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24. Notes on Rennell Island.

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Source: *Man*, Vol. 7 (1907), pp. 33-37

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2787362>

Accessed: 22-06-2016 15:40 UTC

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

New Zealand.

With Plate C.

Edge-Partington.

A New Zealand Box (Waka). *By J. Edge-Partington.*

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The box here figured was purchased by myself at the sale of Sir Charles Frederick's effects at Shawford Hall, near Winchester. I was, however, unable to obtain any information as to how it came into his possession. The fact of its having been considered "an Indian chief's coffin" perhaps explains its burial amongst other Indian "curiosities." The term feather box (*waka huia*) seems to me hardly applicable to a box of this size which, according to Hamilton (*Maori Art*, p. 422), "would be capable of holding greenstone meres or other valuable property." The measurements (3 feet by 11 inches by 10½ inches) exceed those of any known specimen; the weight is 19½ lbs. The carving on the lid differs from the ordinary type in that the two figures are both represented as males; these are cut in very high relief and are, with the exception of the ornaments on the top of the heads, identical. The eyes are inlaid with haliotis shell. The box has every appearance of great age. The underside is convex with a longitudinal ridge; the handles at the ends are formed by the heads of two figures, the bodies of which appear on the

SIDE VIEW OF BOX.

base, the eyes of one of these have been inlaid, while those of the other are in an unfinished condition, and this is the case with all the other figures on the base. With the exception of the protruding heads there is no carving on the ends. The inside of the box shows very clearly that it has been worked upon by stone tools.

J. EDGE-PARTINGTON.

Polynesia: Rennell Island.

Woodford.

Notes on Rennell Island. *By C. M. Woodford, Resident Commissioner British Solomon Islands, Local Correspondent Anthropological Institute.*

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Rennell Island is situated about 90 miles south-westward of San Cristoval, and is about 45 miles in length and not more than about six miles wide. It is about 400 feet high, almost of uniform height from end to end, as appears from the point of view of a vessel in the offing. It is composed entirely of upheaved coral and is densely wooded. The north coast is almost straight from one end to the other, but the south coast line is broken up into a succession of bays divided one from another by slightly projecting headlands.

In the largest of these bays about the centre of the island we managed to find a fair-weather anchorage, protected from the south-east in about fifteen fathoms, with a sandy bottom, situated about a quarter of a mile from shore, well within the eastern point of the bay. At all other places where we communicated with the natives the vessel stood off and on.

This island and the smaller island of Bellona, which lies about fifteen miles N.W. by W. of it, are perhaps as little known as any islands in the western Pacific. They

are sparsely inhabited and the natives have no produce to sell. For these reasons a visit to Rennell was all the more interesting, as it afforded an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with a race of people almost entirely free from previous contact with white men.

The natives are pure Polynesians, and are, doubtless, the descendants of castaways from some of the islands inhabited by Polynesians situated to the north of Santa Cruz. The distance from Santa Cruz in a direct line, which would clear the south-east end of the Solomon Group, is about 300 miles in a W.S.W. direction. During the last twenty years I have known of several canoes drifting from the Reef Islands north of Santa Cruz to the Solomons.

So little is known of these two islands that even the native names have not been ascertained, nor was I able to learn them from the natives during my visit. The Melanesian natives of San Cristoval know Rennell by the name of Totohuke, and I have mentioned elsewhere that I believe Rennell may be identified with the island known to the Sikaiana natives as Fenuanala (Fenuahala) (MAN, 1906, 103); this is, of course, a purely Polynesian name.

The natives may be said at present to have arrived at the "hoop-iron age" of civilisation, but, although I saw no stone or shell axes actually in use, they were most eager to secure a shell axe which I showed them.

We communicated with the natives in five places, and, from the anchorage, penetrated about three miles inland.

The coastline of the island is bordered for the most part by an almost precipitous coral cliff covered with a stunted and wind-swept growth of trees. In places there is a small talus of fallen coral at the foot of the cliff upon which a more flourishing growth prevails, but in some places the coast is for miles perfectly steep-to, and it is only at the heads of the bays that an occasional small sandy beach is to be found.

FIG. 1.

MAN OF RENNELL ISLAND.

In some places a few coco-nuts were noticed growing near the sea. Upon examination they were found to bear nuts of a large size, but apparently few were allowed to arrive at maturity. At the place where we landed, having surmounted the coastal coral precipice, we descended again, almost to sea level, into what must have been the central lagoon of the reef before its upheaval.

FIG. 2.

MAN OF RENNELL ISLAND (BACK VIEW).

FIG. 3.

WOMAN OF RENNELL ISLAND.

Some gardens were noticed in the bed of this ancient lagoon in which a few inferior yams, taro, papaws, morinda citrifolia, and a few areca palms were cultivated.

The most depressed parts of the ancient lagoon, where the vegetable humus washed away from the higher ground had collected, had evidently been selected for these garden sites, but in one or two places patches of a reddish clay were noticed

which looked as if it were of volcanic origin. The coral substratum was, of course, too porous for water to stand in the bed of the lagoon, but all along the coast, wherever we landed, springs of water were noticed coming out of the rocks at and below sea level.

We were not fortunate enough to reach any native settlement and, consequently, the only communication held with the natives was with fishing parties off the beach.

