had voted and decided that the next Congress of the IFAA should take place at Cape Town in 2009 under the auspices of the South African Anatomical Association. The Executive Committee welcomed the decision and wished to formally congratulate the South African Association. It was further noted that a very good and professional presentation had also been provided by the Chinese Anatomical Association.

It was recorded that the IFAA General Assembly had agreed all amendments for the new IFAA Constitution. It had also approved an amendment specifying that, under normal circumstances, a society/association not in good standing after 2 years of failure to pay subscriptions would not be recognised as a constituent member association of the IFAA. A suggestion was received

from the Japanese Anatomical Association that voting at the IFAA General Assembly should be based upon the number of members within a constituent association. The Secretary-General agreed that there were advantages to such a proposal but also disadvantages (e.g. how are we to recognise “*bona fide*” societies; how are the numbers of members within an association to be audited; to what extent would smaller associations think themselves disenfranchised and therefore of no “account” in the IFAA?). One possibility discussed by the Executive Committee was that constituent member associations with membership in excess of 500 should have 2 votes. The issue was unresolved but it was agreed to continue discussions.

It was recorded that the IFAA General Assembly had approved the accounts of the IFAA prepared by the Treasurer and audited by the delegates appointed by the President.

6.6 President’s Business:

The President first asked the Secretary-General for clarification concerning the presence of observers at meetings of the Executive Committee. It was agreed that there was nothing in the IFAA Constitution concerning this issue but that custom and practice had previously only permitted Officials defined by the Constitution as members of the Executive Committee to attend meetings. However, it was agreed that observers had been permitted at the last IFAA General Assembly at Kyoto. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to invite persons who wished to observe the meeting to attend, but without debating or voting rights. It was further agreed that, in a spirit of openness, transparency, accountability and democracy, the IFAA delegates should be asked to formally vote on permitting observers at IFAA meetings and for this to be enshrined within the IFAA Constitution.

The President outlined the importance of the FICs to the revitalisation of the IFAA (see also agenda 6.9). It was also agreed that an Action Plan should be developed by the next meeting of the Executive Committee so that the IFAA might maintain its rapid progress.

The President reminded members of the Executive Committee that, as a result of the constitutional changes, the Executive Committee and the General Assembly were effectively in “constant sitting” and that rapid decisions on important issues could be made rapidly. Furthermore, with the extension of membership of the Executive Committee to include the Chairs of FICs, the Executive Committee could now act properly as a “Committee of Management” for the IFAA. Thus, there was no longer need for a FIC concerned with “revitalisation” of the IFAA.

It was agreed the IFAA “secretariat” should now include not just the Secretary-General and the two Secretaries but also the IFAA webmaster and the editorial group responsible for the production of the newsletter (“Plexus”).

6.7 Secretary-General’s business:

The Secretary-General supported the statements concerning the revitalisation of the IFAA, the role of the Executive Committee as a Committee of Management, the development of a “secretariat”, and the need for an Action Plan.

It was agreed that communication with member associations were desperately in need of approval. The Secretary-General pointed out that it was even difficult to get associations to send names of delegates and that the Treasurer was not always in a position to know to whom to send notices of subscriptions due. To encourage loyalty to the IFAA it was agreed that the newsletter and the website were of great importance. Both the President and the Secretary-General praised the editor of the newsletter for the marked improvement in the quality of the newsletter and the President was firmly of the opinion that the website needed to be significantly improved and made more “dynamic”. Consequently, the Executive Committee agreed that a web-designer should be found who could effect appropriate changes. It was further agreed that the Treasurer should be asked to agree financial support for the development of the website (\$3000 as an initial outlay).

The Secretary-General informed the Executive Committee that the FICs had undertaken a process of election for their Chairs and Secretaries, overseen by the Secretary-General to ensure compliance with the IFAA Constitution (article 10c). The President and the Secretary-General had produced general guidelines/conventions to aid the process of election. The results of the elections were as follows:

FICAT:

Chair - Prof. Ian Whitmore;
Secretary - Prof Colin Wendall-Smith

FICAE:

Chair - Prof John Morris;
Secretary - Prof Mitsuhiko Kawata

For the XVII International Congress of the IFAA –
President - Prof Beverley Kramer

It was noted that Prof Gareth Jones had been appointed as Chair of the newly constituted Federative International Committee for Medical Humanities and Ethics. A Secretary has yet to be elected.

6.8 Treasurer’s business:

In absentia, a financial report from Professor Haines was presented by the Secretary-General.

The accounts showed that, at 31st May 2005, the IFAA bank balance stood at \$26,511.58. The names of national associations that are constituent members of the IFAA and that have not paid their subscriptions are to be provided to the Executive Committee in the near future. In addition, and in line with the IFAA Constitution, the Treasurer will announce the names of the auditors to be appointed to check the IFAA accounts.

The Treasurer confirmed in writing that \$3000 should be made available to support the initial development of the IFAA website. A further \$1000 was to be made available for FICAT. The Executive Committee were unsure as to where approval for this had been given since it provides a precedent for all other FICs

6.9 Reports from Federative International Committees (FICs)

As requested, the Chair of FICAT provided a written report outlining its Mission Statement, main aims, and outline programme (together with budget). The Executive Committee questioned whether, as stated in its mission statement, it was possible to "...ensure democratic evaluation of the terminology" and consequently FICAT was asked to look at this statement again and to present an amended version at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The long term aims of FICAT were also debated, particularly with respect to whether terminologies other than those relating to gross anatomy, histology and embryology should be considered. Furthermore, it was reported that some concerns were being expressed by some associations about the speed of progress, about the financial outlay, about informatics, and about the age profile and specialised interests of members of FICAT that required careful succession

planning. It was resolved that these matters should also be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Executive Committee. Some discussion also took place about whether the results of FICAT's work should be published in book-form or on the web. Regarding membership, it was reported that a Portuguese speaking anatomist had yet to be nominated as a member of FICAT. Finally, the Executive Committee thanked FICAT and its members for their endeavours during the past year.

