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The Physical Condition and Distinctive Characteristics of the Laplanders, and the Races Inhabiting the North Coast of Europe

Author(s): Alexander Humboldt

Source: *The Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, Vol. 6 (1877), pp. 316-323

Published by: [Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2841421)

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Accessed: 15/06/2014 09:38

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ment of the superstition appears to have been reached in Tanagra at the time of the fabrication of the figures before us, which are obviously devoid of any mythological signification.

As bearing on this view, it may be mentioned that the statuettes are almost invariably females, rarely are male figures found. It would be interesting if it could be ascertained whether the female figures were associated with graves of men, but the unfortunate conditions, to which I have referred, under which Greek explorations are conducted appear to have precluded the possibility of making this observation.

The subject, however, is one upon which different opinions may be entertained, and useful information may perhaps be elicited by the discussion of it.

#### DISCUSSION.

Mr. HYDE CLARKE said it was desirable more information should be obtained, for it did not follow because the sculptures were beautiful that, therefore, they were Hellenic. Under the conditions of Etruscan, and of the objects discovered in Cyprus by Dr. Schliemann, they might be derived from that pre-Hellenic race from which the Greeks received their original culture, and whence they continued to sustain it. The schools of Asia held their ground against the school of Athens, and it was rather Asia that acted on Hellas than Hellas on Asia. Bœotia we know to have received its mythology from Asia, and we may, as a popular illustration, call it Canaanite, for there we found Athamas, Agave, Palæmon, and Echion. There appeared to be more female than male figures in the collection, and they were all in ordinary costume, and might possibly be portraits of wives devoting themselves thus symbolically to accompany to the other world their deceased husbands. As a matter of race, the Sumerian or Khita race, which preceded the Hellenic, was one of the handsome races of the world.

The PRESIDENT said in reply that he thought the style of art exhibited by the statuettes precluded the possibility of their being considered pre-Hellenic.

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The following papers were then read by the Directors :—

*The PHYSICAL CONDITION and DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS of the LAPPLANDERS, and the RACES inhabiting the NORTH COAST of EUROPE.* By ALEXANDER HUMBOLDT, v. H. v. d. Horck.

INQUIRIES have arisen as to the prehistoric population of Northern Europe. Philologists have attempted to prove that the languages of the Lapps, Finns, and the tribes of the Ural Mountains, are of common origin. At the same time, craniology shows marked differences, the Lapps being brachycephalic, the tribes of the Ural Mountains being decidedly dolichocephalic.

Whether the climatic influences, to which the Lapps have been subjected in their more northerly habitations, have not been conducive to changes, which may account for the present existing physical differences; whether or not, in fact, owing to the penuries, the extreme deprivations, the unfavourable mode of life for the normal development of the body, the Lapps have degenerated into an inferior, into a pathological, race, is a question of great interest, and is still a subject of grave dispute, and is worthy of patient scientific research, which may open new chapters in the history of man, of whom at present our knowledge is extremely limited.

Having in the preceding year taken charge of an expedition to the Polar Seas for the purpose of scientific exploration, I made preparations for entering into a special anthropological study of the inhabitants of the North Coast, and obtained numerous measurements, drawings, photographs, plaster-casts, as well as a valuable collection of bones, skulls, &c. The Lapplanders—who, in their own language, call themselves Sabme, or Saame—may be divided into two classes: the “Nomadic or Mountain,” and the “Sea or Fish Lapps.” They differ but little in their outward appearance. Many of the latter were originally mountaineers, but, having lost their herds of reindeer, settled themselves along the shore, and maintain themselves by fishing, or gathering the eggs from the great breeding-places of the waterfowl in the vicinity of the sea-coast.

The Nomadic or Mountain Lapps are, as a class, stronger, healthier, and better developed, owing to the hardy, roving life they lead. They rarely intermarry with the Quains (Finns) or Norwegian settlers, thus preserving the purity of their blood, and their own peculiar characteristics. These tribes, although spread over Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish Lappland, even extending into the Russian territory, exhibit respectively the same characteristics typical of the race. They are of diminutive stature, that is, much below the medium height of other European races. From a series of measurements, I found the average height to be about 1.5 metres.

The head is remarkably typical, the form of the skull round, exceedingly short from base to crown, but of great breadth, giving the whole head a compressed appearance as to height.

Average index of breadth of head above the ears, 88.4 mm.

Average index of height . . . . . 73.8 mm.

These measurements are taken from living subjects, and therefore are somewhat larger than if taken from the skull.

