

Dr. T. Dale Stewart's Travels

REFERENCE: Prokopec M. Dr. T. Dale Stewart's Travels. *J Forensic Sci* 2000;45(2):258–264.

ABSTRACT: Renowned forensic physical anthropologist Dr. T. Dale Stewart traveled extensively to countries all over the world. The reasons for his journeys were manifold. He did fieldwork, took part in congresses, visited scientific institutions, and lectured by invitation at various universities. This paper deals with his journeys in general and with his four visits to Czechoslovakia in particular. Three of them were undertaken in connection with scientific congresses dedicated to Dr. Aleš Hrdlička. Dr. Stewart, as Hrdlička's successor in the Smithsonian Institution, always chose an appropriate topic for his lecture. His visits to Hrdlička's native country and town contributed to better mutual understanding and exchange of ideas between physical anthropologists and anatomists from both countries, the USA and Czechoslovakia (the today separate Czech and Slovak Republics).

KEYWORDS: forensic science, forensic anthropology, T. Dale Stewart, travels, Aleš Hrdlička, facial cast, portraits, memorial medal

Without exaggeration, Dr. T. D. Stewart may be called the most traveled physical anthropologist. Throughout his life, he visited 53 countries, many of them more than once. He also traveled to two of the United States' furthest areas, Alaska and Hawaii, and to Tasmania, a state within Australia considered separately here. His travels were associated with research in physical anthropology, teaching, participation in scientific congresses, and visiting scientific institutions. His first trip was fieldwork in Alaska, undertaken jointly with Dr. Henry Collins in 1927, and his last one was apparently to Mexico in 1988. Dr. Stewart was Visiting Professor at the University in St. Louis in 1943, in the National School of Anthropology in Mexico in 1945, Lecturer in Anatomy at the George Washington University School of Medicine in 1958–67, consultant to the Federal Bureau of Investigation since 1942, and Member of the Special Services in the U.S. Army since 1948, assigned to the Identification Laboratory, Memorial Division in Kokura, Japan in 1954–55. He was also Invited Lecturer in Physical Anthropology from time to time at the Universities of Georgia, Kansas, Maryland, and Tennessee. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science by the University of Cuzco, Peru in 1949, and an Honorary Membership by the American Orthopaedic Association in 1963. He acted as expert witness in seven murder trials. He analyzed the skeletal remains of Neanderthals from the Shanidar cave in Iraq. Dr. Stewart was a Board Member of the National Geographic Society, with which he undertook eight long trips. While in China with the National Geographic group in 1981, he celebrated his 80th

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Received 1 April 1999; and in revised form 25 June 1999; accepted 26 June 1999.

birthday. The Society valued Dr. Stewart to such an extent, that when he retired from his function as scientific adviser for research, he was given a monthly payment.

Traversing the Globe

An overview (Table 1) gives an account of Dr. Stewart's travels stating the year, country, month, and reason for the journey. He took part in 20 congresses, 10 field trips, eight expeditions with the National Geographic Society, and undertook seven professional visits and three teaching visits. In 14 instances he took his holidays in association with his official trips.

The National Geographic Society trips were planned with great care. In each case, they followed a certain topic, usually including the current highlights from the geographical and ethnographical points of view. The first trip which Dr. Stewart undertook with the Society covered countries in Southern Europe and East Africa; the second one, England, Turkey, Greece, and Cyprus; the third one included the South American countries Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia; the fourth trip led to England, Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa; the fifth one started in England and Scotland, and then led to Jordan, Iran, and Israel. The sixth trip acquainted the participants with Alaska, Japan, China, and Hong-Kong; the seventh one included Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal; and the eighth led to Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania.

Table 2 shows the frequency of Dr. Stewart's visits to individual countries and the years when he visited them. Only the two last digits of the year are shown in the table. American states Alaska and Hawaii are presented here as separate areas, as is Tasmania, one of the Australian states.

The most frequently visited countries were Mexico (10 times) and England (8 times). Peru, Hawaii, France, and Italy were visited 5 times; Iraq and Czechoslovakia 4 times; Guatemala, Japan, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal 3 times; Alaska, Canada, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Brazil, Turkey, Kenya, Tanzania, Hong-Kong, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa were visited by Dr. Stewart twice; and Cuba, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Yugoslavia, Germany, Holland, Russia, Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Monaco, Argentina, Chile, Thailand, Malaysia, Cyprus, Fiji, Puerto Rico, Jordan, Israel, Scotland, Iran, China, Egypt, and Tasmania just once.

