

# BORNEO RESEARCH BULLETIN

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Notes from the Editor: Special Issues BRB;  
Contributions Received;  
New Member of Board of Directors.

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- Carved design from Bajau boat.



regional, or ethnic groups mediated; and to what extent were these groups able to act independently of the paramount head of the state or his administrative representatives; and how were diverse ethnic groups incorporated into the state.

The contributors for this Special Issue to date include E. Casiño on the Jama Mapun; D. Brown on Brunei; I. Black on Sabah in the 19th century; J. R. Wortmann on Kutai; and C. Sather on the Bajau Laut.

Anyone else interested in contributing to this Special Issue should contact Dr. C. A. Sather, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York 10921.

#### Ordinary Research Notes

It is also planned to publish as usual in these Special Issues other Research Notes that do not deal with the special topic being covered. These should be sent as in the past to the Editor of the BRB.

#### Future Special Issues

The Editor would welcome any suggestions from readers as to what topics or areas of research might be usefully covered in future Special Issues, and he would welcome as well volunteers for Guest Editor of such issues.

### CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED

As we have moved to a subscription basis, one of the most rewarding and encouraging experiences has been the unexpected contributions that have come in towards the costs of publishing the BRB. These will certainly help make the BRB the kind of publication the readers desire and enable it to cover developments in Borneo research more adequately. Such contributions are very greatly appreciated indeed, and on behalf of the Borneo Research Council, I would like to thank the following individuals for their kindness and thoughtfulness:

J. Ralph Audy; I. D. Black; British Museum (Natural History); John Elliot; Peter Goethals; Jack Golson; John Heimann; M. A. Jaspán; Ernest Le Vos; David W. McCredie; Alastair Morrison; John K. Musgrave; Rodney Needham; John Henry Pfifferling; Anthony J. N. Richards; the Rev. Gerard Rixhon; Margaret Roff; Jérôme Rousseau; Ronald G. Russell; Heather Strange; Peter Weldon, Leigh R. Wright; and James L. Deegan.

At this point I should add that we are now receiving so many interesting Research Notes that for lack of space under our current budget, we may have to forego temporarily publishing the list of

contents of Borneo journals. However, we will of course reinstitute this section as soon as our budget permits us to do so. In the meantime, I would welcome comments from readers as to what sections of the BRB they find the most useful or what areas we should perhaps cover in the future. I encourage those interested in Borneo research to let me please know what their thoughts are on the direction the BRB should take in the future to make it more responsive to the needs of the readers and more useful to those engaged in research or otherwise interested in Borneo.

Finally, we hope that by the means of subscriptions, supplemented by contributions, we shall have the BRB established in the next eighteen months on a sound financial footing so that it can provide a permanent service to those interested in Borneo research. Readers' thoughts and comments on the problems of financial planning for the BRB would also be very gratefully appreciated!

#### NEW MEMBER ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Borneo Research Council takes great pleasure in announcing the election of Professor Frederick L. Dunn, M.D., to the Board. Dr. Dunn is Professor of Epidemiology and Medical Anthropology, Department of International Health, University of California, San Francisco Medical Center; Chairman of the Graduate Group in Anthropology at the University of California, San Francisco; and a member of the Malaysian Project of the International Center for Medical Research and Training, Hooper Foundation, San Francisco Medical Center. His fields of interest include the epidemiology of parasitic diseases, medical anthropology, ecological-anthropology, and archaeology. He has carried out extensive field work in Malaysia including two years of field work among the Temuan of Malaya during which time he conducted ecological, medical-anthropological, and general ethnographic investigations. Two of his recent publications are: 1967, The Current Status of Ethnographic, Genetic, and Other Biomedical Research Among the Primitive Ethnic Groups of Southeast Asia, in P. T. Baker and J. S. Weiner (eds.), The Biology of Human Adaptability, Oxford, Clarendon Press; 1968, Epidemiological Factors: Health and Disease in Hunter-Gathers, in Richard B. Lee and Irven DeVore, Man the Hunter, Chicago, Aldine.

Dr. Dunn will bring to the Board coverage in the fields of both medicine and medical anthropology, which to date have not been sufficiently represented. His address is: Department of International Health, University of California, San Francisco, California 94122, U.S.A.

