

## THE BORNEO RESEARCH BULLETIN

Number 1. March 1969

### The Randolph Conference.

In the last decade, the tempo of research in all parts of Borneo has quickened tremendously and has taken on an increasingly international flavor. Consequently, it has become more and more difficult for Bornean scholars to keep apprised of current developments in the field, or even merely to identify one another and their respective interests. Frequently, three or four years elapse between the formulation of a research project and the time when reports on the completed project reach publication. And, too often, when the reports appear, they are dispersed among a wide variety of periodicals, some well known and accessible, others relatively obscure or difficult to obtain. Other material never sees the light of day but lies buried in doctoral dissertations entombed in the musty vaults of the Academy, to be unlocked only by those with the knowledge that such a corpus exists. Such knowledge is often hard to come by.

In September, 1968, kind fortune brought together in the tiny mountain town of Randolph, New Hampshire, a small group of scholars whose collective research interests cover the whole of the island of Borneo. The group was international in composition, and included George Appell (Peabody Museum, Harvard University), Stanley Bedlington (Cornell University), Tom Harrisson (Cornell University), Alfred and Judith Hudson (Michigan State University), Stephen Morris (London School of Economics), Benedict Sandin (Curator, Sarawak Museum), Clifford Sather (Vassar College), and Herbert and Patricia Whittier (Michigan State University).

In the course of the three-day meeting, it was suggested that a newsletter should be established to facilitate the dissemination among interested scholars of information regarding proposed, ongoing, and completed research in all regions of Borneo. For this purpose, it was decided to publish an occasional periodical, to be called the Borneo Research Bulletin. It was envisioned that the Bulletin would be put out three or four times a year, and that it would serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences related to research in Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak, and the provinces of Indonesian Borneo. Initially, the Bulletin will contain brief reports on individuals preparing for or engaged in Bornean research, and a listing of published materials that have not yet found their way into the standard bibliographies. Later, if there is sufficient interest in the Bulletin, its services can be expanded to include other features.

The Bulletin is not financially supported, and for the present at least, the scope and quality of the matter contained in it will be entirely dependent on the reports submitted to it by Bornean scholars themselves. In order to facilitate the flow of information, the Bulletin has obtained the voluntary services of a coordinating editor, responsible for assembling and producing the newsletter, one roving editor, and several regional contributing editors. The Bulletin now has regional editors for Sarawak, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and would like to find others willing to serve for areas such as Brunei, Sabah, Indonesia, and Australia. Communications with material for inclusion in the Bulletin may be addressed to the nearest regional editor, or may be sent directly to the coordinating editor. Notes on an individual should include his affiliation and current address; bibliographic material, as complete citations as possible.

The current editors are:

Coordinating Editor: \*Alfred B. Hudson/Department of Anthropology  
Michigan State University/East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Contributing Editors:

Sarawak: Benedict Sandin/Government Ethnologist & Curator/Sarawak Museum and Library/Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

United Kingdom: Stephen Morris/Department of Anthropology/London School of Economics/Houghton Street/Aldwych/London W.C.2, England

United States: \*George Appell/Phillips, Maine 04966

Robert Inger/Curator of Reptiles/Field Museum of Natural History/Chicago, Illinois 60605

Roving Editor: Tom Harrisson/Southeast Asia Program/108 Franklin Hall/Cornell University/Ithaca, New York 14850

\*Between July 1969 and September 1970, A. B. Hudson will be doing fieldwork in Borneo (see note below). During that time, George Appell will serve as coordinating editor.

#### RESEARCH NOTES

##### General Prospective Research

Professor A. B. Hudson, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University, has received a one-year grant from the American Council of Learned Societies to conduct a linguistic survey of the indigenous languages of Borneo, beginning in July, 1969. He will travel throughout the island to collect comparative materials representing as many as possible of the "isolects" (named language isolates) spoken by the various indigenous peoples of Borneo. The data, consisting of grammatical material and word lists, will be analyzed to provide a classification scheme for Bornean languages, along the lines of Hudson's 1967 publication, The Barito Isolects of Borneo: a classification based on comparative reconstruction and lexicostatistics, Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Southeast Asia Program, Data Paper No. 68.

