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121. Note on a Special Exhibition of Ethnographical Objects from New Guinea and Indonesia Collected by Lord Moyne, P.C., D.S.O.

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The fact that Cook, who visited the island only four years after Aguëra, took down the normal Rapanui numerals also remains for discussion.

Was there still a trace of some non-Rapanui language on Easter Island in the late eighteenth century?

# New Guinea.

With Plates G and H.

Braunholtz.

**NOTE ON A SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF ETHNOGRAPHICAL OBJECTS FROM NEW GUINEA AND INDONESIA COLLECTED BY LORD MOYNE, P.C., D.S.O.** *By H. J. Braunholtz, British Museum.*

**121** By the courtesy of Lord Moyne an exhibition of the large and varied collection of ethnographical specimens formed by him on his recent expedition (1935-36) to New Guinea and Indonesia will be opened to the public from Tuesday, 26th May, for several weeks, at 10, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An interesting feature of the exhibition will be a series of about 250 photographs, including a considerable number of pygmy types, taken by Lady Broughton on the expedition.

The chief areas represented are (1) the middle and lower Sepik and Ramu Rivers, in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, (2) the almost unknown Eilanden—Bloemen River region in South-west Netherlands New Guinea, and (3) the Purari River delta in the Gulf of Papua.

The exhibition also includes specimens of the remarkable stone-bladed battle-axes from the Mount Hagen region of the interior plateau, and from the upper Ramu, similar to those published by E. W. P. Chinnery in *MAN*, 1934, 140; some ancient sepulchral pottery, containing human bones, from caves in the Trobriand Islands; two bamboo blow-guns about 18 feet in length, with feathered darts, and other objects from southern New Britain; a fishing kite from Bougainville, Solomon Islands; and various objects from the Admiralty, Nicobar and Philippine Islands and Borneo.

One of the most interesting results of Lord Moyne's expedition is the confirmation of rumours as to the existence of a hitherto unrecorded group of pygmies (negritos) inhabiting the Aiome foothills of the middle Ramu region, between Atemble (about 170 miles from the mouth of the Ramu) and Mount Hagen.

Lord Moyne states that "as they live in an uncontrolled area, we were not allowed to go to their villages; but in response to an invitation, twenty-five of them came down to trade with us on the Ramu. Twelve males whom I measured averaged 54½ inches (1·385 metres) and three females 51½ inches (1·31

metres) in height, the extremes ranging from 52 inches to 57 inches and from 50½ inches to 53 inches respectively. They were light brown in colour, about the shade of light-skinned Polynesians."

These stature figures are easily the lowest yet recorded for any pygmy group in New Guinea, and are about equal to the average of the Congo Pygmies (*e.g.*, Ituri, 54 inches (1·375 metres). The Tapiro, of the Mimika River headwaters, who had this distinction hitherto, averaged approximately 57 inches (1·449 metres), and they were so much shorter than the next smallest group at 58½ inches (1·487 metres) that H. J. T. Bijlmer in his report on the physical anthropology of New Guinea questions whether there is a pygmy 'race' in New Guinea, he and other anthropologists being inclined to regard the peoples of pygmy stature as local varieties of the variable Papuan stock.<sup>1</sup> We have therefore in these Aiome pygmies, if they may be regarded as characteristic specimens of their group, a new somatological fact of outstanding interest. Lord Moyne wishes it to be clearly understood, however, that in recording these measurements he deliberately excluded those individuals who were said to be half-castes, and who had a slightly higher stature and a much darker skin colour. Plate G, Fig. 1, shows a group of these pygmies, including some half-castes, standing beside two members of the expedition for comparison. Figs. 2 and 3 of the same plate show male and female individuals of the group.

Several complete pygmy equipments were obtained; a typical equipment is exhibited and consists of the following objects: Bow; 3 arrows with wide bamboo blades for pig, one four-pronged arrow for birds and fish, four barbed arrows for fighting, 2 plain pointed arrows; small round shield slung on left side in net bag; bone dagger, sometimes with inch-long sheath on point; bamboo louse scratcher with wallaby fur puff; belt of plaited lawyer vine and dendrobium skin (women only); neck pendant

<sup>1</sup> *Nova Guinea*. Vol. VII. Liv. IV. (Leiden 1923). "Anthropological Results of the Dutch Scientific Central New Guinea Expedition A° 1920," p. 398.

of pigs' teeth, dogs' teeth and other teeth said to be opossum, also of small white, small black and two kinds of large white coix seeds; bandolier, often on both shoulders, of reed or other tubular beads; sometimes bandolier of coix seeds ('Job's 'tears'): headdresses of bark-cloth or net, or both; garters and arm bands; pubic covering of ragged bark; pandanus leaf mat for rain; men's coils of kunda vine for fire-raising.

