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„INSTITUTE FOR THE INDIES", AMSTERDAM

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Dr J. KUNST

WITH THIRTY-TWO ILLUSTRATIONS AND TWO MAPS

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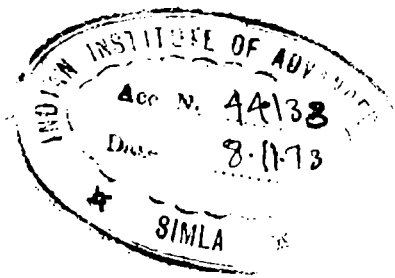


THE PEOPLES OF THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO

The Indian Archipelago has been inhabited from time immemorial. And no wonder; for it is a good place to live—fertile and for the most part climatically favourable for human habitation, and, furthermore, situated in the zone of the trade winds, which greatly promote migration.

Of the first waves of population that reached the archipelago we naturally know next to nothing. All we do know has been revealed to us within comparatively recent years by the soil. The first traces of a creature that walked upright—a kind of primitive man—*Pithecanthropus erectus,* was discovered by Prof. E. Dubois, who found a skull and some remnants of a skeleton probably belonging to it near Trinil in Mid-eastern Java in 1892. Later, more skulls and bones of other races were found —again in Java—in less ancient geological strata: the Wajak man (*Homo wajakensis*) by Dr. Dubois; eleven skulls of the Solo man (*Homo soloënsis*) by Ter Haar and Oppenoorth; and recently there came to light the skull of a child of a race still more primitive perhaps than the *Pithecanthropus,* which was named by Dr. Von Koenigswald, who found it, after the place of its discovery *Homo mojokertensis.* The last-mentioned palaeontologist (a student of archaic forms of life) has to his credit two more finds of *Pithecanthropus erectus* skulls (fig. 1).

If we can speak of civilisations at all in connection with these races, that inhabited Java for tens of thousands of years, we must think of them as of a very primitive order. They cannot, at best, have been more than palaeolithic (belonging to the early Stone Age), that is, cultures of which the most characteristic remains known to us are stones roughly hewn into implements —a stage of human development represented even in our own era by certain Australian tribes, and by the Tasmanians that became extinct about seventy years ago (fig. 2).

After the palaeolithic cultures, neolithic types of civilisation appeared in the archipelago. This second group is the one characterised by implements made of polished stone. Some of the peoples living in the neolithic age were megalith-builders, in other words, were in the habit of building huge stone monuments—in some cases skilfully ornamented—in honour of their ancestors or the deceased chiefs of their tribe.

Present-day representatives of people still living in the neolithic age are found in New Guinea. Figure 3 shows specimens of clubs, axes, poles and sago-scrapers typical of their stage of development. Polished stone is the material of which these articles are chiefly made

The population of the archipelago today is a mixture —the result of the intermingling of different races and cultures. Yet the various elements composing the group are sufficiently alike to allow of their being classed together with a large number of their near neighbours

under the general name of Austronesians, *i.e.,* inhabitants of the southern islands.

The Austronesian area extends from Formosa and the Philippine Islands in the north to New Zealand in the south, and from East Madagascar in the far West to the lonely Easter Island in the far East.

The racial and cultural bonds uniting these many peoples are not so strong, however, as to prevent their being divisible into four groups, namely, Indonesians (the inhabitants of the Indian islands), also called Malays in the widest sense of this term; Melanesians (the black island-dwellers), Micronesians (the inhabitants of the small islands) and Polynesians (the inhabitants of the many islands). In this connection the reader's attention is called to map I.

The area inhabited by the Indonesians includes the greater part of the Netherlands Indies besides the Philippine Islands, part of Formosa, the Malay Peninsula, the country along the borders of Burma and Assam and the eastern portion of Madagascar.

The older components of the population, which settled in the archipelago before the real Austronesians, have somehow largely disappeared; they have been driven away or exterminated, or have been absorbed by the new races; and yet here and there remains are still extant. Two of these very old races are: the Negritos and the Veddoids, so called after one of the first discovered representatives of this type found in Ceylon, the Vedda.