The face is extremely broad, measuring between the zygomatic processes 109 to 116 mm. (according to my personal observations), but diminishes rapidly toward the chin, which is

rather sharp and pointed—in fact, the inferior maxillary bone is small and delicately shaped.

The eye-openings are usually small and irregularly shaped, slanting downward at the outer corners. This may be owing to the peculiar formation of the orbit, as observed in the skull. The orbit is rather capacious, but frequently the supra-orbital bone and the inferior margin project forward, so that the entrance of the orbit is thus narrowed, which is not usually observable in the skulls of other races. The border of the orbit has also a somewhat irregular shape, the lower outer edge being perceptibly enlarged, and for this reason the opening between the eyelids is necessarily slanting, but, unlike the Mongolian type, it extends downwards. This view is also taken by Professor Virchow, with whom I am now making measurements of the skulls recently obtained from the north. The nose has an almost uniform shape, and is eminently characteristic. It is short, flat, and very broad, especially around the nostrils. The oral orifice is generally very large, lips not very thick, and in old persons I have sometimes observed them very thin, and the mucous membrane showing exceedingly fine, thin folds. The teeth are excellent, and only in a few cases did I come across any decayed or missing, and these were molars. The ears are small, and remarkably well shaped. The hair of the head is smooth and straight; that of the men rather coarse, whilst that of the women is long and somewhat finer. The beard, eyebrows and lashes are of scanty growth, sometimes scarcely perceptible. As far as the colour of the hair, skin, and nails is concerned, it is difficult to establish any criterion.

The current opinion that all are blond that belong to the Indo-Germanic race, and all that belong to the Turanian race are dark, does not always agree with the facts; for we find, as I have shown in a series of anthropological tables and charts of the northern inhabitants, that many of the Lapps are blond, some having light golden hair and blue eyes, whilst among the Finns I found persons with perfectly black hair and eyes. The colour of the skin is subject to great individual differences. It is much lighter than one would suppose at first sight. The uncleanness of the Lapps is proverbial, and the skin is much darker and browner-looking, because it is impregnated with a mixture of grease, dust, sweat, &c., which are deposited in layers—for nobody can say how long—but producing an indescribably dirty colour. When wishing to determine the complexion, however, I always took the precaution to wash certain spots of the body with soap and water, rendering them as clean as circumstances would allow. I thus found the tint was much lighter. Usually it is a dirty, grayish white, or light olive

brown, although I have also seen children and young girls with beautiful clear white complexions and red cheeks; these were in general accompanied by blue eyes and golden hair. As far as the bodily strength of the Lapps is concerned, it is difficult to form any standard opinion, as the individual fluctuations which I observed in making measurements with Regnier's dynamometer were very great. Still I have found the men, as well as the women, strong, and possessing great endurance, especially on the march. As regards any specific body-smell, I can only say that I found none such, although when marching in the rear of the Lapps who carried the baggage, or when in the boats with them, the breeze would waft a disagreeable, sweaty smell. The same was the case when they pulled off their shoes and removed the fine hay which, after pounding into soft fibres between two stones, they used as covering for the feet. This they would hang up to dry before the camp-fire. The conditions under which the Lapps live are not favourable. Their food is often very poor and insufficient. It is mostly animal food—reindeer, wild beasts, birds, and fish. Besides, they gather berries, especially the "multebaer" (*Rubus chamaemorus*), which are found in great abundance in the extensive swamps. These they preserve for winter use, as it forms their only vegetable. They will often go to the whale-fisheries on the coast to gather pieces of fat, blubber, and meat, standing around and eagerly watching their chance to secure the morsels, even eating them raw. They are exceedingly fond of grease, fish-liver-oil, &c.

In taking my casts of the face I was compelled to rub the skin with olive oil, and always had great difficulty in restraining them from licking it away, at least so far as they could reach with the tongue. To prevent this I afterwards applied stinking train oil, but with no greater success. The only bread that the Lapps have is the hard, dried cakes which they obtain from Finland and Norway through trade. The habitations of these people differ very much. Those of the "Nomades" consist simply of tents, constructed of a few poles, over which skins of the reindeer are laid. These tents have one large opening at the side, serving as a doorway, and at the top a smaller one through which the smoke and stench can partially escape. The "sea Lapps," and those which are called colonists because of their having settled in the vicinity of the missionary houses—as in Karasjokk, Kautekeino—have permanent dwellings, small cabins made of logs, the crevices being plastered or filled in with moss, stones, and mud. In the summer, however, when they leave for the shores of the lakes and rivers to fish, they build small huts of birch or fir-tree bark, except when they

