

SYNTHESIS

of the

ABORIGINES of TAIWAN.

F O R E W O R D

1. As a photographic record showing the features of the aboriginal tribes of Taiwan, the "Rinji Taiwan Kyukan Chosaki" (Provisional Board of Enquiry of Old Manners and Customs of Taiwan), Proposed the publication of ten volumes, covering all such features studied and recorded from anthropological and ethnographical points of view. After the production of volumes 1 and 2, twenty years ago, the project had to be suspended.
2. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the initiation of the Japanese administration of Taiwan, this album has been issued under the title of "The Taiwan Bankai Tembo" (Synthesis of the Aborigines of Taiwan), recording illustrations of the aboriginal manners and customs which have changed and are changing rapidly, and indicating the present situation respecting the control of the aborigines. The marvellous appeal of the scenic beauty of Taiwan is also demonstrated in some of the landscape views.
3. The objective in preparing this present work, has been to present in popular form, out-standing features of the aboriginal territory and the inhabitants, their characteristics and tribal customs. The extensive area has been carefully covered and the details and facts are given with authoritative reliability. Sincere expression of gratitude is due to the officials of the Section of the Police Department in charge of the Control of the Aborigines, who have graciously rendered untiring assistance and made every possible effort to ensure a successful compilation of this album.

Publishers of the

"Ribanno Tomo".

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

TAIWAN with a total area of 35,750 sq. km., is a continental island situated on the shelf jutting out from the Continent of China with unique geographical features. Its shape suggests a simple spindle, or a leaf of the Tea for which it is justly famous. Massive chains of lofty mountains extending throughout its length form a stem or backbone, of which the eastern slope is mainly steep, rugged and cliff-faced, ~~the shore-less~~ base of the mountains plunging directly into the Pacific. From the foothills on the western side, the gentle declivity of rich alluvial soil, slopes gradually to the Formosa Strait. Topographically the island resembles Sumatra of the Dutch East Indies, while its domineering mountain masses are only comparable with those of New Guinea.

The Term "Aboriginal Territory" signifies the districts outside the thoroughly organised administrative area. Thanks to the steady pacifying and educative policy of the Japanese Government, the unruly "Aboriginal Territory" has been happily reduced, until it is now within 16,164 sq. km., - or about 35% of the total Taiwan area. This uncivilised district is practically bounded by the out-standing mountain ranges, such as Niitaka, Tsugitaka and the Central Group, - the last forming the main watershed of the island, rising abruptly from Ugan Point, on the north-east coast, running longitudinally to the south, and ending in the Koshun peninsula.

In the central mountain range rises a massive row of stupendous peaks, between 3,000 and 3,800 meters in height, - including Nankotai-zan, Chuosen-zan, Gokan-zan, Kiraishu, Noko-zan, Uramon-zan

Shukoran-zan, Kan-zan, Hinarshu-zan, Daibu-zan, and others. On either side of this gigantic barrier range, there arise other peaks, such as Mt. Tsugitaka, (the second highest point in Taiwan as the leader of the north) with Taihasen-zan, Momoyama, and Daiha-setsu-zan forming the Tsugitaka range. In the south, the Niitaka range, dominated by the crest of Niitaka, the monarch of them all, forms a worthy setting for Japan's out-standing peak. Detached from the main mountain ridge, by a long geological cleft, the Taito range runs parallel to the south-east of the island, with majestic peaks of 1,000 m. intersected by deeply-cut ravines.

As mentioned above, Taiwan is rich in lofty mountains, having more than 100 points over 3,000 m. - a unique number for an island of this area. Moreover, occasional seismic upheavals add to the fascinating variety of geological formations, while chasms, gorges, ravines, cliffs and other precipitous and rugged rock-walls add to the interest and perplexity of the adventurous geologist. Abundant water tumbling in streams and torrents from the heights to the sea, adds to the charm and marvel of this unique island.

Lying partly in the tropical and sub-tropical zones, Taiwan is roughly treated by monsoons and typhoons. Moreover, the configurations of the mountain heights affect the barometrical variations and lead to intense atmospherical disturbances. Whereas the lower terraces experience tropical temperature, with moderate conditions above them, the highest peaks reach the snow level, and wear white crowns during the winter.

This complexity of atmosphere and temperature, is reflected in the abundant variety of fauna and flora,- over 4,000 species of vegetation have already been discovered and classified, while in the kingdom of mammalia over 100 genera have been identified, and birds and butterflies have reached over 400 varieties, many of them peculiar to the island.

In fact the geologist, the botanist, the zoologist and the etomologist all declare that the island still offers marvellous unexploited terrain, while the anthropologists are still baffled by the strange mixture of humanity which inhabits that "Aboriginal Territory" with which this volume is particularly concerned.