The primeval Negrito element, the characteristic marks of which are a remarkably small stature, generally a short skull, woolly hair, brownish-black complexion and blackish-brown eyes, are only found sporadically, at least in our archipelago. Some anthropologists see traces of this type among the Orang laut, the remarkable sea gypsies of the Riouw and Lingga Islands and, furthermore, presume that it is an important component in the constitution of the pygmoid (dwarf-like) population of the central highlands of New Guinea (fig. 4). A purer form of this Negrito type is found in the Andaman Islands (north of Sumatra), in Malacca (the Semang) and in the Philippines, where they are usually called Negrillos.

The Veddoid type is more dolichocephalous, *i.e.,* has a more elongated skull. It is marked by wavy hair and a less dark skin than the Negrito. Traces of it are found everywhere in and near the archipelago—the purest among the Senoi and Sakai in the Malay Peninsula and more mixed with Old-Malay blood among the Toala and Tokea and other groups of the population of the South and South-East of Celebes, as well as on the islands of Engano and Mentawei west of Sumatra (fig. 11). Elsewhere too, as for instance in Bali; among the Karo Bataks; in Borneo, Alor (see the middle figure in our 30th illustration), Ceram, Buru, Halmahera (fig. 5); among some of the small nomadic tribes of Sumatra, such as the Kubus in the Palembang country, and the Sakai in the Siak country, comparatively pure forms of this Veddoid type turn up frequently.

The main body of the population of the archipelago is formed at present by the Malays, however, who are about 60 million strong. These people are divided, ethnologically, into two groups: first the Proto-, Pre- or Old-Malays (sometimes also called the Indonesians in the narrower sense of this term) (figs. 6-12) to which most of the Niasans (180,000), the Bataks (1¼ million), most of the Dayak tribes (650,000) and the Torajas (600,000) are reckoned to belong; and second, the Deutero-, Coast- or Neo-Malays, the Malays in the narrow sense of this term, to which belong the Achinese (850,000), the Minangkabaus (2 million), the people of Palembang (800,000), the Javanese (32 million), the Sundanese (10 million), the Madurese (6 million), the Balinese (1.2 million), the Sasaks of Lombok (700,000), the Banjarese (in and around Banjermasin in South Borneo: 900,000) the Buginese (1.6 million), the Macassarese (650,000), Ternatese, Tidorese etc. (see figs. 13 to 24 and map II).

Both groups of Malays, which are presumed to have arrived in the archipelago between 2000 and 1500 B.C., are easily distinguishable from the above-named older elements in the population on account of their more or less Mongoloid features, straight, black hair, thin beards, brown eyes and yellowish-brown, more or less olive complexions. They are regarded as representatives of a branch of the yellow race—later mixed with men of other blood—which became separated from the parent stem before the latter developed the racial characteristics of the Mongols.

In spite of the underlying unity, local mixing with Chinese, Arabs, Indians and other races has produced striking varieties within this great Malay race. An instance of this is the Coast-Malays; in fact, we are probably justified in saying that the difference between these people and the Old-Malays is due very largely to the circumstance that the latter have for several thousand years maintained their racial purity, whereas the former have assimilated to themselves many foreign elements. The Malays are mainly agricultural people—not like the previously-mentioned remnants of older races, who are jungle nomads. Some of the Malays, such as the Madurese, Buginese and Macassarese, excell in the qualities that make splendid seamen. In many respects it is a very talented race. The art of weaving is highly developed everywhere among them and in certain parts of the archipelago we find them doing very delicate and beautiful metal work. For the rest I must confine myself here to mentioning briefly the fearless fanaticism and heroic martial qualities of the Achinese; the trading spirit and intelligence of some of the other Sumatran peoples, notably the Bataks, Menangkabaus and the Palembangans; the incomparable artistic feeling of the Balinese; the general culture of the inhabitants of Central Java with their ancient literature, their art of batiking, their richly varied music, their many-sided dramatic art and matchless dancing.

