

**REVISTA  
DO  
MUSEU PAULISTA**

NOVA SÉRIE  
VOLUME X



SÃO PAULO  
1956/58

## REJOINDER

by

EMÍLIO WILLEMS

My article was not constructed, as Prof. IMBELLONI seems to believe, on "a raciological premise: that all the Sambaqui inhabitants constitute an unquestionable morphological unit, a single craniological type". Much on the contrary, on page 153 I wrote: "There is, of course, no actual support to the assumption that these skulls represent a single human type *because* they have been discovered in shell mounds. It seems only to be an act of ordinary carefulness to take into account the possibility of some geographical differentiation among the early human groups whose dead were uncovered in Sambaquis." There is nothing in the article to suggest the imputed assumption of racial unity. Averages simply cannot serve the purpose of expressing unity or homogeneity.

Furthermore, in all cases the total range of individual measurements as well as some significant facts concerning frequencies were indicated. Thus any reader is in a position to determine the degree of variability of each measurement.

I had no preconceived notions about "separateness" or lack of such with regard to the two series of skulls. By comparing them with each other I intended to find out how different or similar they were. In view of the popular stereotype of Sambaqui Man as something like a "racial type", a comparison of all existing findings might cast some light upon their possible homogeneity or heterogeneity.

The fact that certain skulls of the Museu Paulista series came from different geographical sites does not have morphological implications *per se*. In other words, Sambaqui skulls are not *necessarily* different because they came from different sites, or similar because they stem from the same site. As Prof. IMBELLONI remarked himself, LACERDA'S specimens were found "over an 1100 kilometre's coastal extension" and still "belong to a homogeneous racial type".

As I have no access to the Museu Paulista Series at the present time, I am unable to make any statement concerning alleged errors in measurements.

It is too bad that my "slackness" and "lack of skill", which I humbly admit, discouraged Prof. IMBELLONI from taking up the question of his "immaterial creatures", the Laguids and Fuegids.