They chew the nut of the areca palm with lime in the usual way but apparently without the betel pepper, so that their teeth are not stained. It would seem, therefore, that the betel pepper does not occur on Rennell.

The men wear the hair long, about 12 inches, and frequently bind it with a fillet of bark cloth stained yellow with turmeric; the women wear it short. In this custom both sexes follow the fashion of the natives of Lord Howe's group and Stewart Island. They wear necklaces and ornaments made of the teeth of the flying fox and of the

vertebræ of fish. The clothing of both sexes consists of a broad band of folded bark cloth, frequently stained a bright yellow with turmeric; the cloth passes round the loins and between the legs, and the end is tucked in at the waist. Stuck in it they carry their adzes and other small articles. With the women it appears to be in imminent danger of falling off.

They use spears about 8 feet long tipped with bone, but not barbed, and I secured two small clubs of unusual form, a lime box of coco-nut shell with curiously carved stopper, two lime spatulas, a wooden head rest, several fishing nets, some finely plaited mats and bags, necklaces of fox teeth, and a hoop-iron adze, &c.

I was unable to find out whether they are acquainted with the cross weaving loom. I should suspect so, but I saw no woven mats during my visit.

The dead appear to be interred.

They do not understand the use of tobacco, but are most eager for anything in the way of knives, axes, fish-hooks, or even nails, in fact metal of any kind.

In one place, where we met a fishing party on the beach, an old lady of most respectable appearance was detected in the

act of walking off with one of the iron rowlocks of our boat. The crutch of the rowlock was carefully palmed beneath a biscuit which had been given her, the shank hidden by her wrist. Simultaneously a most innocent-looking boy of about twelve years of age, accidentally of course, dropped another overboard into 2 feet of water, but fortunately it was noticed in time.

One can afford to pardon these poor people for such attempts when it is taken into consideration that a piece of iron in their estimation represents more to them than ten times its weight in gold would to us.

During the expedition into the interior of the island I noticed a tree which had been cut down to make a small canoe. The operation had evidently been effected

FIG. 4.—METHOD OF FELLING TREES.

with a hoop-iron adze, and it must have been a laborious task; the trunk was from 15 to 18 inches in diameter. I presume the same course was followed when stone or shell adzes were in use and, as I am not aware that any one has ever described or illustrated the method of procedure, I append a sketch showing the method of felling.

All I was able to procure in the way of language was the following:—

Numerals.—1, tasi; 2, gua; 3, tolu; 4, va; 5, lima; 6, ono; 7, vitu; 8, walu; 9, sivo; 10, katoa. Eye, mata; ship, vaka; mouth, gutu; tooth, niho; nose, isu; ear, tagina; hand, tonu; foot, tapuna; wood, gau.

Even these few words will serve to show the Polynesian origin of the Rennell islanders.

C. M. WOODFORD.

Archæology.

Sturge.

Thin Arrowheads. By W. Allen Sturge.

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In connection with the arrowhead found at Cannington Park Camp, near Bridgwater, Somerset, and figured in MAN, 1906, 96, it may be of interest to record the fact that in my collection is an arrowhead which in shape, size, and thinness corresponds almost exactly with this piece. The type with the ogee outline is not common, but I have specimens of this very special type from Gloucestershire, Derbyshire, and the Yorkshire Wolds. The arrowhead I am comparing with that recorded by Mr. St. George Gray is one of five which were found in two of the stone cists in Ringham Low, Derbyshire, explored by the late Mr. Thomas Bateman in 1885, and recorded in *Ten Years' Diggings*, p. 95.

Another of these five arrowheads is of the same shape but considerably larger, being perhaps the finest specimen of the variety ever found. It measures $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length by 1 inch in breadth at its widest part. It is extremely thin and weighs only 42 grains.

Two others of the five arrowheads are equally large and equally thin, and of the finest possible workmanship; but they are more definitely kite-shaped and do not present the ogee outline. The fifth is smaller and resembles the two first described, except that the outline going up to the point is straight instead of incurved.

Mr. Gray may, I think, take it as certain that all arrowheads of this particular variety were pointed at the lower end. There are certain types with the ogee outline which have rounded bases, but none of these types are quite comparable with the particular type in question.

W. ALLEN STURGE.

Wales: Archæology.

Lewis.

Notes on some Rude Stone Monuments in Glamorganshire.

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By A. L. Lewis, F.C.A.

About six miles west from Cardiff, on a farm called Tinkinswood, which is in a lane between St. Nicholas village and Duffryn House, there have been several cromlechs or dolmens. The largest of these is in a little wood near the farmhouse, and is the only one of which any particular notice seems to have been taken. It has been described under the name of the St. Nicholas cromlech by the Rev. E. L. Barnwell in the *Journal* of the Royal Archæological Institute about twenty years ago, and in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary*, where it is stated to be composed of "large flat stones nearly 6 feet in height, enclosing an area of 17 feet in length by 13 feet in breadth, upon which rests a table 24 feet long and varying in breadth from 17 feet to 10 feet." Mr. Barnwell said the chamber "is 19 feet long and hardly 11 feet broad, but, as upon one side of the chamber all the stones have been removed, it is not easy to decide where the line should be drawn." Since his visit to it the chamber has been partly filled with earth, which makes it still more difficult to