The aborigines of Taiwan, technically termed the "Takasago Zoku" (Takasago Group), are definitely of seven distinct peoples, which for the sake of simplicity may be termed "tribes", - namely Taiyal, Saisett, Bunun, Tsou, Paiwan, Ami, and Yami. The first five live mainly in the mountain fastnesses, while the Ami people occupy the Taito Range on the south-east coast, and the Yami folk inhabit that isolated island of Koto Sho, (Botel Tobago) an off-shoot to the south-east. Ethnologically these seven branches of the human family are still a puzzle, why they should have chosen to migrate to Taiwan at different times in the distant past, to here make their last national home, keeping their characteristics distinct, and still forming easily distinguishable ethnological groups, is a delightful problem, awaiting solution, if there be any. Malay, Indonesian, Peloponesian seem to fit three of them, but the others are unidentified, and constitute a fascinating enigma.

In general these peoples of the Takasago Group have kept intact, quite apart from the stream of "civilization" of the better-known world, and they therefore still retain their primitive modes, customs, beliefs, and traditions. Without written history, and entirely dependent on verbal "record" of historical incidents, their ethnological past furnishes an unfathomable problem. Two of the most powerful groups, - the Taiyal (35,000) and Bunun (18,000), observed literally the belief that "two heads are better than one", and therefore accumulated as many as possible. This national custom had to be checked by the Japanese Governors, and is now practically stamped out.

Deeply-seated customs are difficult to remove, especially in primitive races, and occasionally severity of discipline was unavoidable, but on the whole suppression of this inhuman practice has been patiently and tactfully enforced. Since the completion in 1914 of the punitive expeditions led by Governor-General Sakuma, General peaceful security has been established and maintained. The aborigines are mainly simple and child-like when approached in a friendly manner, and with a worthy band of patient instructors, Japan has made marked success in converting many of the "savages" into appreciative agriculturists and worthy subjects of the Japanese Empire. Uncouth customs have been eliminated, medical treatment has been freely dispensed, cultivation and domesticity have been inculcated, a barter system regulated, and well-conducted "country schools" established and staffed to the manifest improvement of those "aborigines" who have come within the reach of these well-organized gestures of pacification. In most cases of a wild and barbaric people coming under the rule of one more civilized, the aborigines suffer from the restraints and irksome rule, even to the extent of falling off in population, but in Taiwan it is a happy contrast for the aborigines seem to flourish under the benign government of the Japanese Emperor, and are increasing in numbers as well as improving in their standard of living.

Since the Japanese occupation of Taiwan, various policies of aboriginal control have been adopted but the fundamental principle of bringing these subjects under the beneficent influence of the Imperial benevolence is always constant.

T A I Y L T R I B E

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the raiyal people occupy the steep rugged mountainous area in northern Taiwan. By nature, they are daring, martial but simple-minded, and bear some striking resemblance to the Japanese in their physiomy and characteristics. The practice of tattooing the face, both in men and women (even starting in childhood) was universally observed, hence they were known as the "tattooed aborigines". This is one of the barbarous customs which Japanese education and influence is repressing.

their social organisation is based on a semi-religious foundation. they are not idolaters, for they have no images, and worship an invisible Beneficent Spirit, under whose direction a man excelling in dignity, resourcefulness and manly character is elected Chief of the tribe, - succession being limited to male lineage. Owing to their numbers (35,000) and the extensive area over which they roam, this people is naturally subdivided into clans or groups, quickly developing tribal customs, manners and idioms of speech or dialects, - and although nominally under the central control of the Gaga or chief governing body, their sub-tribal interests sometimes clash, and they resort to force for settlement, - village and hamlet raiding each other, although nominally of the same raiyal family! Mixed in with this savage basis of brute-force was the ferocious cult of head-hunting of skull-collecting, which having been inculcated by their ancestors was "in the blood" and hard to eradicate. It was mainly to remedy this out-standing feature, that Governor-General Sakuma led the punitive expedition of 1914 culminating a programme extending over five years, for the suppression of "head-hunting". The clans which

led by their chieftains, duly swore allegiance to the Japanese authorities have developed into worthy subjects, and are quickly becoming intelligent agriculturists, woodsmen, and colonists. Outstanding along this line of peaceful settlement and conversion, are the raiyals in the Kappanzen district (Shinchiku Prefecture), Sankyaku (Kareake Prefecture) and Nano (Taiheku Prefecture), all of whom are typically reliable and useful settlers.

Population of the Raiyal tribe.

Prefectures	Taiheku	Shinchiku	Taichu	Kareake	Total
Number of villages	35	69	31	49	184
Number of huts	1,261	2,540	1,559	1,924	7,284
Male	3,189	6,130	3,249	4,731	17,299
Population female	3,279	6,171	3,221	4,887	17,658
total	6,468	12,301	6,570	9,618	34,957

S A I S E T T T R I B E .
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The Saisett tribe is the smallest of the Takasago group, both in number and area of habitation which is limited to the three districts of Chikute, Chikunan and raiko of Shinchiku Prefecture.