(1) The collection from the Sepik and Ramu Rivers includes a fine series of wood carvings and pottery vessels, and among other objects may be mentioned a ladder-post about twelve feet high surmounted by a human figure, from the Sepik, and four large, sacred 'flutes' or pipes of bamboo, also about twelve feet in length, from the lower Ramu, which formed part of a set used at initiation ceremonies.

Hitherto the only collections of any note from the Sepik in this country were those made by Mr. G. Bateson and others for the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology, and the Ramu cultures are still very poorly represented in our Museums.

(2) The group of objects from the Eilanden-Bloemen River region is chiefly remarkable for a fine series of carved and painted shields with striking designs which appear to be derived to some extent from the human form. (Plate H, Fig. 1.)

A variety of other objects, such as wooden sago dishes, flutes, drums, canoe ends, 'paddle-spears' and house posts (Plate H, Fig. 1), elaborately carved in a distinctive style, often in openwork, testifies to the artistic sense and technical capacity of their makers. Metal is still practically unknown here, and the carving has been done almost entirely with shell, stone or bone tools. This collection, together with that previously made and presented by Lord Moyne to the British Museum in 1934,<sup>2</sup> should form an adequate basis for a detailed study of the art of this

region of Netherlands New Guinea. It evidently has close affinities with that of the Lorentz River and the coast further to the west.<sup>3</sup>

Remarkable, too, are the crocodile jaw-bone daggers, one of which, ornamented with seeds and feathers, is of exceptional size. (Plate H, Fig. 2 (b)).

(3) The Purari delta is represented by a series of the carved and painted ceremonial shields called *kwoi* (similar to the *gopé* of the Fly delta), owned by initiated men and hung up in the long ceremonial houses (*ravi*). Their designs are derived mainly from human and crocodile forms.

Lord Moyne has generously offered to present these collections to the British Museum and other public museums in the country after the closing of the exhibition.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PLATES G AND H.

Plate G.—Fig. 1.—Group of pygmies from the Aiome foothills, between the Middle Ramu River and Mt. Hagen. With them are a few taller 'half-castes,' and two members of Lord Moyne's expedition.

Fig. 2.—Pygmy woman wearing nose-pins, bark belt and grass apron. Aiome.

Fig. 3.—Pygmy man wearing hair net, nose-pins, boars' tusk breast ornament, armlets, etc., and carrying leaf rain-cape. Aiome.

Plate H.—Fig. 1.—Objects collected from a deserted and ruined village on the Bloemen River, S.W. Netherlands New Guinea. The two taller posts, representing a man and woman with projections carved in openwork, were cut off the tops of poles, standing at each end of a row of uprights supporting the front platform of the largest house. The two outer poles were taken from the tops of two beams lying among the rafters of another house. They are new and had apparently never been erected. The shields, with handles behind, are cut from the solid wood; the sunk background of the design is painted white, and the pattern, which is red, is outlined by thin uncoloured ridges.

Fig. 2 (a).—Bamboo lime container, with a carved and painted wooden figure of a cockatoo enclosing a fish's head, attached by rattan binding at one end. At the other end is a detachable cap, perforated for the insertion of a notched pin, which is missing. Middle Sepik River. (Cf. O. Reche 'Der Kaiserin Augusta Fluss,' Fig. 280, ff.)

Fig. 2 (b).—Dagger of exceptional size, made from a crocodile's jaw-bone; length, 27 inches. The handle is encased in string network to which cassowary feathers and coix and other seeds are attached.

### ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE: PROCEEDINGS.

**Lelong: a film of Bali, shown in colour.** By the Marquis de la Falaise de la Coudraye. 5th May, 1936.

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This film, the first of Bali to be made in colour, is an æsthetic production of great beauty which has already received recognition in an international exhibition in Moscow. Though made

primarily for commercial purposes it embodies many details of anthropological interest, giving a record, in particular, of betrothal custom, traditional dances and mortuary rites. The script was discussed in detail and approved by the elders of the village where the film was mainly taken, and in his commentary the Marquis de la Falaise pointed out

<sup>2</sup> See: "British Museum Quarterly" Vol. VIII, 1934, p. 153.

