



Icebound on Kolguev by Aubyn Trevor-Battye

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I. "The material of which patterns are made"; which treats of Transference and Transformation as illustrated in Skenomorphs, Biomorphs, &c., the subject being made admirably clear by well-chosen examples drawn from the art of cultured and "savage" peoples, and supported by a constant succession of explanatory woodcuts. II. "The reasons for which objects are decorated"; viz., Art, Information, Wealth, Magic and Religion, in the elucidation of which the widespread affinities obtaining between the thoughts of the human mind, and the works of the human hand, are given their due prominence. In this section, amongst other examples too numerous to mention, the student is given a summary of the evolution of the phonetic alphabet from the pictograph, the history of the fylfot, and many concise and valuable remarks on totemism, symbolism and other kindred subjects which link art and psychology together.

The conclusion of the book is occupied with a discussion of the advantages accruing from the scientific method, and with advice to those who may devote themselves to it; the deduction to be drawn from the whole matter being that, like the design which it studies, the critical faculty cannot be turned out ready-made, but must itself be slowly evolved by a patient and laborious process. Professor Haddon in corroboration of his theory, has confirmed his own results by examples of similar work done by other investigators, amongst whom may be specially mentioned Messrs. Cushing, Holmes, Goodyear, Goblet, d'Alviella, H. Colley March, Read, Von den Steinen, and Stolpe. In addition to the numerous cuts inserted in the text, there are eight plates at the end of the book, as well as an index. Not very long ago Professor Petrie, was taken to task by a certain journalistic critic for stating at Ipswich that "the theory of art has been grounded more assuredly by anthropological research than by all the speculations that have been spun." Professor Haddon's small book, which is accessible to all, will have done more than anything else to explain and to justify Professor Petrie's contention.

"Icebound on Kolguev." By Aubyn Trevor-Battye. (Archibald Constable and Co.) 1895. In these pages Mr. Trevor-Battye tells the story of his partly involuntary residence on the Island of Kolguev. Quite apart from the interest which it has for ornithologists and geographers, this book is important as giving an account of home life among the Samoyeds, with descriptions of their sledges, reindeer teams, of their method of driving geese, of their weapons used in the chase,—the drift-wood bow, and the "parlka," or short missile club studded with nails,—and of the migratory existence in tent and "choom." The author bears strong testimony to the amiability and intelligence of the Samoyeds, considering that they have hitherto been placed too low in the human scale. Facsimiles of drawings made by Onaska of Kolguev are given: from these, as well as from numerous traits of character and habit, it would certainly seem that the people of the tundras have

often been misjudged. Like many other primitive peoples the Samoyeds manage to combine paganism with Christianity, and their "bolvans" or little wooden idols are under their clothes, while they stand before the ikons. After a death, a broken sledge with a spoon is deposited upon the Sacred Hill of Núm: in former times the corpse was exposed upon the tundra. Altogether the Samoyeds appear to form happy and friendly communities, while a considerable indulgence in raw flesh in no way impairs the sweetness of their disposition. This handsome volume, written throughout in an easy, unpretentious style, is rendered still more valuable by some beautiful illustrations by Mr. J. T. Nettleship and Mr. Whymper, as well as by numerous reproductions of photographs and sketches taken by the author on the spot. At the end of the book is a list of birds, an index, and coloured maps.

"A Perambulation of the Antient and Royal Forest of Dartmoor, &c." By the late Samuel Rowe, M.A. 3rd edition, revised and corrected by J. Brooking Rowe, F.S.A., F.L.S. Illustrated from drawings by F. J. Widgery. (Gibbings and Co., Ltd., London.) pp. 516. 8vo. 1896. This fair and portly volume is a new edition of a book of which the first and second editions, published in 1848 and 1856, have become scarce. The Editor, who is the grandson or nephew of the original author, while disagreeing with many of the opinions expressed in the previous editions, has very properly not felt inclined to suppress them, but has preferred to state the other side to the questions at issue, and by this means, and by the addition of the latest information obtained on a variety of points by the efforts of the numerous local observers and others, and by the further addition of fresh matter generally, has swelled the volume to about three times the size of its predecessors. In addition to the pages devoted to the "Perambulation," or detailed description of Dartmoor, the book contains chapters on its early inhabitants, monumental relics (so interesting to the anthropologist), geology, petrology, mineralogy, soil, agriculture, minings, prisons, historical documents, fauna, flora, churches, literature, and many other matters, the index to which occupies 16 pages. It is illustrated by 25 full page plates, several vignettes and woodcuts, and five large and useful maps. If as the Editor says in his preface, no guide to Dartmoor has ever been found so useful as the first edition of this work, it will assuredly be at least another half century before another book will appear which will supersede the new edition.

"The Badminton Library: Dancing." By Mrs. Lilly Grove, F.R.G.S., and other writers. (Longmans), 1895. Mrs. Grove, to whom we owe some seven-eighths of this book, has endeavoured to compress within the narrow limits of a single volume a mass of information illustrating the dances of various peoples in all centuries, and in almost all the quarters of the inhabited world. The dance is traced from its ritual origin to its present modern developments, and the book is throughout liberally provided with