Each two-digit number in Table 2 represents one visit and the year in which the particular visit took place. In some instances, there was a time gap of about 10 years between two successive visits to the respective country; in other cases, the next visit took place the following year. Most of the trips were taken after World War II.

Travels to the Czech Republic (Formerly Czechoslovakia)

I recall Dr. Stewart's four visits to Czechoslovakia. These took place in 1959, 1964, 1969, and 1979. With the exception of 1964,

TABLE 1—*Dr. Stewart's travels: An overview (Courtesy of Mrs. Pamela M. Henson, History Division, Office of the Smithsonian Institution Archives).*

Date	Country	Months	Reason
1927	Alaska	April–September	Collecting on Nunivak Island
1932	Canada	Summer	Vacation
1939	Mexico	July–August	27th Inter. Cong. Amer.
1941	Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru	January–April	Collecting; Cong. Anthropol. and History, Lima
1945	Mexico	January–April	Teaching, Escuela d' Anthr.
1946	Mexico	September	4th Reunion Mesa Redonda
1947	Guatemala	January–April	Measuring Indians
1948	Peru	Summer	II Cong. Indig. Interam.
1949	Cuba, Guatemala	January–April	Measuring Indians
1951	Peru	May	IV Cent. Univ. Mayor San Marcos
1954	Bolivia, Peru, Brazil	August–September	III Cong. Indig. Interam. Brazil (La Paz); 31st Inter. Cong. Amer. (Sao Paulo)
1954–55	Japan, Hawaii	September–February	Graves Registration Svc.
1956	Canada	Summer	Vacation
1957	England, France	June	Vacation
1957–58	Iraq, Turkey, Italy, England	October–January	Restoring Shanidar I; professional visits
1958	Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala	July	33rd Cong. Amer., Costa Rica
1959	Austria, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, England	March–April	1st Hrdlička celebration; professional visits
1959	Mexico	December	58th Ann. Meeting, AAA
1960	Iraq, France	June–September	Restoring Shanidar II and working in cave
1961	Austria, Yugoslavia, Italy	August	Wenner-Gren Conference; vacation
1962	Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal	July	II Inter. Conf. Oral Biology, Bonn; vacation
1962	Iraq	October–November	Restoring Shanidar IV–VI
1963?	Mexico	?	Hall 25 casting program
1963	Hawaii	August	Bishop Museum Training Program
1964	Holland, Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Sweden, Spain; Portugal	August–September	7th Cong. Anthropol. Ethnol. Sci., Moscow; 36th Intl. Cong. Amer.; vacation between
1965	Italy, Kenya, Tanzania, France, Monaco	June–July	1st National Geographic Society trip
1966	Argentina, Chile	September	37th Inter. Cong. Amer., Argentina
1966	Iraq	November	Opening of Museum, Baghdad
1967	Mexico	March	Studying bones in Merida; vacation in San Miguel
1968	Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia	August–September	8th Cong. Anthropol. Ethnol. Sci., Japan;
1969	Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, England	March–April	2nd Hrdlička celebration; professional visits assoc. tour
1969	Mexico	April	38th Ann. Meeting, AAPA
1969	Turkey, England, Greece, Cyprus	June–July	2nd National Geographic Society trip
1972	Peru, Ecuador, Colombia	June–July	3rd National Geographic Society trip; vacation afterwards
1972	Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji	October–November	Elliot Smith Cent., Sydney; vacation afterwards
1973	Puerto Rico	March–April	Inter-American Univ.
1973	Mexico	October	Vacation in western Mexico
1974	Mexico	September	41st Inter. Cong. Amer.
1975	England, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Brazil	June–July	4th National Geographic Society trip; vacation afterwards
1975	Alaska	August	National Park Service tour
1976	Austria, Italy, France	August–September	Wenner-Gren conference; vacation afterwards
1978	England, Jordan, Iran, Israel, Scotland	June–July	5th National Geographic Society trip; vacation afterwards
1979	Czechoslovakia, England	September	3rd Hrdlička celebration; vacation afterwards
1981	Alaska, Japan, China, Hong Kong	June	6th National Geographic Society trip
1982	Egypt	November	Negotiation for Wadi Kubbaniya skeleton
1984	Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal	May	7th National Geographic Society trip
1985	South Africa	January–February	Taung Diamond Jubilee International Symposium
1987	Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania		8th National Geographic Society trip
1988	Mexico		

