

Summary

Semang sumpitan designs

In "precis" the following may be regarded as the main points respecting these, according to the statements of the Semang themselves

1. The sumpitan is not an original Semang weapon but learned from the Malays.
2. Though the weapon itself is borrowed yet the special construction of sheath & head is Semang ^{invention} as are the engraved designs.
3. The part carrying these engraved designs was originally ^{before it was} ~~before~~ applied to the sumpitan, a "Gar" purely Semang.
4. As time went on, modifications crept in, till the bamboo on which are the engraved designs became its present shape.
5. Though the shape was modified from the Gar, with its node, to a simple tube as now & reduced in length, the designs thereon are precisely those used on the Gar, though smaller, now, with one or two exceptions, noted in detail.
6. That its originally intended purpose

as applied to the sumpitan was precisely that to which the Gar was applied viz. a protective charm against sickness & accident: all changes apparent now, are the Western men's doing.

Therefore the sumpitan design, where the original has not been departed from, is interesting, not in its present shape but as representing unchanged the many of the old Gar designs: those which were adapted to the sumpitan being no longer cut as Gars.

A set of ^{all} the designs formerly made by the old spirits, would be incomplete, if the subtracted sumpitan designs were not re-added to them & all changes known, to which they may have been subjected.

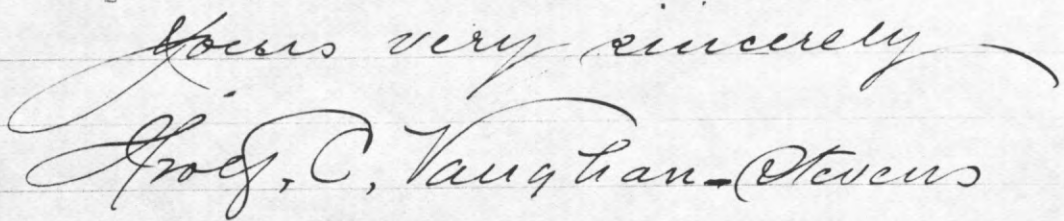
To this end I have obtained & send all the designs originally adapted from the Gar & have given such information respecting them as will restore their original Gar form.

My next work will be to send you the rest of the Gars which were not ^{use} modified into sumpitan designs. & the full set of Gars. Many I send now, but defer notes respecting them till I can give them fully & completely, which I hope to do in my next consignment.

You may accept all my drawings as standard authorities

for every one has undergone repeated
inspection by the German experts
& I have sent nothing that I was
not perfectly sure about.

Trusting that there is sufficient
scientific interest & value in my
work to make the labor not in vain
I await your opinion respecting
the ~~same~~ origin, with much desire.
I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely

 Fred. C. Vaughan-Stevens


 The Hon. Professor. Bachman