In the eastern part of the archipelago we find an entirely different population, wedged in between the

Indonesians, the Micronesians and the Melanesians and belonging to none of them. This consists of the inhabitants of New Guinea and neighbouring islands (Misul, Salawati, Waigeo, the Schouten Islands and Japen), the general name of which is Papuans (in Netherlands Indian territory about 300,000). Their having been given a joint name as of a single tribe or people does not mean that the whole group is homogeneous. A great number of different ethnic elements have intermingled in the population of New Guinea. In the eastern part it is predominantly Melanesian—so much so, in fact, that some anthropologists simply class the Papuans with the Melanesians; in other parts the Malay element is much to the fore, while in again others—notably in the South—it appears to be related to the Australian type; again, in the central highlands there are distinct traces of a strongly Negrito strain in both the composition and physique of the population. All these various types are distributed over the different areas unequally as to both degree and proportion, and long isolation from the rest of the world practically has made of this mixed race a new secondary race (figs. 4 and 25 to 27).

There where the Malay and the Papuan areas meet, namely in the Moluccas and the eastern Lesser Sunda Islands, (figs. 28-31), a group has developed which, while culturally more nearly related to the Malays, is physically a typically mixed race, and has in some cases produced a by no means homogeneous racial type (fig. 30).

Besides the group we have already dealt with and which jointly constitute the autochthonous population of the archipelago, there are others to which we must devote a few words, if only because, in spite of their being comparatively small numerically, they have very greatly influenced the development of this islands-world. I refer to the Europeans (including the Indo-Europeans there are about 250,000 of them, roughly 200,000 of which are in Java); the Chinese (1¼ million, roughly 600,000 of which are in Java, see fig. 32); the alien Orientals (Singhalese, Sikhs, Bombay merchants, Chettys from India, a good 70,000 Arabs from Hadramaut in Southern Arabia, a few Philippinos), numbering altogether almost 120,000; and finally a small number —a good 7000—Japanese, who were formally and legally classed with the Europeans. The figures here given are from the census of 1930.

Each of these groups has its own characteristic occupations and callings. The Europeans are generally interested in large business concerns, hold the higher positions in the civil service or the army, or in the management of the great industrial enterprises. The Chinese are chiefly middle-men, cabinet-makers, laundry-men, tailors, money-lenders or grocers. The Singhalese—especially in Sumatra's East Coast—are cart-drivers and road-makers; the Sikhs, also on the East Coast—often wrongly called Bengalis—are porters, night watchmen and milk-men. The Bombay merchants deal in silks, brasswork and china; the Chettys trade exclusively in money. The

Arabs are money-lenders or landlords or both. The Japanese were barbers or photographers.

All these many and various peoples and races have been able to live together in peace and harmony ever since the beginning of the 20th century, when thanks to the work of Governor-General van Heutsz the Netherlands Indies Civil Service carried the Netherlands rule into all parts of the archipelago. All these elements of the population have, whether consciously or unconsciously, contributed by their labour to the phenomenal development which the last few decades have witnessed, stage by stage, in this island realm. And all this has been possible thanks to the great achievement of the *pax neerlandica,* which has welded this conglomeration of heterogeneous islands and peoples into a united whole—Indonesia.

Fig. 1. One of the *Pithecanthropus* skulls recently discovered by Dr. Von Koeningswald, viewed from above

