

ANTHROPOLOGY

"Lost Peoples" of New Guinea Were First Seen by German

Before the War and the Turning Over of the Territory To Australia, Dr. Hermann Detzner Found "Semites"

DISCOVERY of the "lost peoples" of New Guinea, reported by the Australian anthropologist E. W. P. Chinnery before the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, is no new thing under the sun.

The same peoples were seen and partially studied by a German, Dr. Hermann Detzner, formerly an official in the pre-war German possessions in the Far East. In 1914, just before the outbreak of the World War, Dr. Detzner discovered the high-lying plateau described by Mr. Chinnery and visited two or three of the tribes who lived on it.

Then came news of the outbreak of the War. Dr. Detzner could not get out, because Australian forces had occupied all the ports of German New Guinea, and he would have been captured and interned as a prisoner, since he held a major's commission in the Imperial German Army. So he plunged into the interior, living with and like the natives, and evaded capture until 1918. Due to lack of food—he had to live chiefly on sweet potatoes—he was worn down to a 97-pound shadow of a man by the time he finally emerged.

In the meantime, the Australian forces had captured from one of his assistants some of his books of scientific notes on the tribes. Others he had buried. These were ruined by decay. Thus Dr. Detzner was able to publish only an incomplete account of his studies in the German scientific journals.

Invited to Congress

After the War, the League of Nations mandated to Australia the former German territory in New Guinea, thus opening the way for Mr. Chinnery's later explorations on behalf of the Australian government. As a courtesy to a former opponent and at the same time the real proto-discoverer of this newest "lost world," the Commonwealth invited Dr. Detzner to attend the International Congress. The German ex-

plorer in turn has complimented Mr. Chinnery on his success, stating that the recent exploration was more complete than his own earlier one.

Smooth-Shaven "Semites"

The bearded tribe which Mr. Chinnery named the Wahgi was called *Rocke*, or "skirted," by Dr. Detzner because the men wear skirts. The smooth-shaven people called *Purari* by Mr. Chinnery received the nickname "Semites of Papua" because of the characteristic and striking facial types found among them.

Science News Letter, August 11, 1934

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"Semitic" Faces Common Among New Guinea Natives

"SEMITIC" faces on brown Papuans in the mountain fastnesses of New Guinea, which have caused comment in connection with the "lost tribes" discovered by E. W. P. Chinnery, Australian scientist-explorer, are really nothing uncommon in that part of the world. Bold, convex noses on dark-skinned faces are rather frequent not only in many parts of New Guinea but even more so in islands farther toward the east, especially in the Solomon Archipelago. Their presence among the estimated 200,000 new-found tribesmen is not, therefore, a source of particular wonder.

Two American scientists who have penetrated into the interior of New Guinea, M. W. Stirling, anthropologist of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. E. W. Brandes, botanist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, showed a representative of Science Service many pictures of Papuans with decidedly "Semitic" countenances, ranging all the way from the finely-chiseled aristocratic Sephardic type to the low-comedy mask of slapstick burlesque.



SEMITIC?

Perhaps it is just as well, for the peace of mind of Germany's new "All-Highest Lord," that the Reich lost its Papuan lands to Australia during the World War; for these Semitic-appearing types are fairly common among the natives of the former German possessions on the great tropical island of New Guinea.

There is no need, however, to find in New Guinea another abiding-place of those most-travelled of the sons of men, the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Neither is it necessary to credit the noses to the Semitic Arabs, who were traders, slavers and conquerors throughout the East Indian region during several medieval centuries. It is not impossible, to be sure, that the Arabs brought the noses; but the much-mixed dark-skinned peoples of the Far Eastern islands have always been able to produce features of an astonishing variability within the limits of a single tribe.

Two of the tribes reported by Mr. Chinnery are widely separated, Dr. Brandes stated. The *Kukukuku* he knew by name as a tribe of the high mountain country. The *Purari*, however, are a coast people, living on the delta formed by one of the rivers of southern New Guinea where it meets the sea. Mr. Chinnery's third tribal name, the *Ramu*, was unfamiliar to Dr. Brandes.

Dr. Brandes' explorations were conducted as a part of the Department of