44. Beschreibender Catalog der Ethnographischen Sammlung Ludwig Biro-s aus Deutsch-New-Guinea (Berlinhafen)

Author(s): Henry Balfour

Source: *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 30 (1900), p. 36

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2842679>

Accessed: 16/06/2014 17:34

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>

writing and worth publishing, it is worth an index, otherwise the facts recorded are virtually lost, unless each reader makes his own index or analysis. It is certainly unworthy of a scientific society to issue such a book.

N. W. T.

New Guinea.

Biró.

44 *Beschreibender Catalog der Ethnographischen Sammlung Ludwig Biró-s aus Deutsch-New-Guinea (Berlinhafen).* Published by the Hungarian National Museum, Budapest, 1899. 4to. With plates. Presented by the Author.

The authorities of the Hungarian National Museum at Budapest have made an excellent start in the series of descriptive catalogues of the ethnographical collections under their charge, and, if all subsequent publications of the series come up to the level of the first issue, a work of great importance and utility will have been offered to ethnologists, and one which should prove of much assistance in the proper classification of material in museums and private collections. The first instalment deals with the fine ethnographical collection made by Herr Ludwig Biró in German New Guinea (Berlinhafen), a collection which has evidently been made with considerable care, both in the selection of specimens and in the recording of detailed information regarding their use, varieties, their native names in different localities, and so forth. The text is bilingual, being printed in Hungarian and German in parallel columns, a useful feature, considering how few of those interested in the subject are acquainted with the former language. The illustrations are numerous and good, and, even in the absence of a regular index, it is easy to find a reference to any particular object or class of objects, as the text is conveniently divided into sections and sub-sections under appropriate headings. The clothing and personal ornaments are described in detail, and in some instances a very full account is given, with illustrations, of the process of their manufacture, as, for instance, in the case of the making of shell armlets by means of the cylindrical drill of bamboo, which is weighted with a stone, and is rotated upon the block of *tridacna* shell until a central core is cut right out, the end of the bamboo being kept from slipping by means of an ingenious binding of creeper wound round the shell-block, while the friction is augmented with moistened sand-grit. This interesting progress has been described both by von Luschan and Parkinson, but fresh details are given here.

Domestic utensils and tools are treated of in similar detail, and following these are sections devoted to religion, magic, dance, etc.

Lastly, the various forms of weapons—cassowary-bone daggers, bows and arrows, lances, and fish-spears—are described minutely, and particular attention is paid to the ornamentation upon the different portions of arrows, which is carefully studied and analysed, so as to demonstrate the different *motifs*, their derivatives, combinations, and so forth, in a classification by morphological affinities.

References to literature are given freely. A small map of the region specially dealt with would have been a useful addition, and would have added to the value of the publication, which may be accepted as a very serviceable treatise upon the ethnography of the Berlinhafen district, as illustrated by the collection made by a careful and painstaking observer. Such non-portable objects of use as dwellings, canoes and others, whose size was such as to prevent their being collected and sent to the museum, are not dealt with, but it is to be hoped that these may also receive attention, and be described in a detailed manner, in the same way as the objects actually forming the collection itself.

HENRY BALFOUR.