

*SYMPOSIUM*  
*IN MEMORIAM*  
**ARTHUR C. AUFDERHEIDE**  
(1922-2013)



Fig. 1. Arthur Aufderheide in his Laboratory. Photo: Duluth News Tribune.



SYMPOSIUM IN MEMORIAM. ARTHUR C. AUFDERHEIDE  
THE SCIENTIST, THE FRIEND (1922-2013)

## ARTHUR C. AUFDERHEIDE THE SCIENTIST, THE FRIEND (1922-2013)

Felipe Cárdenas-Arroyo<sup>1</sup> and Conrado Rodríguez Martín<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia

<sup>2</sup> Instituto Canario de Bioantropología. OAMC. Spain. [crodriguez@museosdetenerife.org](mailto:crodriguez@museosdetenerife.org)

<sup>3</sup> Museo Arqueológico de Tenerife. OAMC. Spain. [crodriguez@museosdetenerife.org](mailto:crodriguez@museosdetenerife.org)

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This symposium was a small but heartfelt tribute to a man that contributed so much to the field of mummy studies and to whom we shall permanently owe our gratitude for what he accomplished as a scientist, and for his honest and generous friendship.

Many of us were very lucky to share moments of our professional life with Arthur, to learn from him, and to work with him. His knowledge of medicine was enormous, and he had a sharp eye for spotting diseases in archaeological human remains. It was these two skills that made him such a good and reliable paleopathologist. Arthur was a member of the Cronos Project in the late 1980's and early 1990's, one in which the study of the Guanche mummies of the Canary Islands became the foundation for the World Congress on Mummy Studies. That project introduced the field of the scientific study of mummies as a discipline in its own right, after the pioneering work by Rosalie David in Manchester in the 1970's, and the creation of the Paleopathology Association by Aidan and Eve Cockburn in the same decade. Since that incredible first meeting in 1992, twenty seven years have come and gone during which ten World Congresses on Mummy Studies have been held in different parts of the World: Puerto de La Cruz, Tenerife (1992); Cartagena, Colombia (1995); Arica, Chile (1998); Nuuk, Greenland (2001); Torino, Italy (2004); Tegui, Lanzarote (2007); San Diego, California (2010); Río de

Janeiro, Brasil (2013); Lima, Perú (2016), and Santa Cruz, Tenerife (2018). The following meeting will be held in Bolzano, Italy, in 2022.

Arthur had a keen interest in human societies, both from a medical and anthropological perspective, and his curiosity for the human condition took him to places such as the Arctic, or on a rafting trip down the Mackenzie River: from the pole to the desert, to the Andes Mountains, to Asia and Europe. From all his travels he made notes and scientific observations: He was a good observer, a great scientist, and a sensitive human being.

For this symposium we brought together eight specialists from fields of study that were important to Arthur and in which he made a long lasting impact through his research, both in archaeological mummies and skeletal remains: Paleopathology, Paleogenetics, Paleoradiology, and Paleoparasitology are some of these, although his scientific curiosity also took him to explore subjects such as paleodiet, archaeology, and the natural sciences.

This tribute was also for Mary. She was present in nearly every scientific meeting that Arthur attended. There was always a smile on her face and she would greet everyone she knew with a hug and a kiss. Mary Aufderheide was a beautiful,



**Fig. 2.** Arthur and Mary Aufderheide on flight to the Fourth World Congress on Mummy Studies in Nuuk, Greenland. Photo: Felipe Cárdenas-Arroyo.

kind, loving, generous person. It was a joy being in her company and we miss her as much as we miss Art. The short personal recollections presented as part of this symposium were aimed to show how important the character of our two friends was for our congress. Thanks to their generosity and kindness, Arthur and Mary Aufderheide made all of us better scientists and better people. They were always ready to help and support their colleagues with the certainty that science advances in the right direction if those who practice it share a friendly, tolerant, and free environment. That is the sense that we all get at the World Mummy Congresses, and to a great extent it is thanks to them.

### *Pioneers of the World Congress on Mummy Studies*

Our meeting – the World Congress on Mummy Studies – was born out of a number of circumstances, and many people are to be thanked for its realization. Sadly, some have left us too soon. What follows is a very short mention of our dear friends and we apologize for its' brevity. Surely, their contributions to our field were great and they cannot be summarized in just a few seconds.

Next to Arthur and Mary, we must mention Dr. Conrado Rodríguez Maffiotte, medical doctor and researcher of the history and paleopathology of the Guanches

of Tenerife. He was fundamental for the inception of the Cronos Project that gave origin to the 1st Mummy Congress, worked closely with Arthur Aufderheide, and published his own book on the Guanches aimed to the general public – a praiseworthy effort.

Fernando Estévez, a social anthropologist, turned his attention to the topic of human cultural mummification and was a member of the first scientific committee of the mummy Congress. His work demonstrates that cultural and social anthropologists have a lot to offer to the field of mummy studies and demonstrates the value of multidisciplinary research teams in our field.