<sup>3</sup> See: H. A. Lorentz: "Nova Guinea" Vol. VII. Liv. i. 1913.

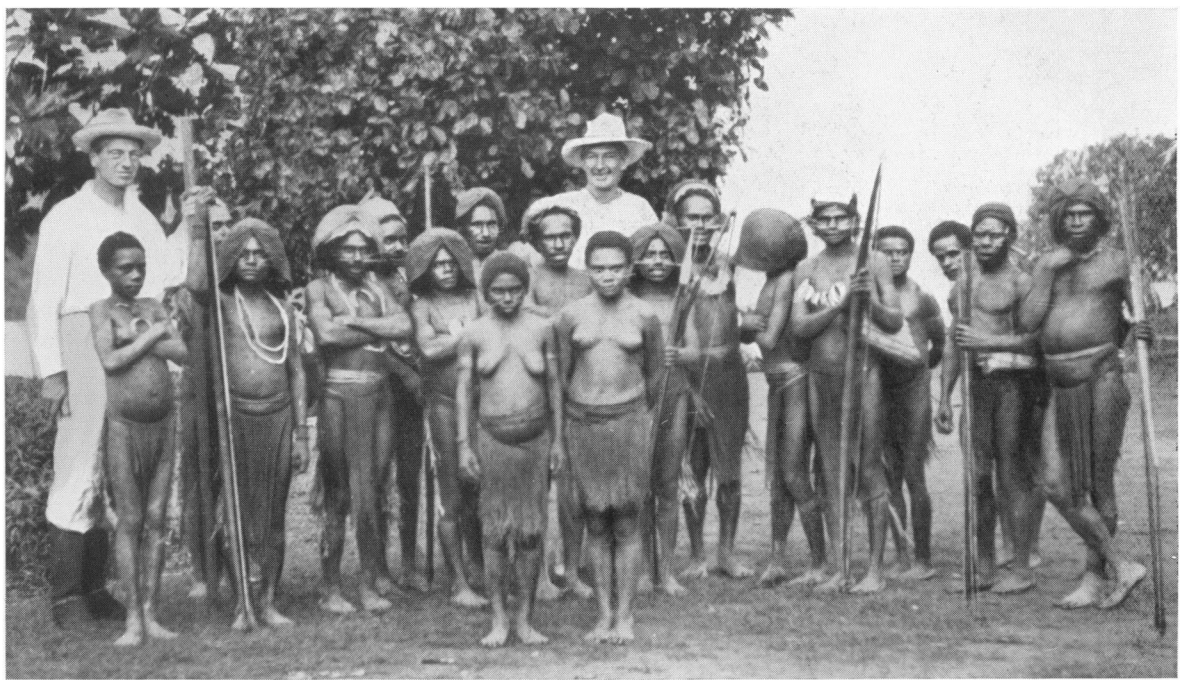


FIG. 1. GROUP OF AIOME PYGMIES, WITH A FEW TALLER HALF-CASTES, AND TWO MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION.



FIG. 2. AIOME PYGMY WOMAN, WEARING NOSE-PINS, BARK BELT, AND GRASS APRON.

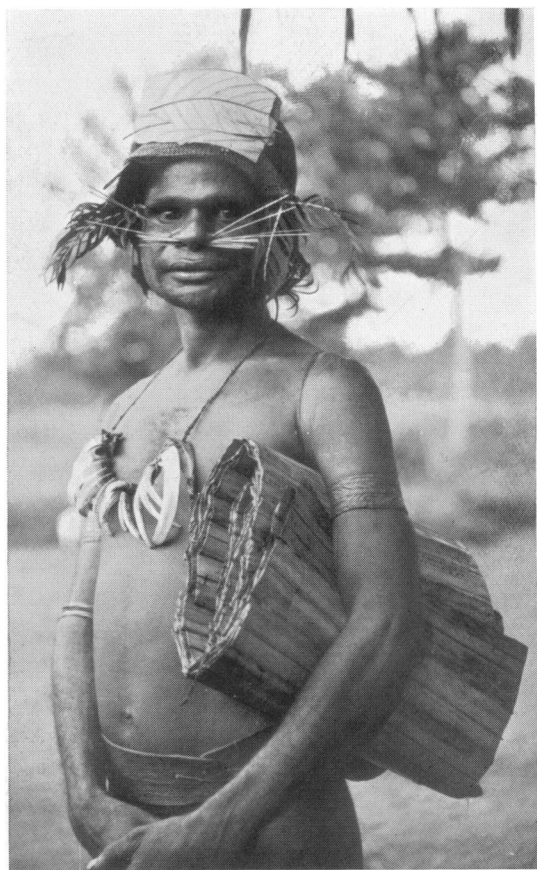


FIG. 3. AIOME PYGMY MAN, WEARING HAIR NET, NOSE PINS, BOARS' TUSK BREAST ORNAMENT, ARMLETS, AND BARK BELT, AND CARRYING A LEAF RAIN-CAPE.