It was noted that reports from FICAE and FICMHE had yet to be received but were urgently required for approval.

The President reported that a new FIC for "academic networking" should be developed and that he was giving this matter due consideration.

6.10 Any Other Business:

Thanks were given to the Serbian Academy of Science and Arts for the use of rooms for the meeting of the Executive Committee.

It was noted that the date and location of the next meeting of the Executive Committee had yet to be decided.

International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA).

(Draft) Minutes of a Supplementary Meeting of the Executive Committee, held at Hotel Surmeli, Kusadasi, during APICA 2005 at 07.30 on Saturday 10th September 2005.

The Meeting of the Executive Committee, which was adjourned in Belgrade on Sunday 5th June, was resumed in the Hotel Surmeli, at Kusadasi in Turkey, at 07.30 on Saturday 10th September, during the 4th Asian-Pacific International Congress of Anatomists (APICA 2005).

The numbers of the following items correspond to those used by the Secretary-General in his draft minutes of the adjourned Belgrade Meeting.

6.1 Members Present:

Members of the Executive Committee:

Professor David Brynmor Thomas (President)
Professor Nobutaka Hirokawa (Vice-President)
Professor Xu-Qunyan (Secretary)

Observers present by invitation:

Professor N. Simsek Cankur (Bursa, Turkey)
cankur@uludag.edu.tr

Professor Sa Sun Cho (Seoul, Korea)
chossn@snu.ac.kr

Apologies for absence were received from:

Professor Bernard J. Moxham (Secretary-General)
Professor Patrick Barbet (Secretary)

6.2 Minutes of the Belgrade Meeting:

The Secretary-General, who was unable to be present, kindly provided a copy of his comprehensive draft minutes for the Belgrade Meeting of the Executive Committee, which facilitated discussion on this occasion and was greatly appreciated.

6.6 President's Business:

The decision to invite observers to attend meetings of the Executive Committee was enthusiastically endorsed.

It was agreed that the IFAA 'secretariat' should include not only the Secretary-General and the two Secretaries but also the IFAA Webmaster (to be appointed) and the editorial group responsible for the production of the newsletter ("*Plexus*").

6.7 Secretary-General's business:

The Secretary-General's proposal that the Executive Committee should serve as a Committee of Management was endorsed and the need to develop the 'secretariat' was recognized, together with the importance of formulating an Action Plan.

It was agreed that the newsletter and the website are essential prerequisites for the vitality of the IFAA. The importance of the newsletter was fully appreciated and the hard work of the Editor and her colleagues was gratefully acknowledged. At the same time the urgency of establishing an effective website was accepted without reservation. It was agreed that a suitably qualified web-designer should be identified and asked to devise a dynamic state-of-the-art website as soon as possible. It was accepted that \$3000 should be made available for this purpose immediately, on the clear understanding that further substantial costs would inevitably be incurred in the development and exploitation of this indispensable facility.

6.8 Treasurer's business:

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary-General had announced at the Belgrade Meeting of the Executive Committee, that he had been informed by the Treasurer that on 31st May 2005, the credit balance of the Federation stood at \$26,511.58.

6.9 Reports from Federative International Committees (FICs):

At the Kusadasi Meeting the views expressed in Belgrade were fully endorsed.

It was agreed that FICAT should be encouraged to streamline its working practices and to take full advantage of the available technology to reduce the frequency, duration and cost of its meetings, which need not be incompatible with an accelerated output. At the same time every effort should be made to encourage members of Constituent Societies to monitor the progress of FICAT and to contribute to the discussion of topics which are still under consideration. In expressing its reservations about the organization of FICAT the committee did not question the excellent quality of the terminologies that are being produced and wished to record its gratitude to the members of FICAT for their hard work and dedication throughout a protracted and labour-intensive project.

The need to initiate work on long overdue terminologies for odontology and anthropology was again discussed and the urgency of making appropriate arrangements

for this to be done was recognized.

Reports had understandably not yet been received from the recently elected new Chairman of FICAE or from the Chairman of FICHEM, a new committee which is only now about to initiate its programme of activities. For obvious reasons reports were not required from the FIC for the next Federative International Congress (FICFIC), which was represented by Professor Beverly Kramer.

During a discussion about anatomical teaching, Professor Sa Sun Cho had revealed his interest in the definition of core curricula, which prompted the committee to nominate him – with his enthusiastic agreement - as an excellent candidate for membership of FICAE.

The President reported that a new FIC is being formed to establish and coordinate networks for the dissemination of information about circumscribed topics, which is expected to rely very heavily on the new website, together with an *ad hoc* advisory committee on informatics. Both initiatives were welcomed and the potential value of the proposed committees was recognized.

6.10 Any Other Business:

In view of the difficulty of arranging an annual meeting for the Executive Committee during 2005, use is being made of an adjourned meeting followed by a supplementary meeting. The supplementary meeting is thus available for members of the committee unable to attend the adjourned meeting. This arrangement has been favourably received and its regular use has been advocated. Its success would however depend upon the availability of suitably informative minutes for both meetings, which would be essential requirements and any differences between the two meetings would have to be clearly specified in preparation for subsequent resolution by electronic communication..

A verbal communication relating to the desire of the Iranian Anatomical Society to become a Constituent Society of the IFAA was conveyed to the President by Dr Mojdeh Salehnia of the Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran (mogdh@dr.com) or salehnm@modares.ac.ir). She was assured that Iran could expect to be welcomed into the IFAA at the next meeting of the General Assembly and kept informed about the activities of the Federation meanwhile, after a written application has been submitted to the Secretary-General.