**Fig. 3.** Conrado Rodríguez Maffiotte.

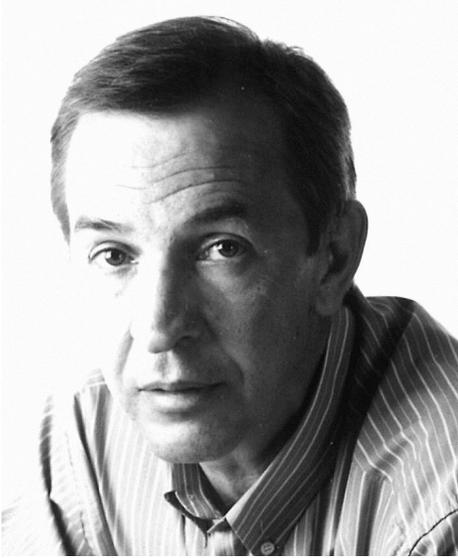


Fig. 4. Fernando Estévez González.

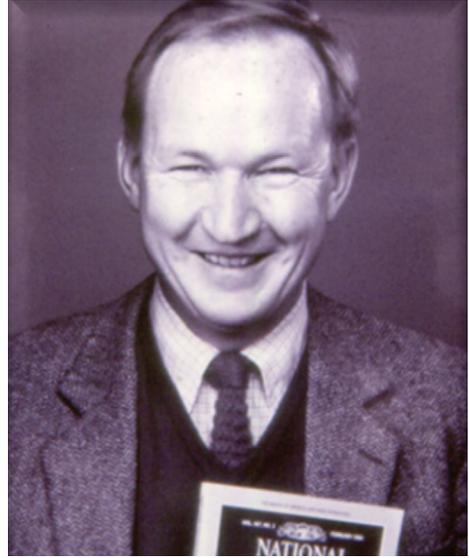


Fig. 5. Jens Peder Hart Hansen.

Dr. Jens Peder Hart-Hansen from Denmark, whose work on the Greenland mummies made the front cover of the National Geographic Magazine of February 1995, was to organize the 4th World Congress on Mummy Studies. Sadly, he passed away three years before that meeting. He gave an enormous contribution to the development of mummy studies in Denmark and stressed the importance of multidisciplinary work. As Niels Lynnerup wrote in his biography of Dr. Hart Hansen, he was “always stressing that scientists from many specialties should cooperate, and that analyses of mummies needed a multidisciplinary project format”.

Eve Cockburn, head of the Paleopathology Association and editor of the Paleopathology Newsletter for many years, was a strong and permanent supporter of our congress. The Newsletter was the main means of communication among paleopathologists and mummy enthusiasts, and it was thanks to her that the first mummy congresses found a space to circulate news and updates regarding the upcoming events. Eve provided the necessary thrust to keep the news of the congress flowing.

Alana Cordy-Collins, an archaeologist from the United States, and specialist on the art of the ancient Moche culture of Perú, was a regular at the mummy congresses. In fact, Alana organized the 7th Mummy Congress that took place in San



Fig. 6. Eve Cockburn.



Fig. 7. Alana Cordy-Collins.

Diego, California in 2011. She was enthusiastic as no one else, kind and intelligent. Her publications are a permanent contribution to our field of study.

Larry Cartmell, a pathologist from Oklahoma, worked many times with Arthur Aufderheide. He was one of the first to analyze human mummy hair to identify the presence of the ancient use of narcotics. He also had a research project with colleagues at the Smithsonian Institution where he contributed his knowledge as a soft tissue pathologist. Larry was a member of the Scientific Committee of the 4th Mummy Congress in Nuuk, Greenland.



Fig. 8. Larry Cartmell.



Fig. 9. Patrick Horne.

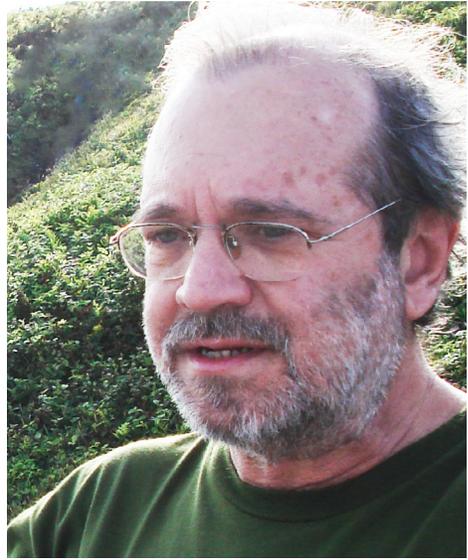


Fig. 10. Adauto Araújo.

Patrick Horne was a parasitologist. He participated in the Cronos project and was, therefore, directly associated with the birth of the Mummy Congress, and a member of the Scientific Committee to the 2nd Mummy Congress in Cartagena, 1995. Scientific meetings with Patrick were special. His anecdotes and stories would have made a great volume about the light side of paleopathology!

Adauto Araújo, also a parasitologist, was one of the most renowned scientists in his field, both in his native Brasil and the World. An outstanding professional, Araújo contributed a score of papers in scientific journals and was interested in the history and evolution of parasites. He was President and organizer of the 8th Mummy Congress in Río de Janeiro, 2013.

To all of these people we are grateful for sharing their knowledge and their friendship. Twenty-six years ago, Arthur Aufderheide closed the First World Congress on Mummy Studies in Puerto de La Cruz, Tenerife, with these words referring to the place of mummy studies among the sciences:

*"Four days ago mummies were viewed traditionally as objects of art and curiosity. Today, at the conclusion of this Congress, the study of mummies has taken its place alongside the others as a validated, legitimate branch of science."*