TABLE 2—*Dr. Stewart's travels: An overview, graphical presentation.*

Country	Number of Times and Years Visited									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mexico	39	45	46	59	63	67	69	73	74	88
England	57	59	69	69	75	77	78	79		
Peru	41	48	51	54	72					
Hawaii	54	63	68	72	87					
France	57	60	62	65	76					
Italy	57	61	65	76	84					
Iraq	57	60	62	66	84					
Czech Republic	59	64	69	79						
Guatemala	47	49	58							
Japan	54	68	81							
Austria	59	61	76							
Switzerland	59	62	69							
Spain	62	64	84							
Alaska	27	75	81							
Panama	41	58	72							
Portugal	62	64	84							
Canada	32	56								
Colombia	41	72								
Ecuador	41	72								
Brazil	54	75								
Turkey	57	69								
Kenya	65	75								
Tanzania	65	75								
Hong Kong	68	81								
Greece	69	84								
Australia	72	87								
New Zealand	72	87								
South Africa	75	85								

Countries Visited Once	Year
Cuba	49
Bolivia	54
Costa Rica	58
Yugoslavia	61
Germany	62
Holland	64
Russia	64
Poland	64
Denmark	64
Sweden	64
Monaco	65
Argentina	66
Chile	66
Thailand	68
Malaysia	68
Cyprus	69
Fiji	72
Puerto Rico	73
Iran	78
Jordan	78
Israel	78
Scotland	78
China	81
Egypt	82
Tasmania	87

which was the year of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Moscow, the visits were in connection with conferences dedicated to Aleš Hrdlička, Dr. Stewart's predecessor at the Smithsonian.

Throughout his most active years, Dr. Hrdlička donated funds to the Charles University, Prague, to various Czech scientific societies, and to his native town of Humpolec. In 1930, he suggested to the President, T. G. Masaryk, that the Museum of Man be established at the Charles University in Prague and endowed it with the sum of 1 million Czech Crowns.

An initiative to give public thanks to Hrdlička for his funds and the moral support which he showed to his old country during the war was taken by his native town Humpolec in 1953, ten years after Hrdlička's death. Since that year I was in correspondence with Dr. Stewart (at first through Mrs. Alois Stangler, who knew Dr. Hrdlička from the late twenties), mainly in the matter of three-dimensional objects suited for an exhibition on the life and work of Aleš Hrdlička and anthropology, which I was preparing for the Ministry of Culture. The exhibition was to open in March 1959 at the occasion of the 90th anniversary of Hrdlička's birth.

Dr. Stewart sent a postmortem facial cast of Dr. Hrdlička which depicted even the finest features of his face. Milan Knobloch, a Czech sculptor, used this mask as a model for creating Hrdlička's portrait for the Humpolec school (Fig. 1), for a memorial medal (Fig. 2a,b), and later for a bust of Dr. Hrdlička for the town park at the Lower place in Humpolec (Fig. 3). The medal is given by the Humpolec mayor to prominent personalities of cultural life and to anthropologists who come to Humpolec for special occasions and deliver a lecture there. There are 135 bearers of Hrdlička's medal worldwide, given between 1959 and 1995. Dr. Hrdlička's left profile and his name is on the front side of the medal, and a Neanderthal skull with a caliper designed by Hrdlička and the inscription: "All mankind is of one origin" is in both English and Czech on the reverse.

Dr. Stewart came to Prague and Humpolec on March 29, 1959 and became the first recipient of this medal (1). He gave a lecture on Aleš Hrdlička and the Smithsonian Institution, founded when the British scientist James Smithson offered to the young American State a gift "for the increase and dissemination of knowledge among people." The American Government soon gave the right to



FIG. 2a,b—Hrdlička's medal created by Milan Knobloch according to a facial cast of Dr. Hrdlička sent by Dr. Stewart to M. Prokopec in 1953 (Photographed by M. Prokopec).



FIG. 1—The bust of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička by Milan Knobloch at the Humpolec school, unveiled on March 29, 1959, in the presence of Dr. T. D. Stewart (Photographed by M. Prokopec).

the Smithsonian Institution to function as a private institution. The director of the Smithsonian is not influenced in his decisions by changes in the Federal Government. Anyhow, a link between the Smithsonian and the Government exists, because some of the state institutions, such as the National Gallery, National Museum, and the former Bureau of American Ethnology etc., are its parts.