Kusadasi, Turkey. 12th September 2005. Revised 6th November 2005.

NEW ANATOMICAL DRAWINGS by NICK CUDWORTH and BERNARD MOXHAM

Some of the very best ideas are generated in English pubs! But then again, come to think of it, so often are some of the very worst!! Even so, twenty-five years ago I, as a youngish anatomist at Bristol University, and a similarly aged, professional artist from Gloucestershire (via Derbyshire) named Nick Cudworth met to grumble (as only young fogies can) in a Cotswold pub where we were intent on setting our worlds to right! The artist lamented the fact that critics nowadays only seemed to have time for conceptual art. Consequently, if works of art were good to look at and showed skill and craft, they were, *ipso facto*, regarded as fifth rate. The anatomist complained of over-reductionism in laboratory science and the loss of/ignorance of anatomy's cultural heritage. One week later, still with an air of grumpiness, they again met (same purpose, different pub) to begin collaboration on a set of drawings bringing contemporary artistic concerns to anatomical themes. A full year later, the project was completed and, after a several successful exhibitions and many articles in the artistic press, all the works had been sold to private collectors and museums. To this day, the work still "resonates", occasionally appearing at exhibitions and having been reproduced as limited editions of fine art lithographic prints.

At an early stage in the development of the project (now named "The New Anatomy Lessons"), the artist fixed his attention on producing a series of very large drawings (127 x 76 cm on white paper and using coloured pencils and pastels) that could be described as "super-realist". Nick had gained a deserved reputation as a highly skilled draughtsman who had pioneered many new drawing techniques. He was also associated with a group of artists who prided themselves on producing high quality realistic images that, in describing the human condition, were sometimes labelled as "superhumanist". The anatomist proposed that there should be a drawing for each of the systems of the body and that each drawing should feature a well-known, historical anatomical image. It was also agreed that the anatomist would supply a short anatomical text for each system of the body, not merely to complement the drawing, but to contrast the more subjective and symbolic nature of the art with the somewhat laconic, objective nature of scientific writing. Both artist and anatomist agreed that each drawing should also feature the human skeleton because of its considerable use historically, because of the complex arrangement of structures that would challenge the skill of the artist, and because of its association with images of death and memento mori. Finally, recalling the iconoclastic artist Marcel Duchamp's "instruction" to make a "reciprocal readymade" by mischievously converting a Rembrandt painting into an ironing-board, it was proposed that the historical anatomical images used

should be "pressed" into becoming unusual, surrealist and impossibilist "objects" within the drawings. Within a week of beginning the project, we had worked-up a "skeleton key" (pun intended) for each drawing that was adhered to throughout.

Drawing 1: Osteology (subtitled *Portrait of the Artist*)
Predominant Colour – yellow/gold
Skeleton viewed frontally and drawing a portrait of Nick Cudworth

Historical image – Andreas Vesalius' second skeletal figure from the *Fabrica* (popularly called the "contemplative skeleton") as a picture hanging on a wall and framed by clavicle and humerus bones.
Completed February 1980



Drawing 2: Syndesmology (subtitled *The Frame-maker*)
Predominant Colour – dark brown
Skeleton viewed laterally and sizing up a piece of wood to form a box

Historical image – Leonardo Da Vinci's drawing of the lower limb forming the base of the box
Additional imagery – joinery tools (relating to tools and implements previously drawn by Nick Cudworth)
Completed March 1980



Drawing 3: Myology (subtitled *Mr Universe*)

Predominant Colour – blue

Skeleton viewed in the background, seated on a deck-chair

Historical image – Bernhard Siegfried Albinus' drawing of the human musculoskeletal system and rhinoceros as a tee-shirt emblem (long before computer printing on



tee-shirts was possible or even contemplated)
Additional imagery – Mr Universe modified from a photograph in a man's health magazine; sea image features Weston-Super-Mare in Somerset
Completed May 1980

Drawing 4: Angiology (subtitled *Harvey's View*)

Predominant Colour – none

Skeleton viewed from posterior aspect, carrying a rucksack and drip bottles and contemplating an English pastoral landscape

Historical image – the drip bottles contain fluids representing the blue and red colours conventionally used to depict venous and arterial blood; rucksack badges display William Harvey's drawings demonstrating venous valves and the blood circulation and also (by way of contrast) a more contemporary stylised/reductionist image of the human cardiovascular system; the hillside shaped to look like Harvey's drawings
Completed November 1980



Drawing 5: Neurology (subtitled *Portrait of the Anatomist*)

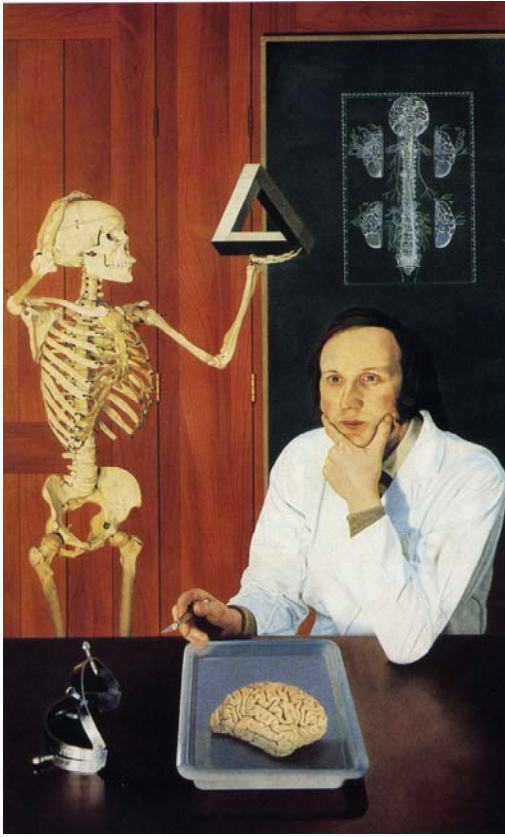
Predominant Colour – browns

Skeleton viewed laterally and obliquely holding an optical illusion (the "impossible triangle")

