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90. Stone-Headed Clubs from Malaita, Solomon Islands.

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Solomon Islands.

Edge-Partington.

Stone-headed Clubs from Malaita, Solomon Islands. By J. **90**
Edge-Partington.

Baron von Hügel's note in MAN (1908, 16) on the stone-headed clubs of Malaita has opened up one of the most interesting subjects connected with the history of the Solomon Islands. Baron von Hügel is in error, I think, in supposing that the two clubs he illustrates come from different islands, and also that this form of club was used only by persons of rank, or that they were made in small numbers; nor do I consider that they were survivals of an earlier type.

FIG. 1.

In order to give my reason for thinking so it will be necessary to recapitulate what has already been published on this subject. To Lord Amherst of Hackney and Mr. Basil Thomson we owe a debt of gratitude for their labours in translating the various Spanish manuscripts which form the subject matter of their work entitled *The Discovery of the Solomon Islands by Alvaro de Mendaña in 1568*, published by the Hakluyt Society in 1901. From this we learn that to these clubs the islands themselves owe their name, as the editors point out in their introduction that "doubtless" these stone clubs were partly responsible "for the wild stories of gold in the islands that were current in Peru for many years afterwards, if not for the suggestive name of 'Islas de Salomon' itself," to the end, as Guppy (*The Solomon Islands*, p. 247) puts it, that "the Spaniards supposing them to be the islands whence Solomon obtained his gold for the temple at Jerusalem, might be induced to go and inhabit them. Thus the name of the new discovery was itself a pious fraud."

In spite of the fact that these clubs are now extremely rare, a fact borne out by Guppy, who remarks (p. 74) that no weapons of the character of maces came under his observation, yet they must at one time have been extremely common in the island of Malaita, and not confined only to persons of rank as suggested by Baron von Hügel, for, to quote again from the

Hakluyt volume "most of the inhabitants seemed to have been armed with clubs, "with stone heads covered with plaited grass." One of these had been seen at the east end of the Guadalcanar, and the fact that they are mentioned in most of the manuscripts testifies to the profound impression that they made upon the Spaniards, who judged them from their weight to be of gold. The soldiers carried on a brisk trade by bartering caps for them, until detected by Henriquez, who, to check them, dispelled the pleasant fallacy by hammering two of them together until they broke, though the metallic appearance of the fracture seems to have

left some of the Spaniards unconvinced. On p. 45 (Gallego's narrative), "We found in this island (Malayta) knobs of the size of oranges of a metal that appeared to be gold, below which metal was pearl shell. They have them fixed upon a stick to fight with when they come to close quarters; most of them carry them."

Then on p. 182 (Mendana's narrative), "We found in these islands some clubs, seemingly of metal covered with woven palm; they are very heavy and are used in warfare." In a footnote the editors say that the stone is of a very hard and heavy volcanic formation, containing specks of pyrites, which in the inflamed imagination of Gallego and his companions "became gold." Mr. Woodford furnishes the following:—"That in this part of Malaita and nowhere else in the Solomons, except Rennell Island, are made small bâton-like clubs about 18 inches long, which are said to be used for giving the *coup-de-grâce* to wounded prisoners." In the Brisbane Museum there is a star-shaped stone-headed club labelled as coming from Rennell Island (*The Ethnographical Album*, III., plate 34, No. 7). I think, however, that before this can be accepted as a true locality further evidence is necessary. Mr. Woodford has informed me that "the part of Malaita" where the clubs are made is the neighbourhood of Royalist Harbour.

The clubs which I figure (Nos. 1 and 2) are now in my collection, and come from the same source as those in the Cambridge Museum, and in each case Nos. 1 have been already published on the plate facing p. xl in the Hakluyt volume referred to. I also illustrate the British Museum specimen quoted by Baron von Hügel. Amongst my papers I have a record of a further specimen, but do not know in whose possession it is: it differs from any of the others in having a bifurcated handle. Both in this specimen and in two of those figured in *The Ethnographical Album*, III., plate 34, there is a cord attached to, or near to, the business end. This is evidently not a wrist cord in the ordinary sense, but a loop for passing over the arm in order to leave the hand free for other weapons, either of offence or defence. Of the specimens figured in the album, Fig. 1 is in the Macleay Museum of Sydney University; Fig. 2 was, when I drew it, in the possession of the Rev. George Brown, of Sydney; and Fig. 3 is in the Australian Museum, Sydney.

The Rev. Walter Ivens, of the Melanesian Mission, resident in Ulawa, gives me the following as the native name of these clubs:—*Ware-i-hau* or *Ware-ni-hau* (Hau = stone—i, or ni, the genitive).

FIG. 2.

J. EDGE-PARTINGTON.

Solomon Islands.

Woodford.

Note on Stone-headed Clubs from Malaita, Solomon Islands.
By C. M. Woodford, Local Correspondent of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

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With reference to the Article No. 16 by Baron Anatole von Hügel, which appeared in MAN for March, 1908, upon the subject of the so-called chief's maces from the Solomon Islands, the Baron appears to have overlooked the description and illustration of these clubs given in *The Discovery of the Solomon Islands* (London: Hakluyt Society, 1901).