FIG. 3—Hrdlička's bust by Milan Knobloch in the park in Humpolec (Photograph courtesy of D. H. Ubelaker).

Dr. Stewart mentioned this in his lecture because these relationships are not generally known and are not always rightly understood and because they probably attracted Hrdlička when he came to Washington at the beginning of his anthropological career in 1903. He did not mind working in the National Museum or being a Government employee, but he considered himself more (as also Dr. Stewart did) an employee of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Hrdlička's merits in science were from a great part due to the Smithsonian Institution, which he was well aware of. The last words of Dr. Stewart's lecture were: "I always did my best to be worthy of the honor of being Dr. Hrdlička's successor" (2).

During his first visit to Prague in 1959, Dr. Stewart was invited by the American Ambassador and the Cultural Attache to the

American Embassy and he also met the Japanese Ambassador. It was an interesting experience for me to accompany him there.

Since that time two other Smithsonian scientists have been awarded Hrdlička's memorial medal: Dr. Henry Collins (1962) and Dr. J. Lawrence Angel (1969). Dr. Collins was a close friend of Dr. Stewart's since his early years at the Smithsonian; later becoming a world-famous expert on the Eskimo. He took part in the IUAES Precongress, held in Prague in 1962 and visited Humpolec. He was awarded Hrdlička's Medal (No. 18). Dr. Angel, a well-known forensic anthropologist from the Smithsonian, was awarded Medal No. 51.

Dr. Stewart's third visit to Czechoslovakia took place at the centennial anniversary of Hrdlička's birth (1969). He came with Dr. Angel and gave a talk entitled: "Use of the Hrdlička Skeletal Col-

lection in a Museum Presentation of the Biology of Man." Dr. Hrdlička had assembled one of the world's largest collections of human skeletons (about 20,000 skulls as well as many sets of postcranial remains), but to his annoyance he could rarely find space even to exhibit his new finds on a temporary basis.

Finally in 1964, Dr. Stewart could do justice to the subject by arranging an exposition on human biology in a room 10 × 165 feet large with Knobloch's bust of Hrdlička at the entrance. The Hall of Physical Anthropology had 5 sections: 1. Man's primate heritage, 2. Human population biology, 3. Modifications of the human body, 4. Varieties of modern man, and 5. The ancestry of modern man.

Hundreds of bones were displayed, yet the general effect was not of crowded specimens. Because of the artistry of the layouts, the variability of the arrangement, and the intrinsic interest of the individual subjects, the visitor's attention was distracted from any thought of his being in an ossuary.

Dr. Stewart was aware that some of his colleagues, and Dr. Hrdlička probably most of all, would have done it differently, but the opportunity in this instance came to Dr. Stewart alone (3).

The topic of Dr. Stewart's lecture which he gave at the occasion of his fourth and last visit to Czechoslovakia in 1979 was: "Hrdlička's Dream of an American Institute of Physical Anthropology." On March 11, 1896, 18 days before his 27th birthday, Hrdlička sat in a lecture hall of Broca's Institut Anthropologique in Paris and wrote to his fiancée, Marie Strickler-Dieudonee in New York, about the poorly equipped lecture theaters "almost like an old inn," but the lectures and demonstrations he found absolutely superlative. Broca's Institut Anthropologique consisted of three parts: the Société d'Anthropologie (founded in 1859), the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie (founded in 1867), and the École d'Anthropologie (founded in 1876).

Hrdlička's deep impression of his Paris experience resulted at first in a letter he wrote to the *American Naturalist* in 1899, published there under the title "The Need of American Anthropologists." He stressed again the need of the Institute in his 1908 presidential address to the Anthropological Society in Washington. Ten years later (1918) the statement about the need for the Institute appeared among his aims in founding the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, set forth in the introduction to the first issue. In 1926 Hrdlička asked Mr C. D. Walcott, the secretary of the Smith-

sonian Institution (1907–1927), for an appointment to discuss the possibility of changing the character of the National Museum's Division of Physical Anthropology to that of an autonomous institute. Nothing came of this scheme.

In 1930, at the first meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, the following statement became part of the Association's constitution: "To establish, in the most favorable location, the American Institute of Physical Anthropology, which would serve both as a home and library of the association, and as the center of anthropometric instruction and of dissemination of anthropological knowledge."

No further efforts to advance the cause of the Institute were made by Hrdlička since that date and his death in 1943. Apparently the fully functioning *Journal*, the Association, the laboratory facilities in the National Museum, and the immense collections he had assembled made him content.