R E S E A R C H   N O T E S

MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF KUTAI, KALIMANTAN-TIMUR, BORNEO

J. R. Wortmann\*

Borneo is the first among the islands in the Indonesian Archipelago with a known history. In fact the oldest known inscriptions in the Archipelago were found in Kutailama in Kutai. These consist of four stone sacrificial poles (sanskrit: yupa) dating from about 400 A.D., on which in Pallawascript, metrical sanskrit, King Mulawarman's generosity towards the Brahmins is commemorated. King Mulawarman's father, Acwawarman, was the founder of the royal dynasty and it seems likely that the Brahmins referred to in the inscriptions were Agnihottrins, followers of the Veda, a branch of the Hinduism. (As a comparison it is worth noting that the oldest dated inscriptions in Java are only from the year 732 A.D.)

Subsequent to these inscriptions nothing is known about Kutai for nearly 1000 years. Then, in 1365, we find the name Kutai mentioned in the old-Javanese historical poem Nāgarakrtāgama, verse 14.I. It is also around this time that the saga-period of the Kutai-dynasty begins and the Kingdom of Kutai begins to take shape. The mythical origin and genealogy of this royal house are described in the Salasilah of Kutai. There are five known manuscripts of this genealogical register, which is written in literary Malay, showing traces of the language of Kutai and including Javanese words and phrases.

The original Salasilah was probably written, at least partly, during the reign of the eighth Sultan, Pangeran Sinum Pandji Mendapa ing Martapura, ca. 1600-1635. Kutai evolved most likely from the joining of four regions, Djahitan-Lajar, Hulu-Dusun, Sembaran and Binalu, presumably settlements of Hindu-Javanese. Especially after the introduction of Islam, ca. 1606 by Tuan Tungging Parangan, the Sultanate expanded more inland, annexating three small countries Markaman (on the Mahakam, 15 miles above Samarinda), Kota Bangun (near Markaman) and Pahu (37 miles above Samarinda). From that time on the Sultans of Kutai have borne the royal insignia of Kota Bangun.

The genealogical line of the Kutai dynasty begins with Batara Agung Maharadja Dewa Sakti as first Sultan of Kutai and ends with Adji Mohammed Parikesit, the 20th Sultan, who still lives at Tenggarong.

On November 7, 1635, Gerrit Thomassen Pool was the first Dutchman to sail up the river Mahakam. Kutai was again visited by Dutchmen in 1671 and 1673, but after that it had no further contact with

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\* This is a very brief synopsis of the history of Kutai that I am currently writing and intend to publish in an illustrated book.

the Dutch, although it was indirectly, via the Kingdom of Bandjermasin, tributary to the East-India Company. This remained however a dead letter because they did not live up to the contracts.

Samarinda was founded ca. 1730, and in 1825 the Dutch, in the person of Georg Müller, made their first direct contract with the Sultan of Kutai. This contract also did not last.

The first half of the 19th century brought to Kutai the presence of several English merchant-adventurers: Dalton, Murray, King, Carter, and Morgan. There was a busy trade at that time between Kutai and Singapore, and proas from Kutai took rattan, gutta-Percha and beeswax to Singapore and returned with, among other things, cotton, textiles, and arms. During the last quarter of the 19th century the Scotsman Gray played a role in the development of navigation on the Mahakam and also within the native Community of Samarinda. It was not until 1846 that Dutch rule was established with the arrival of H. von Dewall, first civil administrator of the east coast of Borneo. From that time on the Sultans of Kutai comported themselves as loyal vassals of the Dutch. This was especially obvious during the War of Bandjermasin (1859-1863). The extent of Dutch power was enhanced gradually through supplementary treaties.

In 1888 the mining-engineer J. H. Menten began, with the exploitation of coal along the Mahakam, the Steenkolen Maatschappij Oost-Borneo with its first mining venture at Batu Panggal, some miles up the river past Samarinda. Menten also laid the foundation for oil exploitation in East Borneo by leasing his concessions to Samuel & Co., of London, founder of the Shell Company. This is also the time of the abolition of slavery in Kutai (1895) and of Dr. A. W. Nieuwenhuis' famous expeditions across Borneo.

The first Roman Catholic mission was established at Laham in 1907. One year later Kutai ceded the district of Upper Mahakam to the Dutch government in exchange for a yearly compensation of 12,900 guilders "for the sultan and his princes of the Kingdom."

By the end of the 19th century trade and industry were being developed by small trading companies. But it was in the beginning of the 20th century that the economy of Kutai flourished as a result of the establishment of the Borneo-Sumatra Trade Co., with offices along the whole archipelago. In these years the capital of the "landschapskas," or regional treasury, grew at a steady pace through annual surplus. By 1924 the Kutai treasury held a reserve of 3,280,000 guilders--for those days a tremendous amount for this self-governing territory with a size of 45,190 square kilometers and a population of only ca. 179,000.