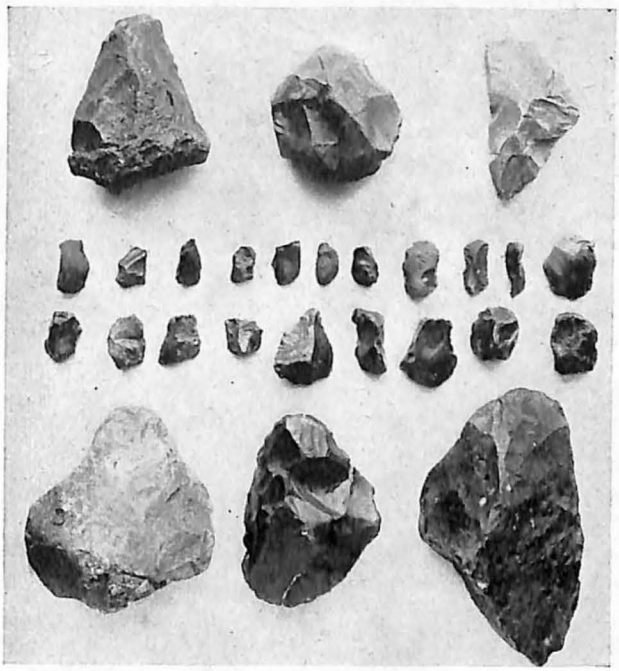


Fig. 2. Palaeolithic implements found in the Residency of Madiun, Central Java

Fig. 3. Neolithic implements as used by Coast Papuans at the present day

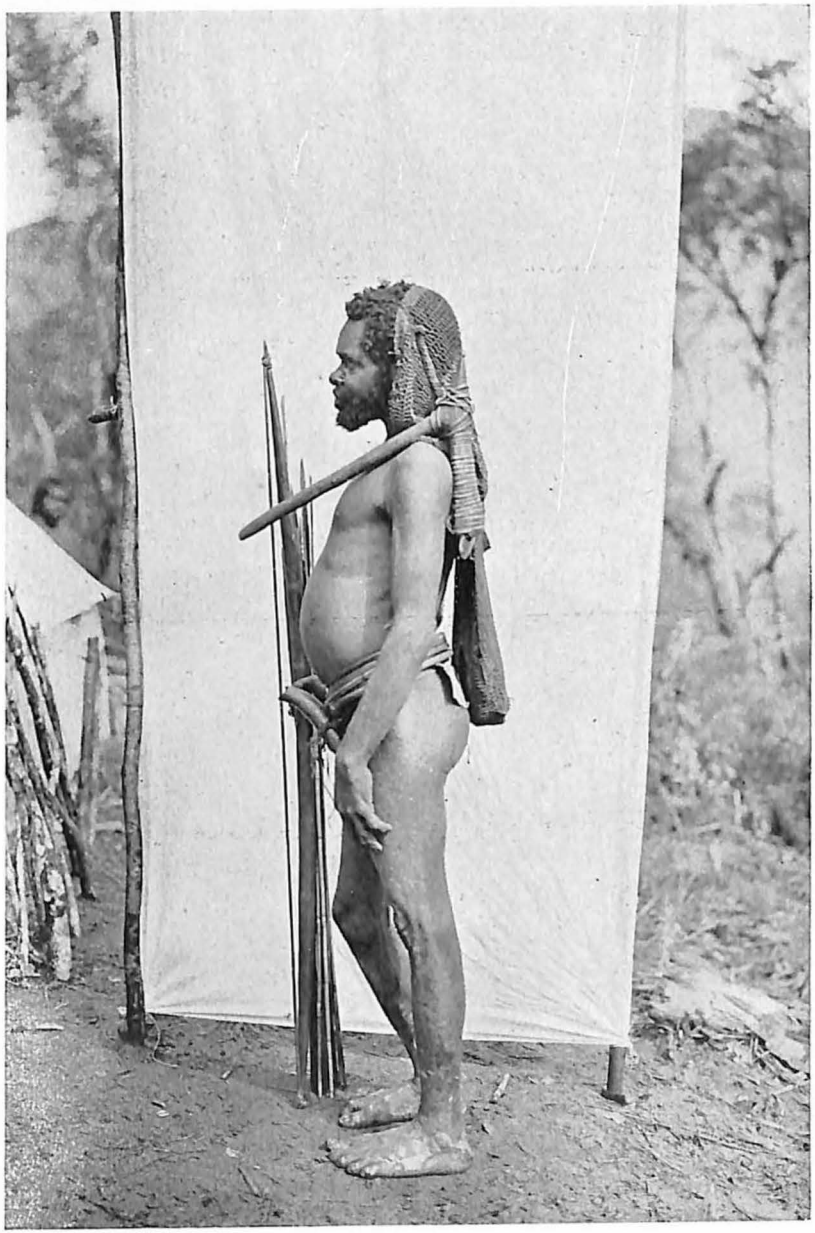


Fig. 4. Hill Papuan (Pesechem) Photo by A. Pulle

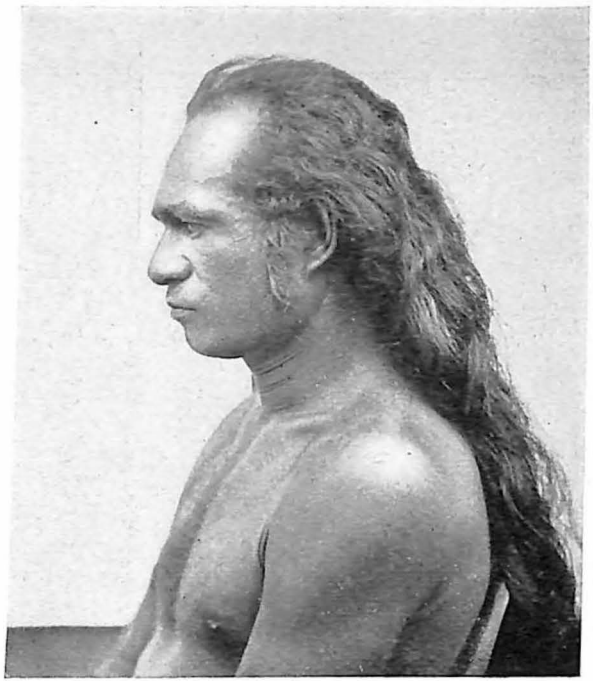


Fig. 5. Veddoid type from Halmahera

Photo by Tassilo Adam

Fig. 7. Karo Batak

Photo by Dr. C. W. Janssen

Fig 6. The tribal chief (*siulu*) of Bawômateluò, South Nias, with his family

Fig. 8. Dayaks of the Kayan tribe (Apokayan, Central Borneo)

Photo by Nieuwenhuis

Fig. 9. Women from the Apokayan

Photo by H. Wolvekamp

Fig. 10. Toraja tribal chief with two of his women

Photo by Dr. P. Wirtz

Fig. 11. Women from Sabirut, Mentawai-islands

Fig. 12. A Toraja

Fig. 13. Minangkabaus
Chiefs, *panghulus* from Gadang

Photo by J. Kunst

Fig. 14. A woman from Palembang
The eldest daughter of the Pasira of Muara Beliti

Photo by Ned. Indië Oud en Nieuw