Dr. Stewart and Dr. Frank Spencer gave a joint paper on this topic at the 1978 annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Toronto, Canada, entitled: "Paris on the Potomac." They were convinced that the idea of an Institute was still around. Maybe the remainder of Hrdlička's dream will yet become a reality (4).

Shortly before the end of Dr. Stewart's last visit, I took him and Professors Sheilagh and Richard Brooks on a tour through Prague to see the cultural and historical monuments of the city, including the grave of the composer A. Dvořák, in whom he was especially interested.

During his four visits to Czechoslovakia, Dr. Stewart met most of the Czech and Slovak anthropologists and anatomists and thus helped to deepen the friendship between the two countries. He also visited places of anthropological interest, including the "Zlatý kůn" caves, where the upper Pleistocene frontal bone was found, ossuaria in Mělník and Sedlec and inspected the Gánovce endocranial travertine cast of a Neanderthal man in the National Museum in Prague. He also had a chance to see the casts of the skulls of the famous upper Pleistocene mammoth hunters from Předmostí u Přerova and Dolní Věstonice (the original specimens were destroyed in the castle of Mikulov by fire laid by the German Nazi Army in the last days of World War II), housed in the still provisional Hrdlička's Museum of Man at the Charles University in Prague.

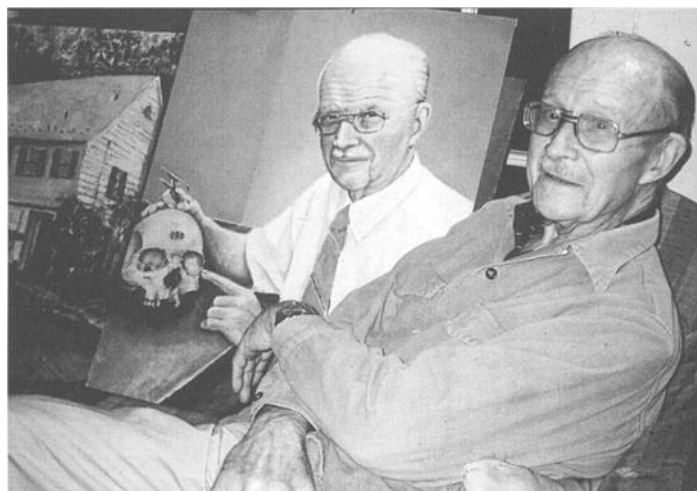


FIG. 4—Dr. T. D. Stewart in 1992 at the age of 91 with his self-portrait, in which he points to a tubercle on the rim of the orbit (Whitnall's malar tubercle, attachment of the palpebral ligaments, important in placing the eye in facial reconstruction (5)). (Photographed by M. Prokopec).

Closing Remarks

During my visit to Dr. Stewart's home in McLean, VA in 1984, Dr. Stewart displayed several of his paintings on the porch. Among them was his self-portrait, in which he points to a tubercle on the lateral rim of the left orbit of a skull, called "Whitnall's tubercle" (5). This anatomical feature was used by some authors (e.g., Gerasimov) (6) as a reference point for positioning the eye in reconstructing the human face from the skull. Dr. Stewart was probably aware that many of his colleagues did not know where the tubercle is located, and that the palpebral ligaments are attached to it. It is therefore likely that his self-portrait thus had an educational purpose. I consider this double-portrait of Dr. Stewart to be one of the best photographs of my friends that I have ever taken (Fig. 4).

Had Dr. Stewart not sent the facial mask of Aleš Hrdlička to Prague in 1953, it is unlikely that there would have been a portrait of Hrdlička in the school in Humpolec, a memorial medal, or a bust in the park. If these sculptures existed at all, they would never have reached the quality which they possess.

Dr. Stewart's gentle and sympathetic approach to other people, his broad knowledge, modesty, and readiness to help at any time when necessary, opened doors to him in any country wherever he came (7). I remember once in the Smithsonian in 1992, when I accompanied Dr. Stewart to take our lunch in the cafeteria, we met a man who greeted Dr. Stewart. He turned to me and said, pointing to Dr. Stewart: "This is the most beloved man in the Smithsonian."

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Dr. D. H. Ubelaker for his invitation to take part in the symposium in honor of T. Dale Stewart. He acknowledges the help of the Smithsonian Institution Archives in providing the information on Dr. Stewart's travels and of Erica Bubniak Jones for editing this paper.

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