The Neurology of the Tyrolean Iceman

F. Gerstenbrand, H. Seidler, D. Zur Nedden Innsbruck, Vienna

In the summer of 1991 the mummified corpse of a man partly covered with clothing was found at an altitude of 3.200 m at the edge of the Similaun glacier in Southern Tyrol. Personal belongings of the man including bow, arrows, axe and knife were discovered in the vicinity of the mummy.

Intensive studies performed at the Anatomical Institute of the Innsbruck University in cooperation with specialists of different disciplines disclosed that the "Iceman" died approx.. 5.200 years ago at the place where he was found- He was approx.. 30 years old, his body height was 160 cm, his weight at the time of death approx.. 40 kg. Circumstances indicate that the man was a hunter and probably fleeing from his enemies.

Data obtained by computed tomography were used for volumetric measurements and reconstruction of the man's head and body. The Iceman suffered from severe degenerative alterations of the spine with vertrebro-cervical stenosis. An infarcation in the cerebellum is suspected. A cyst was found in the middle part of the cervical myelon, possibly due to Echinococcus infection. The man had only 11 ribs with old and fresh serial fractures. Tatooings were found on the body, one of them looking like a Christian cross.

Experiences gained by studying the Iceman with neuroimaging techniques have given new impulses to the discipline of neuro-arechology.

WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

A non-governmental organisation in association with the World Health Organization



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Dear Franz

Ist International Congress on the History of the Neurosciences London: 12-14 May 2994

I am delighted you are able to come to the History meeting in May and look forward to your presentation on "The Neurology of the Tyrolean Ice Man".

I enclose a Registration Form and would be grateful if you would complete this and return it together with your bank draft in pounds sterling. As you will see, accommodation is available at the White House Hotel on Regents Park, at a cost of £50 per person per night. Please let me know promptly whether or not you require accommodation.

I look forward to seeing you in London in May.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

frank

F Clifford Rose

Encl.

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