Fig. 15. His Highness Kanjeng Gusti Pangéran Adipati Aria Mangku Nagara VII (†)

Photo by Ned. Indië Oud en Nieuw

Fig. 16. Ratu Timur, wife of His Highness, the Late Mangku Nagara VII

Photo by J. Kunst

Fig. 17. A Javanese from the Principalities: The late R. M. Djojodipoero, the greatest artist of Jogja, a musican, a wood-carver and maker of puppets for the wayang theatre, a painter, dancer and architect

Photo by Cephas

Fig. 18. A Javanese woman from Banjumas

Photo by Mej. S. Riese

Fig. 19. A Sundanese woman

Photo by Nieuwenhuis

Fig. 20. An Achinese woman

Photo by Res. Van Steenis

Fig. 21. A High Castle Balinese

Fig. 22. Members of the Buginese Nobility

Photo by J. V. Meininger

Fig. 23. A Girl from South Bali
A Janger Dancer

Photo by J. Kunst

Fig. 24. Buginese girl of noble birth in dancing costume at the court of the Datu of Paloppo

Photo by J. V. Meininger

Fig. 25. Coast Papuans from Demta, N. New Guinea

Photo by J. V. Meininger

Fig. 26. Coast Papuans. Men of the Marind-anim-tribe in festal garb. N New Guinea

