81. Native Ornaments from the Solomon Islands, Recently Presented to the British Museum by Mr. C. M. Woodford.

Author(s): J. Edge-Partington and C. M. Woodford

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nimistic "Sun-worship" in Norway. "As a child I lived" (he says) "in the parish of Vang, in Valdres, Norway. The parish is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains so high that the sun disappears for several weeks in the winter. The first day when it is seen again (I was told) old people used to fill a spoon with butter and place it in the window, in order that the sun might 'eat' it." Can any of your readers throw further light on this interesting Norwegian practice? W. W. SKEAT.

Pacific. Edge-Partington.

An Object of Unknown Use and Locality. By J. Edge-Partington.

The subject of this note was obtained several years ago on the island of 80
Rotumah by Mr. W. L. Allardyce. He could obtain no information as to its use. It is made from a flat piece of highly-polished wood of a beautiful grain and of a deep brown-red colour. The outer edge is sharp as if for marking or cutting, while the inner edge is squared; the narrow end has a groove on both sides into which native white shell beads have been fixed by black cement, of these beads only one now remains; from the upper edge there is an oblong projection with a perforation as if for suspension. My object in sending in a drawing of this object is, in the first place, to try and find out its true locality, for I doubt it being of Rotuman origin; and, secondly, its use. Perhaps some of our many readers will be able to furnish me with some information. J. E.-P.

Pacific: Solomon Islands. Woodford: Edge-Partington.

Native Ornaments from the Solomon Islands, recently presented to the British Museum by Mr. C. M. Woodford. Contributed by J. Edge-Partington. 81

Since Mr. Woodford was appointed British Commissioner of the Solomon Islands he has been a regular contributor to our national collections. From his last gift I have selected the following as being of particular interest:—

No. 1 is an armlet from the island of New Georgia; it is made from a small Pridaena shell of a dirty brown colour, probably so from age, the native name of which

is "Bareke," this represents so much money, and is worth three or four *bakchas*. Unfortunately Mr. Woodford does not say what particular form a *bakeha* takes.

No. 2 is a fragment of a native armlet of volcanic stone, discovered by Mr. Woodford on the site of an old village in the island of Gizo, while clearing the ground for a Government station. It was found at the height of 100 feet above the sea, but shows signs of having been at some time under water, as it is encrusted with what is apparently a growth of coral. An old native to whom he showed it said that it was a kind of armlet that used formerly to be made upon the island of Kulambangara, near to Gizo.

The above descriptions are from notes supplied by Mr. Woodford with the specimens.
J. EDGE-PARTINGTON.

Africa : Rhodesia.

White.

On the Khami Ruins, Rhodesia. By Franklin White. Abstract of a paper read before the Rhodesia Scientific Association.

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The Khami ruins are situated about twelve miles west of Bulowayo, and close to the river of the same name. Their builders took advantage of the knolls of granite which are characteristic of the neighbourhood, and the artificial defences are adapted in all cases to strengthen the natural fortresses which they provide. The walls are built of fairly regular blocks of granite, varying from seven to eleven inches in length, and three to five inches in thickness, set for the most part end-on into the wall; the centre of the wall behind them being filled up more or less loosely with fragments. The walls are laid dry without cement, and when carried to any considerable height, they are stepped back at every six or eight feet. The blocks usually break joint well, but departures from this rule are common. The builders were somewhat indifferent to the straightness of their lines, and allowed their walls to turn aside to avoid boulders, or take advantage of them. Cross walls are built butting against the side walls, not built into them. For greater strength the walls are built thicker in the neighbourhood of doorways, which in the main walls are, apparently, very few in number.

The space within the enclosures is usually filled in to the level of the top of the walls; but it is possible that this filling is due to more recent occupants. This idea is supported by the existence to the north of the main ruin of a wall, which must have been five or six feet high, with a gate or doorway in it.

The ornamentation of the walls is confined to the "herring bone" and chequer pattern, and to the introduction of courses of a darker coloured rock; as at Zimbabwe and similar sites, the ornaments are introduced without system, and begin and end off abruptly. The ornamented walls face any point of the compass, but generally towards the west, the eastern walls being, as a rule, of insignificant size, as they are nearly all at the top of the precipitous river bank.

There are four principal ruins, of which, however, one only has been at all fully examined by Mr. White and his party, besides other fortified knolls further to the northward.

The heaps of *débris* round the ruins show abundant signs of human occupation—pottery (showing some twenty-four different patterns, painted in red and black), bones, brass wire work, gold beads, fragments of crucibles, implements for drawing wire, and even stone and iron implements, occurring in layers of ashes several feet in thickness. In one place the wall of the central platform itself appears to rest on a layer of ashes, with bones and broken pottery of earlier date. Chips of flint, quartzite, and chalcedony are abundant; and stone arrow heads and scrapers, as well as other worked stones, are occasionally found.

Another interesting feature is the presence of fairly numerous circles or walls of burnt clay, fifteen to forty feet in diameter, generally raised on a platform, also of burnt clay, coating a ring or layer of laid stones. In one instance the clay walls are still