carry their skin tents with them. The clothing of the Lapps is uniformly the same throughout the north, excepting the headdress; the latter, among the Swedish Lapps, resembling a sugar-loaf, whilst those of Norway are very curiously shaped. The men wear a high cap, which has a broad band nearly 6 inches in width, whilst the top resembles a thick, heavy cushion, about a foot square. The women, on the other hand, wear a cap, into which a large carved piece of wood is inserted, giving the whole the appearance of an ancient helmet. In winter a large fur coat, or "peske," of reindeer skin, with a high collar, is worn, the leggings and the curiously-pointed shoes being of the same material, the hair turned outward. In summer they wear thick, coarse woollen stuffs, generally bright blue, green, or red, and the edges trimmed with coloured stripes of cloth of the most brilliant hues. As they have no pockets, it is exceedingly curious to see the manner in which they stow away everything inside of their coats. They fasten them around the waist by a broad belt, and make a forage-bag of the upper story, stuffing into it articles of clothing, shoes, eatables, the fine grass with which they cover their feet, whisky bottles, and other articles not to be mentioned, until the coat bulges out like a huge sack, causing the individual to appear extremely funny, with his short, crooked legs, looking as though he had been stuck through a barrel.

The belt, made of reindeer or bear or wolf-skin, is ornamented with beads or gaudy-coloured ribbons, brass rings, &c. From the left side of this belt is suspended a huge sheath-knife, with several small pouches for powder, tobacco, &c. Besides this, there are little pendant strips of leather all around, to which are attached the teeth of wild animals, such as the bear, glutton, and wolf, which are the hunting trophies of the animals captured in the chase. Again, a talisman of brass, or a curiously-shaped figure, forms a part of this ornament. The majority of the Lapps belong to the Lutheran Church of Scandinavia, missionary houses having been erected everywhere. Nevertheless, the wearing of mystical charms and relics plainly indicates that they still adhere to their heathen superstitions in many things. Many of them can read and write well in their own language, and I have in my possession some letters written in a clear, legible hand.

The wealth of the highland Lapps consists in their large herds of reindeer, which sometimes number many thousand heads, all owned by one man. They slaughter many of them yearly, and sell the skin, horns, and meat, which is mostly dried. So soon as the summer approaches they leave their winter homes amid the fir woods of the valleys, where their

herds throughout the severe cold have found sufficient moss to feed upon, and journey with their entire families, tents, dogs, and deer, toward the sea-coast, to the hills bordering on the Tromsø Valley and Altenfyord. Still, the greater number go to the high plateaus of the Spirte-njarg, Kjorgosh-njarg, Ragonjarg, and Varjag-njarg, the peninsulas lying between the Porsanger, Lase, Tana, and Varanger fyords. Here they are secure from the insects infesting the woods, which annoy both man and beast, and here too they find a more comfortable temperature, as these high northern headlands are swept by the cooling winds coming from the Arctic Ocean. Thus they wander about during the brief Polar summer, each family by itself, making it extremely difficult to hunt them up. I had an opportunity of seeing immense herds of reindeer, especially on one occasion when they were driven by a warm S.W. wind toward the coast. I saw as many as 8,000 to 9,000 gathered together, covering the hills as far as the eye could reach, whilst their huge horns, towering above their heads, resembled a forest of leafless branches.

The Lapps are very skilful with the gun, but more especially with the lasso, which they throw with wonderful accuracy. The Fish or Sea Lapps subsist mainly by fishing. Around their huts and tents one may see thousands of dried fish and fish heads strung together and hung upon poles. A few small boats lying on the water's edge, in which they sometimes venture far out at sea, besides a few nets and lines, sometimes a reindeer or two, comprise all their possessions. They present the same physical type as the mountaineers, so long as inter-marriage has not taken place with other races. I was fortunate in securing a number of plaster-casts of living Lapps during my stay on the north coast, the only ones in existence, besides obtaining a large collection of skulls. The difficulties I had in securing these impressions were great, for I had to overcome their superstitious fears, which were aroused, especially when I attempted to take measurements with the craniometer. I had with me plaster of Paris in well-sealed cases, and proceeded in the usual manner to take impressions of the face, ears, teeth, hands, &c. The impressions of the lower jaw were, anthropologically, of the greatest importance. The peculiar formation of the maxilla inferior being eminently characteristic of the Lapp skull, differing as it does in this particular from that of almost any other race.