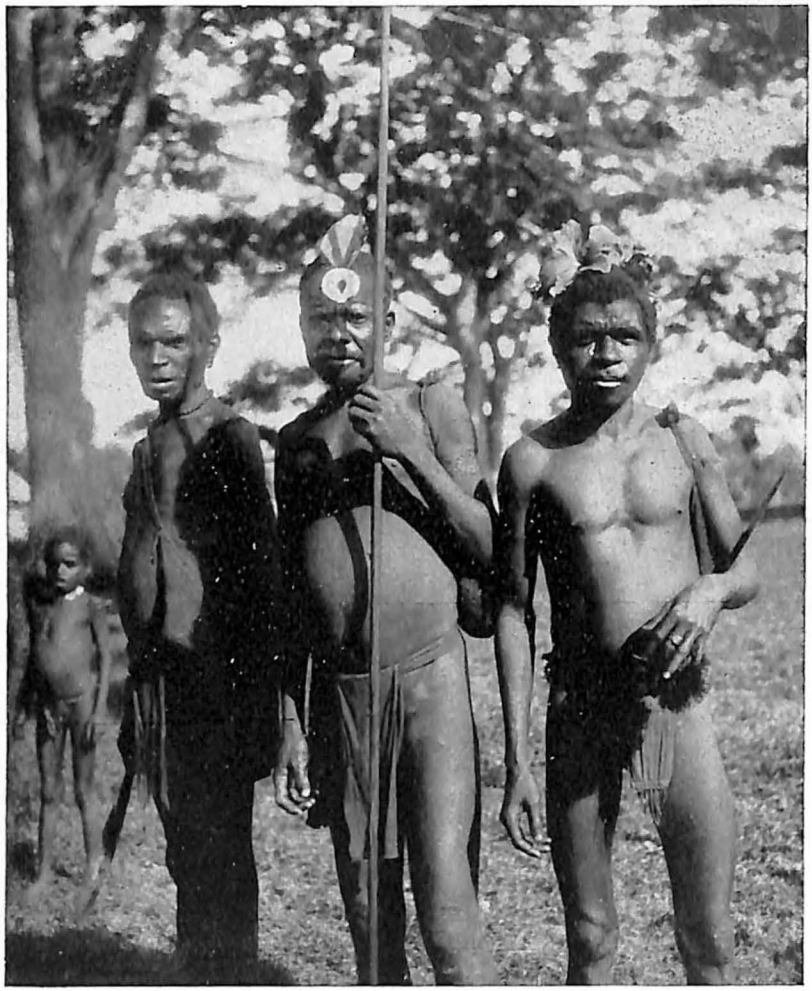


Photo by J. Kunst

Fig. 27. Papuans from Manokwari, N. New Guinea

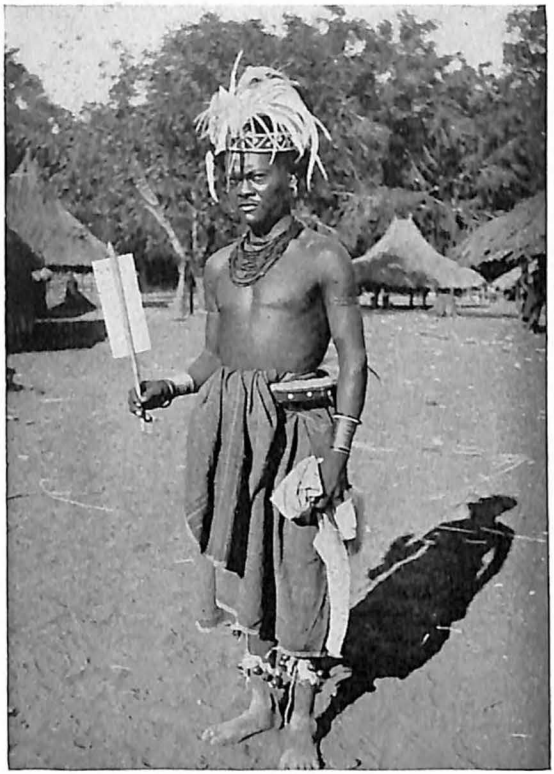


Photo by J. Kunst

Fig. 28. East Florinese: The Tengahdei postman

Photo by Res. E. H. de Nijs-Bik

Fig. 29. A Timorese (Atoni)