Historical image – Bartolomeo Eustachio's image of the base of the brain and associated nerves as a black-board class drawing

Additional imagery – the 33 year old anatomist (with hair!!; left cerebral hemisphere modified from an image in an anatomical atlas; dissecting instruments again recalling Cudworth's liking for drawing tools and imple-

ments; wood panelling with prominent wood grain as used in Dissecting Room cupboards
Completed February 1981



Drawing 6: Splanchnology (subtitled *A Visceral Study in Red*)
Predominant Colour – red
Skeleton viewed frontally and bowed to look at plate of offal



Historical image – Juan Valverde de Amusco's drawing of viscera on breastplate armour as flocked wallpaper
Additional imagery – offal on a silver plate collected by the anatomist from butchers and representing the list of offal quoted in Chapter 4 of James Joyce's *Ulysses* where it is said that "Bloom ate with relish the innards of fowls and beasts...." Completed April 1981

Drawing 7: Reproductive System (subtitled *Reclining Nude*)

Predominant Colour – none
Skeleton viewed from above sitting on a carpet (in fact set up in the artist's studio with the skeleton hung by string and wires against the studio wall)
Historical image – Jacques-Fabien Gautier D'Agoty's oil



painting of a pregnant woman with dissected musculature and womb that hung in the University of Paris' Dissecting Room and is now conjectured as a carpet on a wood-blocked floor (the floor of the anatomist's wife's dental surgery in a house built by French Huguenots)
Additional imagery – a black and white graphite drawing of Adam and Eve and the biblical story of Cain and Abel taken from the Jan van Eyck Altarpiece at St Bavon Church, Ghent, Belgium.
Completed June 1981

Phew!! Is all this amount of circumlocution warranted? Only if it is accepted that a subject like anatomy is not just a method or a body of knowledge but also a cultural phenomenon that ultimately fosters our understanding of the human condition.

Professor Bernard Moxham
Secretary-General IFAA
Johannesburg November 2005

TEACHING ANATOMY IN THE UK: A SOUTH AFRICAN REMINISCES...

Recently having forgone my post at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, I arrived in London in May 1997, the day after Tony Blair was elected for his first term of office as Prime Minister. For us both, it was to herald fresh beginnings.

I had had already established contact with the Medical School in eastern Central England, whence I arrived to take up the post of Anatomy Demonstrator. Although being a stratum or two beneath the status of my previous occupation, I was glad of the opportunity to have gained employment of my choice in a new country this quickly.

My fellow-demonstrators turned out to be newly-qualified 'chaps', a year post-housemanship (they don't actually employ this term there as the epithet 'man' is a latterly exceedingly politically problematical one within polite society, but rather the more officious-sounding "PRHO – Pre-registration House Officer") who were embarking, so soon afterwards, on preparations for the 'primaries' of the Membership of the Royal College of England examinations: they would write these within the year.

With "MRCS's" and "MRCP's" being tossed about with seeming abandon, I initially felt rather daunted by such lofty-sounding colleagues and the prospects for myself there. As things transpired, to my relief and delight, these fine fellows rapidly became firm friends.

On entering the Dissecting Room (as it is termed there) for the first time, I experienced an immediate compulsion to pause and reflect: Now that I was in Britain, home to eminent surgeons and physicians, having a long medical past personified by such illustrious doyens of the profession as the Hunter familials, Sir Astley Cooper, William Harvey and almost innumerable others, just what in the name of goodness could I ever be able to teach these students?! Then, at once, in rapidly banishing such a negative notion from my immediate consciousness with a "oh well, here goes for better or worse", I pranced forward towards my students as the "the demonstrator who is newly-come".

And there they stood, huddled around their cadavers, assiduously dissecting the hypothenar muscles. Searching for an entrée, I chanced upon an old party-trick: "You've recently dissected the palmaris longus muscle" I ventured, "but have you realized that the very epithet implies the existence of a palmaris brevis?" "And, where might that be situated?" I was on a roll – the very best of English grammar was now tumbling from my tongue. They looked up at me, slightly bemused, for, "did we care?": It wasn't exactly on the list of structures to be found, then (that particular usage of the word "then" is almost an English trait). "Well", I continued professorially, "if you should compress the muscle against the pisiform, thus," simultaneously demonstrating the manoeuvre with my thumb, "you shall be able to observe its contraction and a concomitant wrinkling of the overlying skin.... What would you say its innervation is, Emma?" (Well, - I had a one in 3 chance that she would be an "Emma", an Emily, or a Victoria, for that matter - these being ever-so-quaint, quintessentially Victorian English names still in wide usage). The "trick", to my relief, worked, but I needn't have worried unduly. This little South African "cheeky chappie" actually wasn't "half-cool". It was thence to be that in a short while to come, I would be feted, used as an advertising draw-card for almost every student do on the social calendar, be awarded the Faculty student teaching prize for a non-clinician for three successive years, be invited to perform (bit-parts though they were) in student Shakespearian and other plays, thus to kindle within a Thespianism(?) that I thought I just might've possessed, but long had reconciled to never being able to realize - ever. This collective experience was, at once, most humbly embarrassing and yet so thoroughly enjoyable for one so given to reticence for most of my life.

The Anatomy provision (as they term a course) for medical students was of a mere 70 hours duration (pretty standard by northern hemisphere metrics), spanning two academic semesters over the first 2 academic years, and including 20 hours of Histology and Embryology. At my particular institution, whole-body cadaveric dissection was steadfastly maintained and defended (and expressly, too, at our students' request)

as that modality, in many fellow-institutions, was fast becoming usurped, dissipated and demised in favour of more educationally “progressive” (read, for that, if you will, - “less-expensive”) modes of teaching.