NEW RADIO-CARBON (C-14) DATES FROM BRUNEI

Tom Harrisson

Little work has been done on dating open sites or the metal age generally in Southeast Asia. This does present special difficulties, owing to rapid decay of exposed materials, flooding, contamination by roots, animal and later agricultural disturbance. Thus while there are many cave dates in Borneo--back 38,000 years in Sarawak and 10,000 in Sabah (T. & B. Harrisson 1971)--hitherto only the terminal phase at the extensive Santubong open sites in the Sarawak River delta has been determined by a single result: 1315 A.D. ( $\pm 95$  years; Harrisson & O'Connor 1969, 1970).

Through the cooperation and support of Pengeran Shariffuddin, Curator of the Brunei Museum, a series of fifteen C-14 dates have now been obtained from prehistoric vegetable materials at Kota Batu, Brunei's old capital, where they were excavated in 1952-53 (T. & B. Harrisson 1956). Kota Batu is extraordinary in that ancient cut wood, charcoal, dammar resin, coconut and other fruits remain well preserved in an acid deposit with a high water table.

These results will be reported in detail, with several necessary qualifications, elsewhere. Meanwhile, they do provide the first at all comprehensive picture of its kind, however inadequate. They also confirm the previous view that this is an exceptionally important site, with long human continuity. All other published metal age sites in this part of the world were occupied for shorter periods, with sharp interruption.

The basic information is summarized in the following table, which uses depths as a rough index, although clearly absolute depth is of itself no final standard under these conditions.

KOTA BATU, BRUNEI C-14 RESULTS  
--arranged by approximate age.\*

<u>Date</u> <u>(Approx.)</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Depth</u> <u>(inches)</u>	<u>Geochron Laboratories</u> <u>Serial No. (GX/-)</u>
B.C.			
95	Charcoal	72-78	1807
A.D.			
595	Charcoal & Wood	48-54	1802
605	Charcoal	66-72	1806

\* The last four and latest in the tabulated dates have been published and discussed in Brunei Museum Journal 2:186-197, 1970; the other eleven are here reported for the first time.

<u>Date</u> (Approx.)	<u>Material</u>	<u>Depth</u> (inches)	<u>Geochron Laboratories</u> <u>Serial No. (GX/-)</u>
690	Wood ( <u>Instia palembanica</u> )	84-90	1801
805	Wood ( <u>Instia palembanica</u> )	66-72	1799
820	Charcoal	72-78	1808
875	Wood and Charcoal	48-54	1803
940	Wood ( <u>Shorea</u> spp)	54-60	1798
1030	Wood & Charcoal	54-60	1805
1090	Ironwood ( <u>Eusideroxylon</u> )	78-84	1800
1300	Wood ( <u>Koompassia</u> )	54-60	1797
1300	Charcoal	24-30	1543
1415	Charcoal	24-30	1541
1695	Charcoal	24-30	1540
1815	Charcoal	24-30	1542

The sigma varies between  $\pm$  85 to  $\pm$  125 years. Further samples from sectors and materials not yet tested will bereported in due course.

Bibliography: Harrisson, Tom and Barbara, 1956, Kota Batu in Brunei, Sarawak Museum J. 7:283-319; Harrisson, Tom and Barbara, 1971, The Prehistory of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Society; Harrisson, Tom and S. J. O'Connor, 1969, Excavations of the Pre-historic Iron Industry in West Borneo, Southeast Asia Program, Ithaca, Cornell U., 2 vols.; Harrisson, Tom and S. J. O'Connor, 1970, Gold and Megalithic Activity in Prehistoric and Recent West Borneo, Southeast Asia Program, Ithaca, Cornell U.

#### THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESIDENCY IN BRUNEI 1881-1905\*

Colin Neil Crisswell  
University of Hong Kong

In granting a royal charter to the North Borneo Company in 1881 the British Government was strengthening its claim that northern

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\* The writer has recently submitted a Ph.D. thesis on this topic to the University of Hong Kong. His findings are outlined here-with.