Fig. 32. A Chinese *klontong* or silk merchant

Photo by J. A. Pietermaat

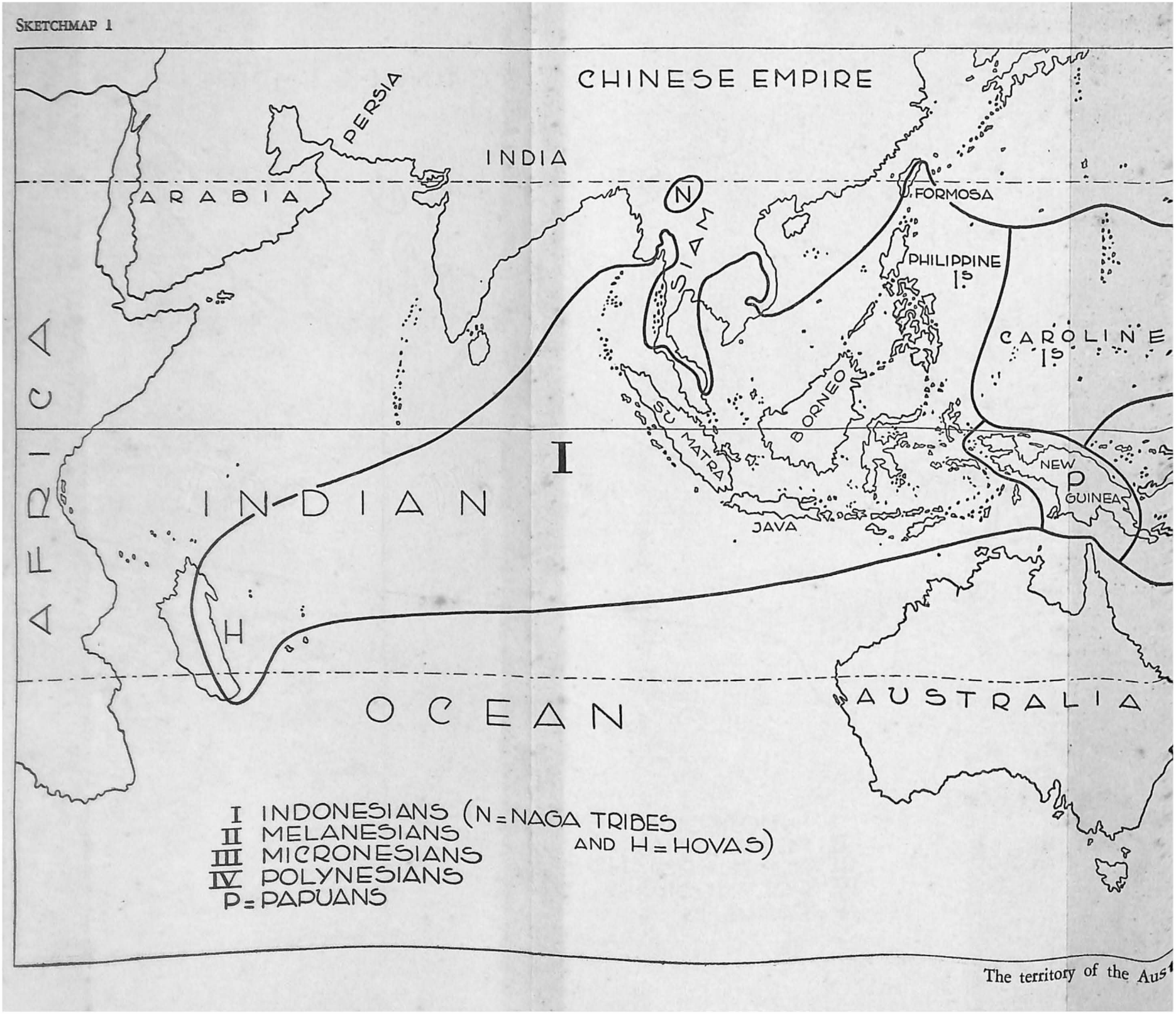
Fig. 30. Men from Alor

Photo by Prof. Dr. E. Vatter