Frequently disturbed by incursions of the Taiyals their head-hunting neighbors to the east and often invaded by the Chinese settlers of the plains, these timid folks have been vanquished in the battle of life, and their reduced numbers are liable to be merged into the surrounding peoples, in fact, those nearest the Taiyals are adopting Taiyal customs while the rest follow the easier way of the Taiwanese of the plains. The only outstanding peculiarity of the Saisetts is their strange language.

Population of the Saisett tribe

Shinchiku Prefecture

Number of villages	10
Number of huts	255

	Male	757
Population	female	704
	total	1,461

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T S U O U T R I B E .

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their population reduced to 2,000, the tsuou inhabit the forested slopes of Mt Ari, almost at the south-western foot of Mt Nitaka. Their head-hunting zeal was suddenly checked about 170 years ago, by the heroic self-sacrifice of Ge He, an official interpreter, who surrendered his own head as a permanent lesson to the ardent skull-collectors who seemed unable to learn his precepts in any other way. As suggested by the pictures, the tsuou are a musical people, with original methods of producing harmony. Perhaps this feature has developed their naturally gentle disposition, but they are also lacking in adaptability, and do not take as readily to civilization and customs as do some of the more vigorous tribes.

Socially divided into clans, large and small, as in the case of the Bunun, they were inclined to intemperance, but the younger generation has been reared to higher things, and with improved living conditions the Tsuou are making a worthy contribution to the colonial life of Taiwan.

Population of the tsuou tribe

Prefectures		raichu	rainan	rakao	retal
Number of villages		1	16	5	22
Number of huts		11	177	87	275
	Male	54	874	248	1,176
Population	Female	37	772	206	1,015
	retal	91	1,646	454	2,191

- P A I W A N T R I B E -

The Paiwan tribe is a large group inhabiting the most southern section of the island - namely the Prefectures of Takao and Taito. Generally courageous and clever by nature, some of them working down the lower slopes until they came into contact with the Taiwanese of Chinese stock from whom they adopted some local customs.

The social or clan-organisation of this people is strictly feudal, the chieftainship being hereditary, and succession to the eldest, male or female, resulting occasionally in a chieftainess. The male heir to the chief is tattooed on the upper part of the body, and the hands, - the female on the back of the hands. The subordinate villagers pay to the chief a fixed tribute in the form of agricultural products, fruits of the chase, etc.,

The rembe-dama (precious beads) and earthen-ware pots constitute the most prized family heir-looms, and being impossible of imitation are very highly esteemed. In the fine arts of weaving, embroidery and carving, the Paiwan tribe stands in the highest position.

It was particularly against this untamed group that General Saigo directed his corrective mission in 1874.

Population of the Paiwan tribe

Prefectures	Takao	Taito	Total
Number of villages	96	78	174
Number of huts	5,493	2,962	8,455
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Male	14,257	7,190	22,447
Female	13,742	7,425	21,167
Total	27,999	14,615	42,614

A M I T R I B E

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The Ami folk who inhabit that weird geological strip running parallel to the south-east coast of Taiwan constitute the most numerous of the seven Takasago Group, and cover the largest territorial area. Of fine physique, vigorous, and quick to learn, they have readily adopted agriculture and other industries, and have conformed so worthily to governmental control, they have since 1914, been admitted into the jurisdiction of the Ordinary Administration.

Organised into various clans, of different dimensions, with recognised family systems and regulations, they are largely matriarchal, also showing strict homage to the veterans who by right of age dominate the family and tribal councils.

Population of the Ami tribe (December, 1934)

Prefecture	raite	Karenko	rakao	retal	
Number of villages	44	46	-	90	
Number of huts	2,165	3,712	-	5,877	
	Male	11,002	12,503	-	23,505
Population	female	10,935	12,622	2	23,559
	total	21,937	25,125	2	47,064

Remarks - Outside of the figures stated in the above table there are some who are treated administratively as Jukuban (semi-civilized aborigines).

- Y A M I T R I B E -

On the islet of Kete-she (Betel Tobago) about 59 miles south east of Taito, lives this diminished group of Yami people. Where they came from, and to what anthropological group they really belong are still fascinating mysteries. Gentle and peaceful, quite unfamiliar with the barbaric headhunting practices of their neighbors on the Taito mainland, they do not even indulge in smoking, or drinking intoxicating liquor. Industrious, living contentedly with their potatoes, coconuts, pigs and fish, they ask nothing of the great outer world except to be left alone. Strictly communal, they do not even have leaders or chiefs, living harmoniously as a large contented family, naturally backward from an educational standpoint, but of keenly devout religious instinct, and of seemingly though primitive habits.

Population of the Yami tribe

Taito Prefecture		
Number of villages		7
Number of huts		401
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	Male	895
Population	female	787
	Total	1,682
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