

Abyschrift

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From Vaughan Lewis
No. German Consulate
Perang (Malacca)

London, 5.12.92.

Dear Sir

During the last months I was occupied by many difficult tasks, so I could not spend so much of time as I wished for studying your copious and valuable letters. Now I have found time at last to examine carefully all your interesting essays. I am now writing you this unofficial letter. In your collections are unpacked, dispoised and arranged in our Museum. You complain in your letter that I have published already the results of your investigations before they were achieved by yourself. Remember that I must label your collections immediately for the public - so you would lose the results of your labours by some smart Berlin newspaper-writer or anthropologist. Referring to some points of your investigations I am very glad to find in your excellent Semang-mythology how many was borrowed by the Semang from the Old-Cambodian civilization. Names words i. e. pure Siamese. I could not recognize

in

in your list e. e. Met a part of the sword
or the sword is not to be compared. I think
with the Siamese (Shan, Khampti) words
for sword Met, Mit, but is of Lemang
origin and means "eye = black" Malay Mata.
Concerning the highly interesting engravings
of Goro, Gee's and Tahong's etc. I have no
clear ideas yet: it is very difficult to discern
the principles of composition of these remarkable
objects. But I am convinced that in the Pukh
tradition there might be some perhaps confused
re-echo of Buddhist monasticism.

Further concerning the ethnological position
of the Lemang clans I think that our knowledge
is yet far from that point of scientific
~~certainly~~ we should arrive at. There seems
to be an old and little known connexion of
primitive civilization in on the countries
widely surrounding the Bengal Gulf including
what I might call the front part of Indonesia.
It has been remarked by European scholars
of philological learning that an inexplicable

idiom of Nivbars - the Khâsi in Assam - the
little known and grammatically bad - described
Mon (or Peguan) - and the Lemang dialects.
I was, therefore very glad to find your Lemang
God Play. The Khâsi - people in Assam call
the creator of mankind Blei, msi. U Blei, f Ka
Blei. Also Limer's name (Play's sister) cannot.
I suppose - separated from Khâsi Lim, Lim
"Kingdom". The name Menech is certainly
identical with the Mon: Mnith "mankind"
etc. etc. I regret therefore that there was
no possibility to procure for us a little more
linguistic matter: short sentences, short narra-
tives in Lemang. Your transcription of the Lemang-
words in Arabic and German is sufficient
enough to discern the quantity of the vowels
and to give a tolerable correct German ortho-
graphy.

Looking forward to the supplements to be
expected from you according your last letter

I remain
very truly yours