Of a dissecting session, students would receive a 15 minute ‘resume’ of the structures they were about to uncover and, thence, having been divided into two groups, one of which would proceed to dissect for an hour before repairing to a “tasking room” (a side-annexe of the main dissecting area and equipped with audiovisual and other anatomical teaching resources) where, aided by specially-produced workbooks, proceed to study the other of the “pillars” of Anatomy education, viz., osteology, radiology and living anatomy. Thence, to swap places on the hour, with the group who had initially remained in the tasking room to do these particular aspects of study. Dissection, thus, was serialized between the two groups, formally (and formatively) assessed as such (ie., accorded a group-mark) by the demonstrators: a system that proved to be most beneficial to all concerned. Moreover, during the swapping period (of 5 minutes’ duration), group 1 would effectively be engaged in tutoring the incoming group 2 of the structures thus-far been dissected – again, a successful mode of peer-teaching. In addition, the placing of strong emphasis on groupwork, both for academic performance and peer-teaching, though not without its detractors, proved, within this milieu, eminently beneficial for the students concerned: a lesson to be learned here, perhaps?

Histology, taught principally “down the microscope” and augmented visually by banks of visual display screens, comprised much of the essence of the standard provi-

sion for this discipline, as deemed sufficient for understanding of an upcoming course in Histopathology as well as for the needs of the future “general doctor”. Early Embryology and Organ Development were offered by way of lectures, much in the way still practiced by most medical teaching institutions.

Students, in the main, have always enjoyed their Anatomy experience, here being no exception. For them, an anatomist is quite often a person of ‘colourful character’ who is given to pronouncements and behaviour bordering on the unconventional. Frequently, such demeanour is of a contrived nature, yet, of itself, ‘no bad thing’, since the underlying premise would be to suffuse a perceptibly ‘dead’ (forgive me) discipline with a semblance of ‘life’ and currency, and, for which I shall make no excuses. Insodoing, I immensely enjoyed teaching the Emmas, Emilys, Victorias, the Matthews and the Bens as much as they might have enjoyed me. I shall always cherish their warmth, friendship as well as that with which they, together with my teaching colleagues, were able to inform and inspire me. And one year on, I continue to enjoy the frequent correspondence of my erstwhile charges reminding me of some of the dubious antiques purportedly attributed to my good self!

Then, just shy of eight short years, Mr. Blair embarked on a campaign for a third term of office as Prime Minister. And I, at that point, was to be doing much the same in the way of my ‘second term of office’ in South Africa. Needless as it is to say now, but it came to pass that we, again, both went on to success in our respective elections....

David J Chorn
Senior Tutor in Anatomy

Congratulations to two distinguished Anatomists on their 80th Birthday

They not only share a birth date but also the same birth year! **Emeritus Professor Phillip Tobias** (Johannesburg, South Africa) and **Emeritus Professor Keith Moore** (Toronto, Canada) were both born on the 14th October 1925 and celebrated their 80th birthdays this year. Both gentlemen are distinguished anatomists. Professor Keith Moore’s specialist area is that of embryology, while Professor Phillip Tobias is well known for his contributions to palaeoanthropology. Both gentlemen are still actively engaged in pursuing their academic interests. On behalf of the anatomical community we wish them both many more years of happy and healthy interests!

News from Member Societies

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ANATOMISTS (AAA)

Waterman-Storer, Schier recognized by AAA for Research Excellence

Bensley Award to NIH Pioneer Clare Waterman-Storer

Clare Waterman-Storer will receive the 2006 R.R. Bensley Award in Cell Biology and present an award lecture on "Cytomechanical Systems Integration in Directed Cell Migration" at the AAA Annual Meeting during EB 2006.

The award to Waterman-Storer recognizes her innovation in molecular microscopy and contributions to the understanding of cytoskeletal dynamics in cell motility. Waterman-Storer pioneered the technique of fluorescent-speckle microscopy, which enables investigators to detect the assembly and disassembly of multi-subunit complexes such as actin filaments and microtubules. This technique is the gold standard now used by labs studying cytoskeletal dynamics.



Mary Beckerle, who supported Waterman-Storer's nomination by Thomas Deuel, notes that she is "a born leader...confident, assertive, and courageous in her science." Her work, Beckerle notes, "is destined to have a profound impact on our understanding of many central aspects of cell biology, including nerve cell migration and contact inhibition of growth, two cell biological processes with important medical applications.

Within days of winning the Bensley Award, Waterman-Storer also became one of 13 winners of this year's NIH Director's Pioneer Award. This prize, according to NIH, "supports exceptionally creative scientists who take innovative approaches to major challenges in biomedical research." It provides \$500,000 in direct costs per year for five years.

Waterman-Storer, an associate professor in the Dept. of Cell Biology at The Scripps Research Institute, received her B.A. in biochemistry from Mount Holyoke College and her M.S. in exercise science from the Univ. of Massachusetts. After completing her Ph.D. in cell biology at

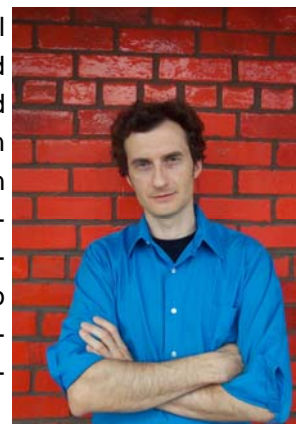
the Univ. of Pennsylvania in 1995, Waterman-Storer did postdoctoral work in cell biology at the Univ. of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) until 1999, when she joined Scripps as an assistant professor. She became an associate professor in 2003.

