39. A Carved Stool and Other Objects from British East Africa.

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

East Africa.

With Plate D.

Sharpe.

A Carved Stool and other objects from British East Africa. Communicated by Alfred Sharpe, C.B., Assistant Commissioner of Uganda.

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The three objects described below were obtained by Mr. Alfred Sharpe, C.B., Assistant Commissioner of Uganda, were exhibited on his behalf at a meeting of the Anthropological Institute on November 27th, 1900; and have been presented by him to the British Museum. The following brief account of them is compiled from the objects themselves, and from memoranda supplied by Mr. Sharpe:—

No. 1 is a stool of soft white wood, artificially blackened on the surface. It is 25 inches high, and consists of a squatting female figure resting on a plain, solid, circular pedestal, and supporting with upraised arms a plain circular seat, the upper surface of which is slightly concave. The female figure is remarkable for the elaborate representation of prominent cheloid ornaments on the flanks and abdomen, and for the peculiar treatment of the hair, which is well shown in side and back view. (*Plate D.*)

The stool comes from the district immediately west of the Luapula or Lualaba river, immediately after its exit, towards the north, from Lake Mweru. The natives there constantly make these stools, of different sizes and patterns. Mr. Sharpe adds that he has seen some beautifully carved ones at the trading station of the African Lakes Corporation at the north-east corner of Lake Mweru.

No. 2 is a double gong, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, of peculiar form, hammered together out of two thick sheets of soft iron. It has no clapper, and was, apparently, intended to be struck from without. It comes from the town of Kazembe, just south of Lake Mweru. Kazembe's is one of the oldest known "dynasties" in the southern half of Central Africa. Dr. Livingstone, when at Kazembe's, traced back a number of generations of "Kazembes," each succeeding chief being called by the same name. A Kazembe was in full swing at the time of Lacerda's journey in 1797 (*see* Burton's *Land of the Cazembes*, p. 4); and when there in 1890, 1892, and 1899 Mr. Sharpe saw abandoned sites of several old towns of the Kazembe's. Kazembe, the present chief, told Mr. Sharpe that his ancestors came from *Mwata Yamvo*, on the Kasai. Many of the customs at Kazembe's are more similar to those of the west of Africa than to those of the eastern half of the continent. The natives say that these bells are not made now, and that they are very old. Mr. Sharpe saw two or three of them.

No. 3 is a perforated stone object like the head of a hammer or mace. It is $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 3 inches broad, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. This object comes from the "Mambwe" country, which lies near the south end of Lake Tanganyika, 2,000 feet above the lake, and 5,000 above sea level. The natives find these objects in the ground, but do not know their origin, and call them *miala ya mlunga*, i.e., "Stones of God," meaning "supernatural stones." They are sometimes round, instead of oval, and sometimes larger, sometimes smaller, than this example. Similar stones were found by Theodore Bent at Zimbabwe, and there are similar stones in the Gizeh Museum at Cairo, which were taken from Egyptian tombs of early date. Mr. Sharpe knows of no other localities in Africa, except those mentioned above, where these stones are found.

Egypt: Prehistoric.

Randall-MacIver.

A Prehistoric Cemetery at El Amrah in Egypt: Preliminary Report of Excavations By D. Randall-MacIver, M.A., Laycock Student of Egyptology at Worcester College, Oxford.

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The village of El Amrah lies about six miles to the south of the famous site of Abydos, where Professor Flinders Petrie has for the past two seasons been engaged in

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