57. On Carved Doorposts from the West Coast of Africa.

Author(s): O. M. Dalton

Source: *Man*, Vol. 1 (1901), p. 69

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

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2839362>

Accessed: 19/01/2015 23:05

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At a recent sale the most obvious forgeries from New Guinea were offered and eagerly bought. I had occasion a short time ago to write to Mr. Hedley, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, for information as to feathered arrows from the New Hebrides. In his reply, Mr. Hedley says:—"We found out the locality for those feathered arrows. I am told that you collectors have created such a demand that they are being made for trade already." I hope this may be a note of warning to many collectors.

J. EDGE-PARTINGTON.

W. Africa.

On Carved Doorposts from the West Coast of Africa. By O. M. Dalton, M.A., F.S.A. **57**

The appended photograph represents two modern doorposts obtained by Mr. F. Rohrweger, C.M.G., in the interior to the north of Lagos, the precise locality not having been ascertained up to the time of writing. The carving is in the style characteristic of this part of Africa, and offers several points of ethnographical interest. The design consists in each case of three tiers of human figures separated from each other by discs, the whole being cut from the solid block. In Fig. A all the figures but one have the same tribal cicatrices upon their faces, three vertical marks on the forehead, and three horizontal on the cheeks. The one exception is the prisoner in the middle tier, who has no marks on the forehead, while those on his cheeks are vertical instead of horizontal. This difference of marking suggests that the prisoner is of a different tribe to his captor, and recalls similar differences in such of the Benin bronzes as represent incidents of capture. In Fig. B (though the photograph unfortunately does not show it), the marks on the cheeks are both horizontal and vertical, with the exception of those of the lowest figure, which resemble those of Fig. A. The object carried by this figure, as also by the man in the bottom tier of Fig. A, is a drum suspended from the shoulder; in the middle and upper tiers of Fig. A, two of the men carry guns. These doorposts are now in the British Museum.

O. M. DALTON.