Borneo was a British sphere of interest. This was another step in the process begun by the acquisition of Sarawak by James Brooke in 1841. The intention of the British Government was to exclude foreign powers from the area, for strategic and commercial reasons, while keeping its own direct involvement to the minimum. The sphere of influence policy did not prove sufficient to guarantee the exclusion of foreign powers. By 1885 the rapid colonial expansion of Germany and France and their policy of ignoring prior claims not backed by occupation or treaty had outmoded it. Moreover the establishment of a rival to Sarawak for the dominance of northern Borneo created new local problems. The area from Kimanis to the Sarawak frontier remained nominally under the rapidly weakening control of the Sultan of Brunei. Rajah Charles Brooke disliked chartered companies on principle and was inclined to regard Sarawak as the natural successor to the decadent sultanate. Accordingly, when the Company began to seek the extension of its territory southwards, he resolved to bring as much as possible of the Sultan's territory, south of the Padas, under the Sarawak flag. A bitter struggle ensued between the Company and Sarawak for the remains of Brunei. The instability of the area and the growing colonial rivalry between the powers led the British authorities to decide, in 1887, to establish protectorates in the three territories. There was no intention that Britain should assume responsibility for the internal administration of the protectorates, nor did the grant of protectorate status to Brunei mean that the British officials envisaged that the sultanate would survive for long. On the contrary, in order to end the feud between North Borneo and Sarawak and at the same time remove a possible source of international embarrassment, it was decided that Brunei should ultimately be divided between its two neighbors.

When this decision was taken the British officials did not consider that Brunei would make any serious effort to resist absorption. However Sultan Hasim, who had succeeded the senile Sultan Mumin in 1885, was a proud man who did not want to see the extinction of the ancient sultanate. His opposition to the absorption of his remaining territory became more determined, almost obsessive, when Britain accepted Rajah Brooke's annexation of the Limbang River in 1890. His efforts to retain what remained of the sultanate were regarded with some sympathy by the governors of the Straits Settlements who, after 1888, were also high commissioners for Borneo. Moreover the official attitude to North Borneo and Sarawak was changing. The North Borneo Company was never strong financially and by the mid-1890' it seemed probable that it would not survive for long. There had always been some doubt about the future of Sarawak after the death of elderly Rajah Charles, and opinion in the Colonial Office, which hitherto had favored the Brooke regime, began to regard Sarawak as an anachronism.

As early as 1887 Sir Frederick Weld, Governor of the Straits, had suggested that a residential system, similar to that in the Malay States of the peninsula, should be established in Brunei, but the question of finance had been the major obstacle. The changing attitude to the colonies, summed up by Chamberlain's vow to assist

the "undeveloped estates" of the empire, made this difficulty seem less insurmountable. In addition the discovery of oil and the existence of some other minerals in Brunei made it seem possible that a residency in the sultanate might be self-sufficient. The officials in London had accepted the opinion of the high commissioners that it would be unwise and unjust to force the Sultan, the ruler of a protected state, to cede his territory. Hasim maintained his obstinate opposition to further cessions to Sarawak, but at the same time conditions within the sultanate were becoming increasingly anarchical. Accordingly, in 1905 the Foreign and Colonial Offices agreed to install a resident. Sir Charles Lucas, Assistant Undersecretary at the Colonial Office, the principal advocate of a residency, saw this as the first step towards the creation of a British colony of northern Borneo which would consist of the residencies of Brunei, North Borneo and Sarawak.

Bibliography: The principal primary sources used were: C.O. 874/1-323, F.O. 12/50-130, C.O. 144/55-81, C.O. 145/1-3, C.O. 146/1-59, C.O. 573, F.O. 572/1-39, located at the P.R.O., London; and the Letter books of the 2nd and 3rd Rajahs and Sarawak District Reports 1881-1905 in the Sarawak Museum, Kuching.

#### BAJAU POTTERY-MAKING IN THE SEMPORNA DISTRICT

C. A. Sather  
Vassar College

In the June 1970 Bulletin the editor called attention to the scarcity of data describing the current provenance of native pottery-making in Sabah. In this regard, it is notable that pottery was--as of 1965--still being produced by local Bajau potters at Kampong Danawan in the Semporna District. To my knowledge the people of Danawan are the only villagers in the Semporna District who still engage in pottery-making. Their output is restricted exclusively to earthenware fireplaces or hearths called locally lapo'an. These hearths are similar to those described by Alman (1960:596) for Kota Belud and consist essentially of a box- or basin-like stove, open at the front to receive firewood, with three prongs at the top to support a metal cooking vessel, such as a kuali. My only knowledge of this pottery is based on the trade relations that existed between Danawan potters and the people of Kampong Bangau-Bangau with whom I lived in 1964-65. According to the Bangau-Bangau people, all Danawan hearths are made of river clay collected on the Semporna coast, although at least some firing is done on Danawan Island.

It is interesting to note that trade in pottery is part of a much wider network of inter-village commercial ties based partly on local specialization. Other items traded by means of this network, in addition to lapo'an, include fruit, boats, gravemarkers, kajang matting, sea products, and a wide variety of metal utensils, including knife blades, fish spears, harpoon heads, spatulas, and































