In addition to the AAA and NIH awards, Waterman-Storer was a Keith Porter Fellow (2003-2006), received the Award for Achievement in Optical Microscopy from the Microscopy Society of America (2001), and the Women in Cell Biology Junior Career Recognition Award from the American Society for Cell Biology (2002).

AAA's Bensley Award is presented annually for "distinguished contribution to the advancement of anatomy, through discovery, ingenuity, and publications in the field of cell biology." Waterman-Storer's award lecture will be presented on Monday, April 3, 2006, from 5-6 p.m. at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco.

Alexander Schier Wins Mossman Award

AAA's 2006 Harland Winfield Mossman Award in Developmental Biology goes to Alexander Schier, who will present an award lecture entitled "The Molecular Genetics of Zebrafish Embryogenesis: From Nodal Signals to Micro RNAs" at the AAA Annual Meeting at EB 2006. The award recognizes Schier's discoveries on early patterning of the embryo and the regulation of the Nodal signaling pathway in zebrafish gastrulation. Nominator Olivier Pourquié, who received the award himself in 2004, notes that Schier's work led to several major contributions in the field of developmental genetics and cell-cell signaling. The main focus of his research has been the dissection of the Nodal signaling pathway and its role during embryogenesis. He also contributed to improving zebrafish as a model system by pio-



neering positional cloning and synteny conservation cloning approaches and developing methods to generate maternal and maternal-zygotic mutants.

Schier was educated in Switzerland, where he did both his undergraduate work and Ph.D. at the University of Basel. After receiving his doctorate in cell biology in 1992, Schier spent 1992-1996 doing postdoctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University. In 1996, he joined the Developmental Genetics Program at NYU School of Medicine's Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine, where he became a tenured associate professor in 2001. He recently joined Harvard University as professor of molecular and cellular biology.

In addition to numerous fellowships, Schier received the Irma T. Hirsch Career Scientist Award (2001-2005) and has been recognized as an American Heart Association Established Investigator (2002-2005). He now serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of AAA's *Developmental Dynamics*.

AAA's Mossman Award is presented annually "to recognize young investigators who have made important contributions to the field of developmental biology and have demonstrated remarkable promise of future accomplishments." Schier's award lecture will be on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, from 5-6 p.m. at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco.

This year's Mossman Award Committee was chaired by Catherine E. Krull (Univ. of Michigan); other members were Susan Mango (Univ. of Utah) and Raymond B. Runyan (Univ. of Arizona). Mango received the Mossman Award in 2005 and Runyan was the 1992 Bensley Award recipient.

Thank you to AAA's 2006 Charles Judson Herrick Award Committee, chaired by Lique M. Coolen (Univ. of Cincinnati), with Kenneth Catania (Vanderbilt Univ.) and Linda J. Richards (Univ. of Queensland). The committee, all Herrick Award recipients, chose not to present an award for 2006.

In Memoriam: Former President of the AAA Jerome Sutin ~ 1930-2005

Jerome ("Jerry") Sutin, former chairman of the Department of Cell Biology at Emory University School of

Medicine and AAA president from 1989-1990, passed away on July 10 at the age of 75.

Jerry Sutin was a distinguished member of the Emory University community and a strong voice for scientific and educational excellence in the School of Medicine. He also had the distinction of serving as a chairman for more than 30 years and for building his department into one of the strongest research and educational departments of its kind in the United States.

Sutin was an outstanding neuroscientist who combined neuroanatomy and electrophysiology in his research efforts to understand brain function. In building his department, he took as his model, J.Z. Young, who worked in London in an anatomy department, but encouraged engineers and other physical scientists to become interested in the brain.

His strong interest in cellular mechanisms and in new technology led to his focus on hiring the best young investigators in cell biology and the nervous system when building his department. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be there witnessed first hand the extraordinary creativity that is possible through juxtaposition of the new and the old. In the early 1980s, when the department was still called Anatomy, a casual observer would not have expected to see a cadaver storage room adjacent to a laboratory studying black lipid bilayers, or a faculty member completing a book on the mathematical analysis of membrane noise, or a laboratory in every wing of the department using the, then very new, patch clamp technology.

These juxtapositions were the norm for anatomy at Emory and the resulting atmosphere encouraged risk-taking and advancement of new research approaches by young faculty. Not surprisingly, a number of the young faculty in those days are now important leaders in their own research areas.

Sutin also had a strong commitment to the faculty he recruited and a strong influence on their academic development. Today we call it mentoring, but in those days there wasn't a name for it and most of us didn't know it was happening. Jerry Sutin influenced faculty development and gained the respect and admiration of his faculty through his inclusiveness and quiet, unobtrusive, but always rock solid insight. He encouraged faculty to think broadly in development of their academic careers and created an environment that permitted

young investigators to take unusual risks, often with important, positive career consequences.

Born and raised in the Albany, New York area, Jerry Sutin earned his doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota and completed his postdoctoral training at the University of California Medical Center in Los Angeles and at University College in London. He subsequently joined the faculty at Yale University as an instructor, rising through the academic ranks there to become associate professor of anatomy. In 1966, at the young age of 36, he joined the Emory School of Medicine as professor and chair of the Department of Anatomy (now the Department of Cell Biology) and became the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Anatomy in 1980.

In the course of his academic career, Sutin influenced the disciplines of neuroscience and cell biology nationally and internationally. In particular, he made significant contributions to understanding the brain, ranging from the hypothalamus to the cerebral cortex, and did pioneering work using electrophysiology, fiber degeneration, and pathway tracing. This expertise led to his co-authorship of the 8th edition of *Human Neuroanat-*

omy with another noted neuroscientist, Malcolm Carpenter. Sutin also served on numerous NIH panels and on editorial boards for the *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, *Neurology*, *Brain Research Bulletin*, *Experimental Neurology*, and *Psychoneuroendocrinology*.

