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80. Maori Necklace and Pendants of Human and Imitation Teeth

Author(s): H. D. Skinner

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ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

With Plate I-J.

Nigeria, Southern Provinces.

Talbot.

Note on Ibo Houses. By P. Amaury Talbot.

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Among Ibos the decorative sense seems both more general and more highly developed than with any other West or Central African people as yet known to us. True, Ibo buildings are far from approaching either in skill or beauty the cone-shaped houses of Musgum, on the Logone River, in French Central Africa, the domes of which are marvels of architectural skill; nor the elaborate mural decorations of some of the high-walled buildings of Gabai Fika or Kano, in the Northern Provinces of Nigeria. The walls of the low rectangular Ibo houses are usually ornamented either by means of patterns cut out from the soft clay by a multitude of gay-coloured plates diversified by the square bottoms or rounded tops of dark green bottle glass fixed into the surface, as is most general among the Isokpo; by elaborate designs made with cowries; or a fine mosaic formed from fragments of white pottery, as is most usual among Okkpaw towns. This last forms a particularly beautiful colour scheme on old houses, when the yellow walls are partly coated with a film of sun-kissed moss, vivid green in tone, from which the white pattern stands out with striking clearness and effect.

The mural decoration, as well as the mudding of the walls, is the work of women; while the men raise the framework, make the roof, and provide the doors. These latter are cut from out a section of tree trunk and are often elaborately carved. The Sobo of Osua-Konike, on the Niger, also affect carved doors, but these are usually made, not in one piece as among Ibo, but in three longitudinal planks, joined by bronze or iron clamps. About the middle of the central panel a handle protrudes, not fastened on as with Ibos, but cut from the solid.

P. AMAURY TALBOT.

Ethnography. Skinner.

Maori Necklace and Pendants of Human and Imitation Teeth. By H. D. Skinner. 80

The necklace and pendants figured form an unique collection in the Maori section of the Ethnographical Department of the British Museum. In no New Zealand collection, and in none of the English museums visited by the writer, are there any other examples in which the string or lace of phormium fibre has been preserved.

The large central specimen is a necklace, while the four outer ones were probably intended to be ear-pendants. The two upper

MAORI NECKLACE OF HUMAN TEETH.—PENDANTS OF HUMAN TEETH.—PENDANTS OF ARTIFICIAL HUMAN TEETH.

ear-pendants are composed of nine and eight single-fang teeth, each tooth having a hole bored through the fang. The two lower pendants are each composed of four imitation incisor teeth cut from the central whorl of some large shell. The necklace is composed of twenty-three single-fanged teeth and two double-fanged. No locality is stated for any of the specimens.

In the collection of Dr. J. Simcox is a necklace of upwards of ninety single-fanged human teeth, without the string, found with a skeleton at Purakanui Beach, near Dunedin. A similar necklace was found on the adjoining Kai-kai beach, and odd single specimens occur in several collections from that neighbourhood. They are found also about Tasman Bay and other parts of New Zealand.

Imitation incisors in shell are not uncommon in the Otago district. There is a necklace of them in the White collection, figured in Hamilton's "Maori Art." The writer found four together at Purakanui and the same number together at Murdering Beach. They are also represented in the Lukin's collection from Tasman Bay. The writer found one at the Wellington Heads and another at the mouth of the Waingongoro stream, in South Taranaki.

It would be interesting to map out the geographical distribution of necklaces of human teeth in the Pacific. I believe that where they occur in Polynesia they are an indication of Melanesian influence. It is significant that none have been recorded among the Mori-ori, who may be looked on as very pure, perhaps the purest, Polynesians. I believe that no examples are recorded from Easter Island.

Shell teeth are confined to New Zealand, where they appear to be pretty generally distributed. In the south occur imitation shell adzes about the same size as the teeth, which doubtless suggested the idea of the imitation adze. H. D. SKINNER.

Kordofan : Ethnography.

Seligman.

A Simple Form of Reaping Knife from Northern Kordofan. By **81**
Professor Seligman, M.D.

Among the simple agricultural tools used by the sedentary Arabs of Northern Kordofan is the knife—it can hardly be called a sickle—with which they reap the dura. Two specimens of this implement are shown in Fig. 1. Each consists of an iron blade, more or less razor-shaped, and having at right angles at each end a small tang (Fig. 2), which is thrust into a wooden handle. The blades are said to be made by the Arabised descendants of the pre-Arab iron-working Nuba, who still dwell on the hills which dot the plains of Northern Kordofan. In reaping the dura

FIG. 1.—REAPING KNIVES FROM NORTHERN KORDOFAN $\times$ ABOUT $\frac{3}{4}$.