



A German Colonial Atlas

Deutscher Kolonial Atlas, für den amtlichen Gebrauch in den Schutzgebieten by Richard Kiepert; Joseph Partsch

The Geographical Journal, Vol. 1, No. 4 (Apr., 1893), pp. 345-346

Published by: [The Royal Geographical Society \(with the Institute of British Geographers\)](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1773901>

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capabilities of the ground. The position—between the Matabele and the Gaza people, and at some distance from both—may have saved them from hostile raids and the destruction of their labours; and this may account for the very large herds of cattle that are seen in the neighbourhood of the villages along the River Sabi. The people consist of many tribes. In this especial walk I passed seven. Their occupations are somewhat different to the people on the uplands. They are fishermen; they get salt from their salt pans and rivers; in places their customs seem affected by the coast people.

The trees and general herbage seem much the same as in the Zambesi Valley, in some of the lower ground the sickly-looking yellow “fever-tree,” as it is called on the East Coast, being very common. The baobab grows in as great profusion as in the Zambesi Valley.

A marked feature of the country is the succession of small valleys in much of the country to the east of the junction of the Odzi and Sabi, the path going for miles over a succession of saddles and through small valleys, a feature I have not seen in any other part of Mashonaland. The nights here in August were hot and sultry, while in Umtali they were cold and bracing. Though the people were very hospitable, I should say that the country of higher Mashonaland, *i.e.*, the country to the north and west, was more fitted to Europeans.

NOTE.—The map is a reproduction, on a reduced scale, of Bishop Knight-Bruce’s sketch-map, adapted to Mr. Swan’s positions and survey as published in the R. G. S. *Proceedings*, May, 1892. All the remainder of the map contains entirely new work.

A GERMAN COLONIAL ATLAS.*

THE great extension of the colonial possessions of Germany during the past few years has been so rapid, that the necessity for some such atlas as that which has now been published by the well-known firm of Deitrich Reimer, is fully recognised. The maps have been prepared under the superintendence of Dr. Richard Kiepert; they are five in number, and consist of a map of the world on Mercator’s projection, showing the colonial possessions of European Powers, with smaller maps to illustrate the extent of the German consular and diplomatic services, and the lines of German mail steamers. This is followed by maps of Western Equatorial Africa, with an inset on an enlarged scale of the Cameroons; German South-West Africa; Equatorial East Africa,

* *Deutscher Kolonial Atlas, für den amtlichen Gebrauch in den Schutzgebieten, von Richard Kiepert. Begleitender Text von Dr. Joseph Partsch. Berlin, 1893. Geographische Verlagshandlung. Dietrich Reimer.*

with an inset plan of Dar-es-Salaam; and the German possessions in the Pacific Ocean. All of these maps are fine specimens of cartography, and, having been carefully brought up to date, are valuable, not only as showing the extent and position of the German colonial possessions, but also for general purposes of reference with regard to any country within the area they embrace. The letterpress which accompanies the maps is by Dr. Joseph Partsch, and contains statistical information and notes on the climate, products, &c., of each of the countries over which the German sphere of influence extends, whilst the value of the atlas is increased by the copious index with which it is supplied.

BRAZILIAN EXPLORATION IN THE AMAZONS VALLEY.

THERE exists at the Aix Seminary, in the French department of Bouches-du-Rhône, a Latin manuscript containing the description and itinerary of an ancient journey performed by Jesuit missionaries from the River Orinoko to the River Plate, through South America. Father Nicolino, a Brazilian, while studying at Aix, found, in the document referred to, the description of vast plains to the south of the Tumuk-Humak Range, and of British, Dutch and French Guiana, in the Amazons Valley. In this manuscript a tribe of White Indians is spoken of, which was also found there by Monsieur Coudreau in 1885.

Guided by the Aix Manuscript, Father Nicolino started on November 20th, 1876, from the Lower Trombetas or Oriximina, the affluent of the Amazons above Obidos, got a view of the plains at the base of the Tumuk-Humak on January 25th, 1877, but did not find any Indian village, and had to turn back for lack of provisions. He tried to return the following October traversing the forest, but was again obliged to retrace his steps. In 1882, whilst engaged in a third expedition, Father Nicolino died of yellow fever.

The River Trombetas, beyond the confluence of the Kuminyan, is very little known. Within the last twenty years some five or six expeditions, besides those we have mentioned, set out from Obidos to explore it, but never returned. The River Trombetas appears to be formed by the confluence of two considerable systems, one to the north-west, the other to the north-east. The higher system, that to the north-west, was explored in 1885 by M. Henri A. Coudreau, starting from the Rio Branco (confluent of the Rio Negro). The farthest branch is, in this direction, the Kurukuri. An affluent almost parallel with the Kurukuri, the Apiui, connects the Trombetas, and therefore the Amazons Valley, with the Essekibo, which runs northward, and, as is well known, discharges near Demerara, as in like manner the Rio Negro, the next largest affluent of the Amazons, communicates, farther west, with the Orinoko, by means of the Casiquiare.

In 1890 a vast overflow of the Amazons devastated the plains whereon the cattle of the Obidos district are reared. The government of the Brazilian province of Pará thought, at that time, to re-discover the means of communication with the plains found in ancient times by the Jesuits, and it dispatched an expedition under the engineer Gonçalves Tocantins. On October 6th, 1890, the expedition set out from Obidos to reach the mouth of the River Trombetas, ascended this river as far as the mouth of the Kuminyan (the Portuguese, Spanish and Brazilian orthography is *Cumina*, *Cumihin* and *Cuminã*). The first section of the Kuminyan is of almost