In addition to serving the School of Medicine, Emory, and AAA, Jerry Sutin was president of the Cajal Club and president of the Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology, and Neurobiology Chairpersons. In 1994, he received the Henry Gray Award, AAA's highest honor for scientific achievement. In 1996, shortly after his retirement as professor and chair, the Emory Department of Cell Biology inaugurated the Jerome Sutin Lecture in honor of his contributions to neuroscience and cell biology.

Jerry Sutin is survived by his wife, Avril Sutin; two sons, Alan Sutin, J.D. of the New York City area and Timothy Sutin of Atlanta; and three grandchildren.

Joseph C. Besharse, Ph.D.,
Professor and Chairman,
Dept. of Cell Biology, Neurobiology and Anatomy,
Medical College of Wisconsin

THE ANATOMICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Warm greetings from the tip of the African continent. This year the annual conference of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa was organized by Prof Alex Nganwa-Bagumah of the Walter Sisulu University in Umtata. It was held at the Osner Hotel in East London and was an exceptionally well run and enjoyable event attended by local anatomists from various institutions as well as by a number of international delegates. The Bob Symington prize for the best oral presentation was awarded to Lester Davids from the University of Cape Town for his contribution entitled "Skin Deep: The effect of a skin lightener on melanogenesis". The Sanet Kotzé award for the best first-time presentation went to another delegate from the same university, Purity Macheru, for her presentation "The morphogenesis of the iris in the chick: A histological and cell proliferation study". The SV Naidoo prize for the best poster was awarded jointly to G. Mathura, F. Ally and N. Lachman (A technique for the demonstration of arterial arcades in the jejunum) and E.D. Green, D. Edben and M.L. Turner (Micro-anatomical observations on the paw pads of the African lion).

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society held during the conference, Professor John Soley was elected as the new President for a three-year term of office. He is attached to the Department of Anatomy and Physiology at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria and has been involved in the teaching of veterinary anatomy, embryology and histology for the past 18 years. His main research focus has been on the morphological features of the male reproductive tract, particularly in the ostrich. He is actively involved in the ASSA where he has served as council member and Honorary Editor of Proceedings, and also in the Microscopy Society of Southern Africa where he has served as Treasurer since 1991.

A highlight of the year for South African anatomists was the 80th birthday of Professor Phillip Tobias, a founding member, past President and Patron of the Anatomical Society of Southern Africa. In honour of this special occasion a *Festschrift* was compiled under the editorship of Goran Štrkalj, Nalini Pather and Beverley Kramer from the School of Anatomical Sciences, Fac-

ulty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand. The title of the Festschrift was "Voyages in Science" and contained a number of essays by South African anatomists from all branches of the discipline, including clinical anatomy, palaeoanthropology, biological anthropology and histology and cell biology. This collection of essays confirms not only Prof Tobias' versatility as an anatomist, but also the respect that he commands.

Earlier this year, after all the relevant documentation had been signed, the journal "Clinical Anatomy" became the official journal of ASSA as well as of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists, the British Association of Clinical Anatomists and the Australia and New Zealand Association of Clinical Anatomists. As a consequence of this development ASSA was asked to appoint a regional editor for the journal who would be responsible for handling all submissions to Clinical Anatomy from the African continent and Turkey. Profes-

sor Nirusha Lachman, Departmental Head: Human Biology, Faculty of Health Sciences, Durban Institute of Technology was duly appointed in this position. Submissions to the Regional Office have exceeded all expectations and reflect a new, exciting chapter in the development of our Society.

I would also like to note that Prof Beverley Kramer was appointed as President of the XVIIth Federative International Congress of the IFAA and will represent the Society at meetings of the IFAA Organizing Committee. Three additional members were also appointed to serve on the international organizing committee. These are Prof Graham Louw (Chairman of the National Organizing Committee), Prof Jan Meiring (Executive member of the National Organizing Committee) and Prof John Soley (President of ASSA).

*Professor John Soley
President ASSA*

The American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA)

The AACA was inadvertently omitted from the membership list of the IFAA for which we apologise. We hope that this announcement will serve as a "welcome back" and also hope to receive interesting news and articles from the Society in the near future.

COMMEMORATION OF THE DECEASED IN THE HUNGARIAN ANATOMICAL DEPARTMENTS

In spite of the availability of modern computer multimedia teaching facilities, dissecting experiences during medical training seems indispensable. In many European countries anatomical dissection of human cadavers in the medical schools is very limited. In Hungary we have been able to provide dissection courses for our students for many years. Law permitted that the corpse of those elderly people who had died in a social welfare home and had no relatives, could be transported to anatomical institutes for dissection. After 1990 the number of available cadavers had been reducing year by year and we had to reduce dissections. However, in 1998, George Sétáló, chairman of the Department of Anatomy at the University Medical School of Pécs initiated a donation program. The initiative was strongly promoted by the traditional popular Hungarian churches, which unanimously supported it, being convinced by its noble goals and ethical, human implementation. In the technical organization, as well as in convincing the churches, Dr. Judit Horváth, a faculty mem-

ber of the Anatomy Department, played a great role. She proposed that the University should have a separate burial place for those who offered their bodies for teaching purposes. The Anatomy Department received a parcel of land in the main cemetery of Pécs for burial, a columbarium and a memorial garden. The Faculty of Fine Arts of our university donated a sculpture made by one of its students (Gábor Miklya). Although the monu-



ment was not designed for this special purpose, it may represent Charon's boat, an altar, or a coffin. According to the young artist's plans, the memorial stands on top of a mound that could represent the grave for all those people who rest in this plot. Every year in the 3rd or 4th week of October, an ecumenical ceremony is held in the chapel of the cemetery with the participation of students, the staff and the faculty of the Anatomy Department as well as with the relatives of the deceased.