**AIOME PYGMIES, RAMU RIVER, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.**

*Photos by Lady Broughton.*

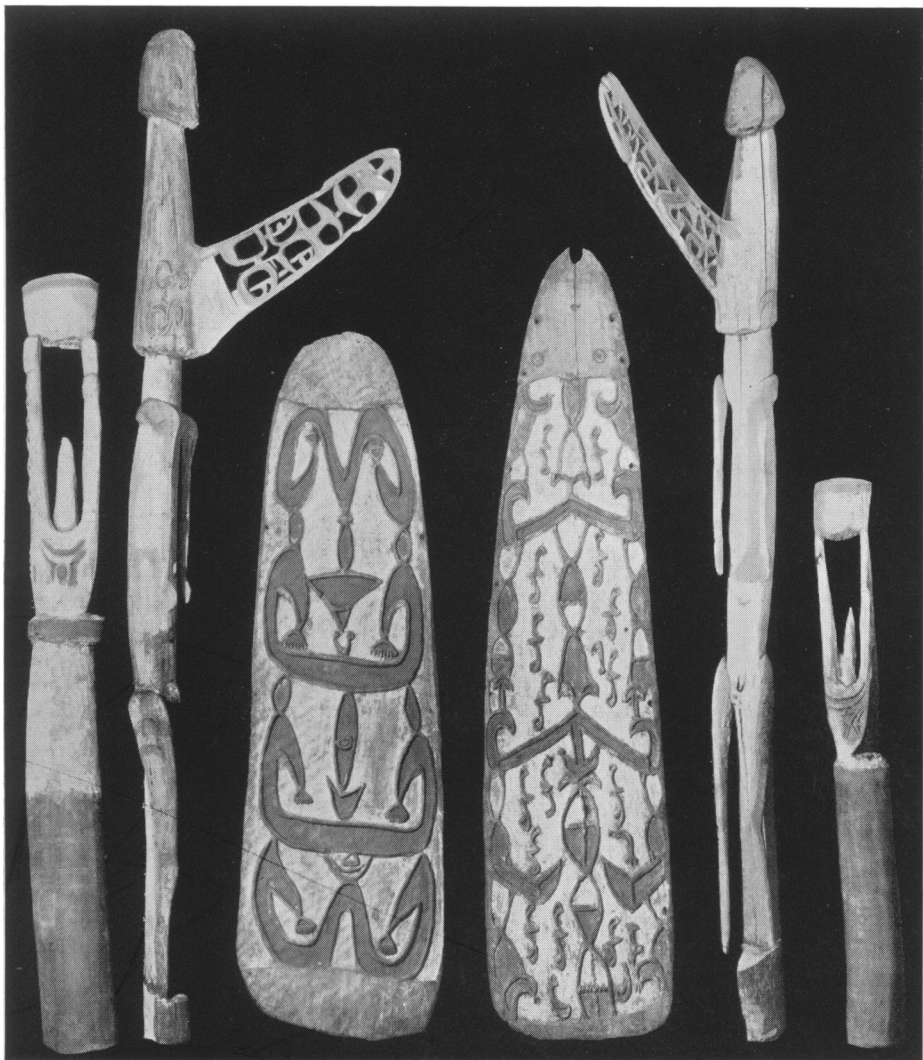


FIG. 1. WOODEN SHIELDS AND HOUSE-POSTS, BLOEMEN RIVER, NETHERLANDS NEW GUINEA.



FIG. 2. (a) BAMBOO LINE CONTAINER, WITH CARVED BIRD, SEPIK RIVER, NEW GUINEA, AND (b) CROCODILE'S JAW-BONE DAGGER, BLOEMEN RIVER, NETHERLANDS NEW GUINEA.  $\times \frac{1}{6}$ .

**OBJECTS FROM NEW GUINEA, COLLECTED BY LORD MOYNE.**