##### Brunei: Research in Progress

Allen Maxwell, Anthropology Department, Yale University, has begun the first field study of the Kedayans in Temburong district; he reports good initial response from this hitherto neglected people. Field address: Language and Literature Bureau, Bruneitown, Brunei (Borneo).

##### Brunei: Completed Research

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brown, Anthropology Department, Cornell University, have returned from two years of field work in Brunei. The data, mainly on the social and political structures, present and past, of the Sultanate, are now being prepared as a dissertation for Cornell University. Mr. Brown expects to compare his materials with those of Thomas Kiefer (see below) on Sulu; there is much in common politically between Brunei and Sulu. Mr. Brown presented a paper, "A brief preliminary account of the social structure of nineteenth century Brunei," at the 1968 annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association.

Indonesian Borneo: Proposed Research

Herbert and Patricia Whittier, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University, will begin field work in the Apo Kayan area of Kalimantan Timur in the fall of 1969, under a National Institute of Mental Health research grant. They will work among the Kenyah, but hope to include a study of Kenyah-Punan interaction as well. Mr. Whittier will study social structure and organization; Mrs. Whittier will work in linguistics.

Sabah: Proposed Research

William Schneider, an anthropology doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, currently teaching in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, will leave in June, 1969 to begin field work in Sabah. A student of Dr. Peter Goethals, he is primarily interested in local court systems.

Sabah: Research in Progress

Dr. G. H. Appell has received a grant from the Social Sciences Research Council-American Council of Learned Societies to revise his Rungus Dusun dictionary and to translate and analyze previously collected Rungus religious texts.

Jay Crain, Anthropology Department, Cornell University, has begun a study of the Iun Daye Murut in the Sipitang District of western Sabah. He moved into a new house there in November 1968.

Professor David H. Fortier, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, has returned to Sabah to continue his studies of a Chinese agricultural community and processes of social change in it. His research there was originally undertaken between 1954 and 1956.

David Horr, Anthropology Department, Harvard University, is continuing a study of orang-utans in the wild, with important new results. He has been working mainly in the jungle areas of the east coast. This work is now entering its second year.

Sarawak: Proposed Research

A field study of adoption among Malays of the First and Second Division has been planned by Mr. Robert McKinley, a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at the University of Michigan. If funded, the study will begin in July, 1969. Mr. McKinley will examine the circumstances surrounding voluntary adoption, giving special consideration to social, economic, religious and demographic variables. Case histories of inter-ethnic adoption (Chinese-Malay, Dayak-Malay) will receive particular attention. Whereas studies of Malay kinship in other areas have often pointed to the common occurrence of informal adoption and its importance, no thorough study of the factors involved has yet been attempted.

Sarawak: Research in Progress

Dr. P. Abrahams, of London, is making a study of color blindness frequency in various races of East Malaysia, in conjunction with the Malaysian Department of Medical and Health Services.

James P. Bacon, a graduate student, is working on a comparison of the structure of reptile and amphibian communities at three rain forest areas in Sarawak.

Paul Beavitt, London School of Economics, arrived in October 1968 to study problems of development and agriculture among the Iban. A student of Dr. Stephen Morris, Mr. Beavitt has been working in the Sarawak Museum before going into the field with Mrs. Beavitt in the Second Division. Mr. Beavitt had been in Sarawak previously as a V. S. O. volunteer from England.

Sarawak Research in Progress (cont'd.)

Dr. Sarah Gill, of the University of Hawaii, is continuing work on native crafts in Sarawak. Originally undertaken at the Sarawak Museum as a dissertation for Columbia University, a book is expected.

Stephanie Morgan, Anthropology Department, Cornell University, began work in November 1968 on a program, devised by Tom Harrisson together with Benedict Sandin, to continue a study of genealogical and other folk-information for the Iban and other groups. She is working in the Sarawak Museum with Benedict Sandin.

Miss Dorothy Felzer, an American architect, was to be in the Param region of northern Sarawak during October-November 1968, doing research for a book on Southeast Asian traditional house types.

Dr. Earl Schmidt and his team at the Mental Hospital in Kuching are continuing their extensive study of schizophrenia in Sarawak native populations. The project, supported by American research funds, is scheduled for completion next year.

