



---

73. The Textile Patterns of the Sea-Dayaks

Author(s): A. C. Haddon

Source: *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 30 (1900), pp. 72-73

Published by: [Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2842708>

Accessed: 15/06/2014 13:14

---

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

The implements are made of various rocks, including fibrolite, impure sandstone, arkose, silicified limestone, shale, andesite and chalcedony. The form, too, varies greatly; some are obviously axe heads, others adze blades, while certain cylindrical forms, with a more or less cup-shaped cutting end, were probably used to extract the pith from the sago palm. In the collection are several stones of irregular form; the former use of some of them is problematical, but they have recently been used as touchstones.

The natives have a high regard for these stone implements, which have in their eyes a sacred character, and it is very difficult to persuade their owners to part with them. In all cases fowls had to be sacrificed to appease the spirits. The implements are stored with other sacred objects, and most of them are believed to be teeth, or toe-nails, of Baling Go, the Thunder God.

### Borneo: Ethnography.

Haddon.

**72** *Houses and Family Life in Sarawak.* Abstract of a paper communicated by A. C. Haddon, Sc.D., F.R.S., to the Anthropological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Bradford, September 7th, 1900.

The series of nearly fifty lantern slides exhibited by Dr. A. C. Haddon, taken during his recent expedition to Sarawak, were selected to illustrate the type of house that is common among the settled inland tribes of Borneo, and the every-day life of the people. No attempt was made to distinguish between the various tribes, as their mode of life is very similar in its main features. The villages are all situated on or close to the banks of rivers; most of the houses are of large size, and many contain from half-a-dozen to sixty families; sometimes a village consists of a single house or of a string of houses placed endwise to each other.

A house is built on piles some 10 to 20 feet from the ground. Along the side facing the river is a wide verandah which stretches down the whole length of the house; here many domestic industries are carried on, and all the social and public business is transacted. The dwelling-rooms of each family open by a single door on to the verandah. While the common verandah affords every facility for social intercourse, the privacy of the house is thoroughly respected.

In the verandah of nearly every house is at least one trophy of the skulls of enemies, which are supposed to bring good luck and plenteous harvests; food is occasionally offered to them and a fire has to be kept burning beneath them, otherwise the skulls would be uncomfortable and bring misfortunes to the house. Various industries were illustrated by slides, such as the husking and winnowing of rice by the women. The houses are often ornamented with carvings or painting of a conventional character, the style of decoration varying according to the tribe.

### Borneo: Textiles.

Haddon.

**73** *The Textile Patterns of the Sea-Dayaks.* Communicated by A. C. Haddon, Sc.D., F.R.S., to the Anthropological Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Bradford, September 7th, 1900.

The Sea-Dayak women weave short cotton rep petticoats and cotton sleeping wraps which are covered with beautiful and often intricate patterns. The patterns are made in the following manner: the warp is stretched on a frame, the woman takes the first fifteen to thirty strands and ties them tightly with strips of leaves at irregular intervals, according to the design, which she carries in her memory. The next fifteen to thirty strands are similarly tied, and this process is repeated until all the threads have been utilised. The warp is then removed from the frame and dipped in a

reddish dye, which colours the free portions of the warp, but the tied-up portions remain undyed; thus a light pattern is left on a coloured background, when the lashing is untied. If a three-colour design is required, as is usually the case, the first lashing is retained, and various portions of the previously dyed warp are tied up; the whole is immersed in a black dye, and then both sets of lashing are untied. The pattern is thus entirely produced in the warp, the wool is self-coloured, and does not obtrude itself in the material.

There are a very large number of designs and patterns, which are remembered by the women and handed down from mother to daughter. By far the greater number of these designs are based upon animals, whereas most of the patterns carved by the men on wooden and bamboo objects are derived from plant motives. The designs embroidered by the women on jackets and loin-cloths are usually zoomorphic in character, but the treatment of the motives is quite different from the decoration of previously described fabrics.

The decorative art of the Sea-Dayaks of Sarawak differs in character from that of the Kayans, Kenyahs, and other inland tribes.

### Malay: Ethnography.

Skeat.

*Report on Cambridge Exploring Expedition to the Malay Provinces of Lower Siam.* Drawn up by W. W. Skeat, and presented to the British Association Committee on the National History and Ethnography of the Malay Peninsula. Bradford, September, 1900. Printed in full in the *Proceedings of the British Association*, 1900 (Bradford). 74

This expedition was organised to carry out a scientific survey, in which Ethnology, Zoology, Botany, and Geology should all have a share, of the little known Malay provinces of Lower Siam, and especially to extend the scope of the ethnographical collections and observations referred to in the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Antiquarian Committee to the Senate (June 6, 1899).

The party comprised Messrs. R. Evans, of Jesus College, Oxford; F. F. Laidlaw, of Trinity College, Cambridge; D. T. Gwynne-Vaughan, of Christ's College, Cambridge; R. H. Yapp, of St. John's College, Cambridge; N. Annandale, of Balliol College, Oxford, and myself.

The inhabitants of these provinces are, for the most part, Malay, but Siamese influence becomes gradually predominant to the northward, and the process of fusion between these two antagonistic elements presents some curious racial problems. But the most interesting subject for investigation in these provinces is perhaps presented by the very primitive jungle tribes of the interior, about whom much valuable information was obtained.

Yet another interesting tribe, of whom no account seems to have yet been published, is the sacred tribe of the Prâms, who claim to have come over from India, and to have established themselves in the country anterior to the coming of the Siamese or Malays. What truth there may be in their statements will (it may be hoped) now be ascertainable, as a copy of their sacred book, containing an account of their origin, was obtained by the expedition.

But the special interest of the territories traversed centres, perhaps, in the fact that they have hitherto formed a species of ethnical breakwater, but little, if at all, affected by the ideas of a higher civilisation. These ideas, however, are already taking root, and many of the manners and customs witnessed by the expedition are becoming obsolescent or are already obsolete.

It is hoped that when the results are known the present expedition will be found