In procuring the skulls, which had to be taken from their old heathen burial-places, it was necessary to proceed with extreme caution, as the people consider them sacred, and guard the graves from all intrusion with superstitious care.

These ancient burial-places are usually near the hallowed groves or places where they were accustomed to assemble for worship, and they are still designated by the remains of stone pillars, or by the native name still attached to them, such as "Piattsam-dudder," holy mountain, or the "Patts jokke," holy river.

These tumuli are on the edges of the cliffs bordering the sea, on the sides of the mountains, or the steep shores of the lakes and river banks. The graves are of different forms. In some cases caves or crevices in the steep, almost inaccessible walls of the cliffs are selected, the body being deposited, and the opening closed with flat stones. Again, others are formed by cutting out the corners of two large boulders, and afterwards rolling them together, so as to form a sort of arched roof, underneath which a shallow excavation is made, and then the orifice is closed, as in the first instance, by piling rocks around it. Others again are deep, four-cornered holes dug in the ground, which are lined with stones. After depositing the body, the grave is covered with layers of stones, like tiles on a roof, until entirely shut in and protected from animals, as well as shielded from rain and snow. These latter graves have the appearance of huge stone heaps at first sight, but upon closer inspection one detects a certain regularity in the pile which indicates that they have been placed there by the hand of man. The bones are rarely found in a state of perfect preservation. The dead are often found wrapped in thick layers of birch bark, which have been sewed together with the sinews of animals. These coverings are often richly ornamented with curious drawings of the bear, wolf, reindeer, &c., as well as pictures representing the former life of the Lapps. Sometimes the body is packed in a "kierres," or kind of small sled, boat-shaped, which is still in use among the Lapps. Sometimes with the human skeleton we find the remains of animals, fish, and birds, leading one to the conclusion that it was customary to sacrifice these at the grave, as a part of the ceremony of burial—the mourners feasting, however, upon the slaughtered animals, wisely picking the bones clean before depositing them in the grave, as companions for the departed on his journey to the happy land. The bones have been found cracked open, evidently for the purpose of extracting the marrow, and it is worthy of remark that these have the same peculiar appearance, and are split in the same peculiar manner (diagonally from one end to the other) as those found in "Kjokken-moddinger" of the Danish coast, where the remains of mammalia are found among the sea-shells, which in the course of time have accumulated so as to form high walls or banks. We also find in the graves bows, arrows, spears, fishing



apparatus, harpoons, snow-shoes—the arrow-heads and points of lances being mostly bone or horn, those manufactured from flint being less frequently met with—besides these, pieces of quartz, splinters, large pieces of wood, and strips of birch and fir-tree bark.

Mr. Nordvi, who has opened many graves on the north coast, speaks of a kind of snail which is found in them, called "Hundsjael" (dog-soul), which is often buried instead of the dog itself, which is to the Lapps a valuable animal.

Let us now hastily glance at the "Skolter," or Russian Lapps. The term "skolter" is said to have its origin in the fact that formerly these Lapps were affected with diseases of the scalp, causing loss of the hair, whilst among them I detected nothing of the kind. It is my opinion that these people are in no way related to the Lapps which we have been describing, their physical and psychical characteristics are so entirely distinct, except in some isolated cases where intermarriage has taken place. There are in Russian Lapland some families of mountain Lapps which have evidently wandered over from the Scandinavian territory.

The "Skolter Lapp" bears a close resemblance to the common Russian serf or "Mujik," the features being more regular than in the races we have referred to, the forehead higher, the breadth of the face not so striking in comparison with its length; the shape of the eye not having the peculiarity we have mentioned, but more regular in its outline; the nose, instead of being flat, quite prominent, and the whole visage more strongly and heavily marked. The legs are better proportioned, as is also the entire body. The men have a long shaggy beard, whilst the women are comelier and more pleasing. Their dress is similar to that of the peasants living in the north of Russia. They are exceedingly filthy in their habits, and are usually covered with vermin. Their houses or huts surround or are adjacent to those of the missionaries; they are extremely low and narrow, being built of logs and plastered with mud, the crevices filled in with moss, &c. They are usually surrounded by several small storehouses, which are erected upon posts driven into the ground; thus lifted up several feet from the earth, most likely to keep the animals, such as the lemming, from destroying their stores.

So long as the accumulation of evidence as to the relationship of these races is so small, and the present existing differences are so strong, we must be content to look upon the Lapps and Finns as distinct races until further research may possibly prove the prehistoric Lapplander to have been a Finn.