Donald Topping, University of Hawaii and temporarily of the Regional English Language Centre, South East Asian Ministers of Education Council, Singapore, spent three weeks in January 1969 collecting linguistic data among the Iand Dayaks in the Sadong area.

Sarawak Completed Research

Michael Leigh, Government Department, Cornell University, in conjunction with the Sarawak Museum, has completed a two-year study of political structures and leadership. Mr. Leigh, an Australian, and his wife returned to the United States before Christmas 1968.

Peripheral Regions Completed Research

Thomas H. Liefer, Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, has finished two years of field study on the island of Jolo, Philippines, where he worked with the Tausug (who in Sabah are usually known as Suluk), a group of some 175,000 people. He has already published two reports on his Tausug research: Institutionalised Friendship and Warfare among the Tausug of Jolo, Ethnology 7:225-244 (1968) and Power, Politics and Guns in Jolo, Philippine Sociological Review 15:21-29 (1967). Mr. Liefer is eager to pursue his Sabah studies further and will go to Borneo at a later date.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliographic references which are given here by no means represent an exhaustive search of the literature. Our principle in this issue has been to exclude references already listed in the annual bibliographies prepared by the Journal of Asian Studies.

Brunei

Ashton, Peter. Ecological studies in the mixed dipterocarp forest of Brunei State. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1964. 74 p. illus., maps, tables.

\_\_\_\_\_. Manual of dipterocarp trees of Brunei State. London, Oxford University Press, 1964. xii, 242 p. illus.

Brown, Donald E. "A brief preliminary account of the social structure of nineteenth-century Brunei." 18 p. Paper presented at the 1968 Seattle annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Indonesian Borneo

Hudson, Alfred B. Padju Dat the ethnography and social structure of a Ma'anian Dejak Group in Southeastern Borneo. 1967. 588 l. Thesis--Cornell University. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms.

Sabah

Appell, G. N. "Social anthropological census for cognatic societies and its application among the Rungus of northern Borneo." Biidragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (1969) In press.

\_\_\_\_\_. "A survey of the social and medical anthropology of Sabah Retrospect and prospect." Behavior Science Notes 3:1-54 (1968).

Johnson, Osa. Last adventure the Martin Johnsons in Borneo. Edited by Pascal Imperato. London, Jarrolds, 1967. 233 p. plates. 35/-  
A rather curious rewrite of the once famous 'explorations' of film-man Martin Johnson and his wife Osa, mainly in Sabah, in the early thirties. While wildly exaggerated, there are important insights on that period. A piece of historic curiosa.

Sarawak

Cheng Te-K'un. Archaeology in Sarawak. Cambridge, W. Heffer, 1968. 48 p. 12 pl. 30/-

Harrisson, Tom. The Malays of Sarawak before Malaysia. London, Macmillan. c.700 p. Due spring, 1969.

Inger, R. F. "Organization of communities of frogs along small rain forest streams in Sarawak." Journal of Animal Ecology In press.

Lloyd, H., R. F. Inger, and F. W. King. "On the diversity of reptile and amphibian species in a Bornean rain forest." American Naturalist (1968):

Pringle, Robert H. The Ibans of Sarawak under Brooke rule, 1841-1941. 1967. 653 l. Thesis--Cornell University. Ann Arbor, University Microfilms.

Sandin, Benedict. The Sea Dayaks of Borneo before white rajah rule. Preface by Tom Harrisson. Introduction by Robert H. Pringle. East Lansing, Michigan, Michigan State University Press, 1968. xx, 134 p. 3 appendices, 7 maps (1 endpaper), notes, 16 pl. \$7.50.

This excellent book recounts the story of Iban migrations as reflected in traditional tusut genealogies and oral literature, commencing some fifteen generations ago, when the first pioneers entered Sarawak, and ending in the mid-nineteenth century, when the various Iban communities were being brought under the rule of the first Rajah Brooke. Robert Pringle's doctoral dissertation (see immediately above) brings the history up to the time of the Japanese occupation. The broad themes of Iban proto-history that Sandin presents document anew the extent to which a "tribal" society undergoes change over time as its subgroups constantly adapt to new conditions.

Smythies, B. E. Common Sarawak Trees. Kuching, Borneo Literature Bureau, 1965.