

- Anthropometry -

I had secured seven fine & complete skulls from the Pangghian side & was half way to the coast with them when, leaving the camp for a couple of days to meet some Semang, a heavy storm occurred, and the Semang left in charge of the camp & baggage frightened at the lightning and, thinking that Kice was angry with them for carrying the skulls away, threw them into the river & though I searched long for them on my return, they could not be found. only one skull escaped, an inferior one to the others in that it had not the teeth (otherwise a pure Pangghian). That I was keeping for my own study & had been examining at night & placed under some cloth where they did not see it. In refusal of the others I send this, but will soon replace the lost ones & send to you.

Some of my collection is lying in a cave in the central range as I could not get it ^{all} brought down. & my note book of measurements of the Semang to my annoyance, I find is inadvertently left among them. However it is safely packed in on my return I will get it again. In it are Pangghian measurements only, very carefully taken.

"Sert"

By "SERT" is meant the brown color. (burnt-umber-like) given by the Perak Semang to the then closer & such parts of a design as in the original pangghan were charcoal black. The custom has spread from them to some of the pangghan. VI Gor is a good example of it. You will see at the bottom concavity of some of the Goro I send. The substance used the exhibits of "Sert" are far off in the jungle & I will send them in my next consignment.

It is entirely an innovation & distinctly against the Sultans rules & intentions as to the design (where heavy black is intended) to represent charcoal & actually is such.

I am much in fear that after all, the Semang. Goro & charms thereon will turn out at last to be taken from the Siamese.

I thought when I first met the Semang that I had something in this, worth investigation. & new to you and scientific knowledge have been too entirely thus

trip in the Semang alone occupied country to see much of the Siamese their neighbors, but occasionally jungle dwelling & working Siamese are met far from their usual villages, on the skirts of the Semang territory & I have seen them use charms not unlike the Semang. Whether they have from contact acquired it from the Semang or the Semang from Siam I have yet to find out, but I have seen enough to warn you to give all any Semang account a very searching comparison with what you doubtless know very well - viz Siamese customs.

That the Semang declare any custom to be their own, does not absolutely prove it to be so, & the Semang has been for so long a period in contact with Siam that he may now really believe his people to have been the originators.

While the Malay has learned or re-acquired possibly many customs from the Klandares, I think the reverse would be the case with the Semang & Siamese.

That so little of Malay custom exists among the Semang may be readily explained by the hostile attitude of the Malay to the Semang, who hate him in consequence "like poison"

Examine their names for their things very searchingly in comparison with Siamese words. I have given them phonetically as carefully as I could, though no characters with which I am acquainted will give the extraordinary nasal grunt, I signify by ' thus H'LEET.

Though a few of their words are similar in sound to Malay words of other meaning, I feel sure it is only a co-incidence & not acquired from the Malay. But I am not acquainted with Siamese language & can only have suspicions on the matter.

Almost every Western man speaks a little Malay, but though there are plenty of Siamese in the Western side among the Malays yet these Siamese all use Malay & consequently very little of Siamese language is known to either Semang or Malay there.

The absolutely wild people here know no language but his own, but it does not therefore follow that his forefathers might not have done so without his knowledge & hence, the language is not known to speak of much mixed languages.

Anyway, this much is certain & later I can give you sufficient proof of it. "They came originally south to the Peninsula through what is now the Siamese territory," but who occupied that country then I am not so sure about.