After the ceremony the participants walk to the memorial garden where one of the senior teachers remembers in a short speech, those who offered themselves to help teaching of future medical doctors. While the choir formed by students is singing, wreaths and flowers are placed on and around the mound and candles are lit. We were deeply impressed by the presence of some elderly people who are registered in the donation program.

In Budapest, the Semmelweis University erected a memorial in the New Public Cemetery. Each year, members of the two anatomy departments and their students organize commemoration at the memorial and lay their wreaths. Students and the faculty alike regards these events an important part of the university life.

Gyula Lazar,
EFEM delegate of the Hungarian Anatomical Society

THE IFAA CONGRESS 2009

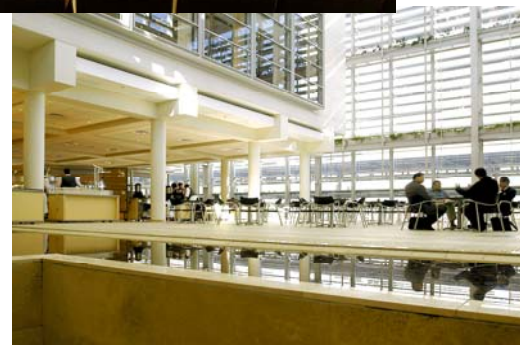
The IFAA Congress 2009 will be held in Cape Town, South Africa at the **Cape Town International Conference Centre**. This conference centre is a modern facility which caters for numerous international Congresses.



Pictured above is the entrance to the centre showing the extensive space occupied by the facility.

The conference centre contains a variety of lecture theatres designed for maximum comfort and has the ability to accommodate various sizes of symposia. In addition, as well as accommodating the needs of the scientific aspects of the Congress, the facility has numerous meeting areas where scientists can network, yet remain in touch with

the views of the day.



See you in Cape Town.....2009

THE IFAA CONGRESS, SOUTH AFRICA 2009: TRAVELOGUE PART II

As the next IFAA Congress will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2009, the Editor of Plexus is taking the liberty of bringing you information about South Africa over the next issues. This will hopefully assist you with knowing more about the country and also aid you with planning your travels while in the country.

The **Drakensburg mountains** are the spectacular escarpment separating the high inland plateau of South Africa from the coastal lands and foothills of Kwa-Zulu Natal. The name Drakensburg was given to this rugged barrier which towers over 3000 metres for 200 kilometres by the Voortrekkers and means dragon's back. Perhaps the name given to these soaring peaks, buttresses and pinnacles by the Zulu is more expressive. The name was *quathlamba*, which means "massed assegais", the sharp tips of these assegais or spears resembling the sharp rugged peaks of the mountains.

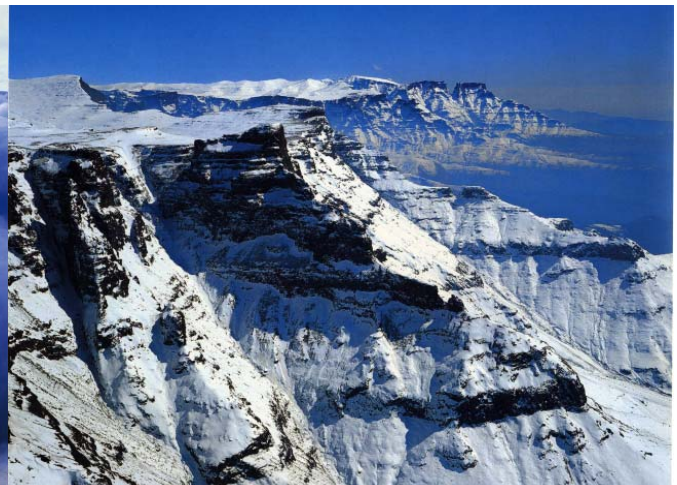
Sometimes the mood of the mountains does seem draconic. Heavy clouds roll over the peaks sometimes three or four times a day during the hot summer months and thunder roars from the heights as electrical storms spit fire into the crags. During the winter months, snowfalls blanket the summits

and frost lies dazzling sharply on the south facing cliffs in the early morning.

The name Drakensburg mountains is today applied to approximately 1000 kilometres of the Great Escarpment. On November 29, 2000 the uKhahlamba-Drakensburg Park was named a World Heritage Site.



The Park is unique in that it has met World Heritage criteria for both cultural and natural World Heritage properties.



The wall of the "Berg" rises abruptly from 1500 metres along the Kwa-Zulu Natal foothills to between 3000 and 3500 metres at the summit on the Lesotho plateau. A favourite place for Congresses, Golden Gate set in the Free State, offers spectacular views of the 'Berg.

The Drakensberg are an ecologists dream. Softly trickling icy mountain streams lead into valleys filled with indigenous flora and fauna. Hiking and mountaineering are as must for those who enjoy stunning views of natural beauty. Each sunrise and sunset offers a palette of colours equivalent to those of the rainbow. Misty trails through the valleys offer finds of indigenous lilies, golden grasses, dragonflies and butterflies and sometimes the swish of a buck as it hurries to elude the occasional hiker.

The Drakenburg have also one of the world's richest treasure troves of stoneage rock art. Here the San people expressed their experiences of life in paintings on the cave walls.

The San rock painting depicted here shows an eland (a large buck) but is said to be much more complex and may illustrate rain-making.



While in South Africa, visit the Drakensburg. It is one of the blessed places on earth!

References:

1. Wannenburg, A. and Dickson, J.R. The natural wonder of Southern Africa. Struik Publishers, Cape Town. 1987.
2. uKhahlamba-Drakensburg, World Heritage Site.

PLEXUS CONTRIBUTIONS:

Plexus is intended for staff and students of all member Societies of the IFAA. Should you receive a copy, please distribute as widely as possible in order to inform all members of the events and issues covered by the IFAA and its member Societies.

Contributions will be gratefully accepted. Please submit all the information either by email or a disc to:

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