

BOOK REVIEWS

ATLAS OF OCCUPATIONAL MARKERS ON HUMAN REMAINS. By Luigi Capasso, Kenneth A. R. Kennedy, and Cynthia A. Wilezak. Teramo, Italy: Edigrafital S.p.A. Journal of Paleontology—Monographic Publication 3, 1999. 184 pp. \$40.00 (paper).

Markers of occupational stress (MOS) are distinctive morphologies or pathologies that can develop as a result of work-related activities. Capasso *et al.* have compiled information on nearly 150 conditions and reproduced them in a single atlas. This atlas begins with a preface by Gian Franco De Stefano and Gertrud Hauser, authors of *Epigenetic Variants of the Skull*, which much of this book resembles in general layout. The preface is followed by an introduction by the authors who describe this book as "a guide to a number of forms of anatomical variations encountered in human bones, teeth, nails, and hair that have been discussed in the literature." They admit that it is "not an exhaustive coverage of MOS, but rather a broad sampling, with representative photographs and drawings of certain anatomical features associated with habitual activity patterns." The authors expect readers to understand that "in most cases the ties between the presence of a given morphological or pathological characteristic and a given activity are not univocal" and this is a well taken point if one should use this atlas as a preliminary tool for diagnosis. Finally, the authors expect that the atlas will be useful "as it gathers the bibliographical information, visual documentation, and descriptions of what is currently known into a single volume."

Not including the preface and introduction, the book is arranged into four major parts: I) Occupational Markers on the Bones, II) Occupational Markers on the Teeth, III) Occupational Markers on the Nails, and IV) Occupational Markers on the Hair. Section I makes up roughly 88% of the book and includes descriptions of some 130 occupational markers found in the skeleton. Unfortunately for dental anthropologists, Section II) Occupational Markers on the Teeth, only accounts for roughly 8% of the book and covers just twelve different markers. Section III comprises roughly 3% (four markers) of the book and Section IV covers only a single marker found in hair. Each MOS includes its topographic position on the skeleton, its name, synonyms, a description, stress factor(s), occupational activity (or activities), and bibliographic references. Also included with most marker descriptions are photographs and drawings. Finally, the book ends with a comprehensive listing of the literature cited.

In all, the book makes a nice reference guide to a variety of occupational stress makers. Although the book lacks a table of contents, list of figures, and index, some readers may be satisfied with the anatomical ordering of the markers and may not require these other guides. Some of the trait descriptions are lacking, but may represent all that is known of that particular marker. The book deals almost exclusively with post-cranial markers, so its interest to Dental Anthropology members may be limited. The real usefulness of the book lies in its bringing together of various markers into a single volume, its anatomical ordering of the markers for easy reference, and its extensive reference list for further research.

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