Photo by C. Frans

Fig. 31. A Family from Timor Kupang

SKETCHMAP 1



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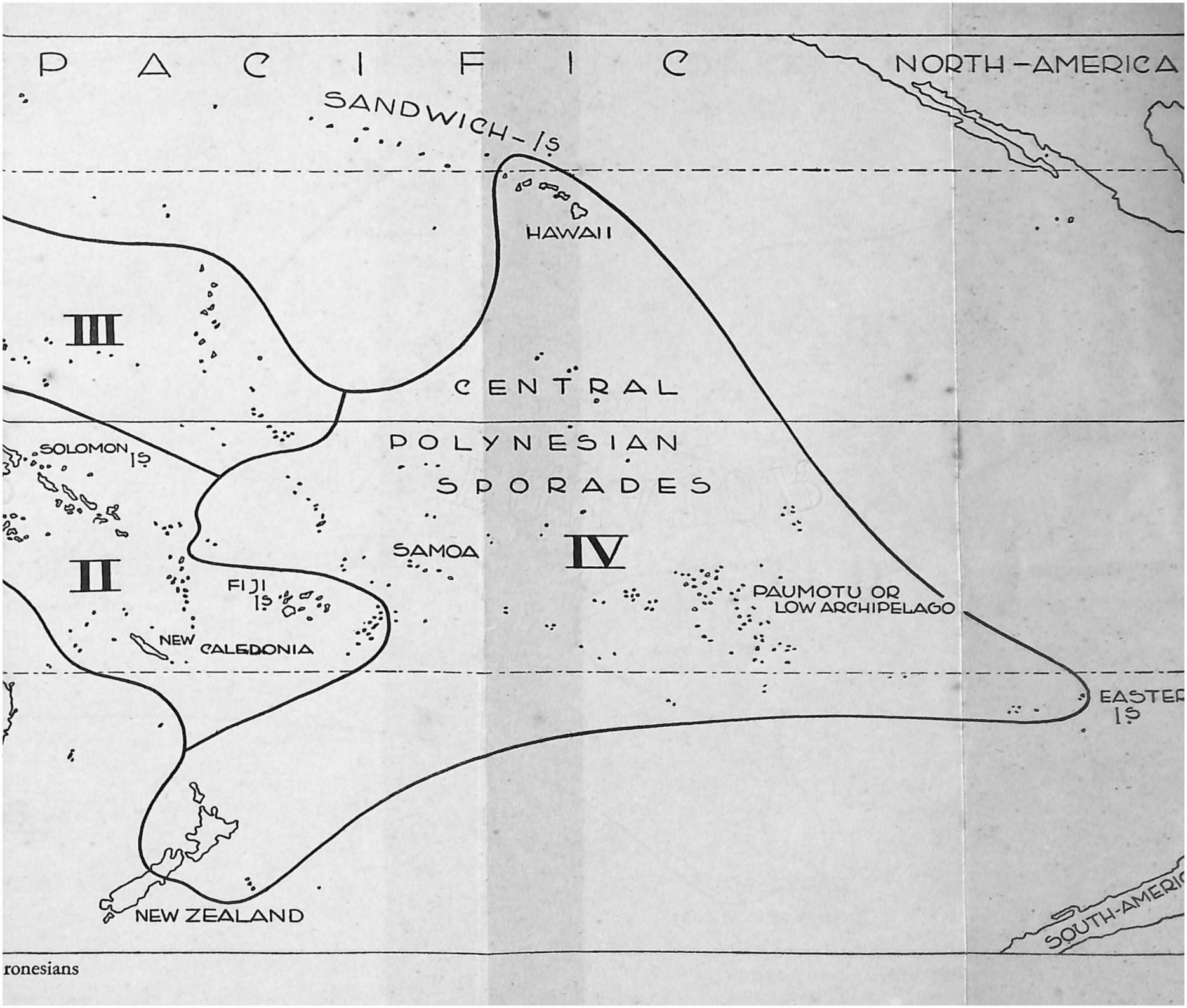
PACIFIC
NORTH-AMERICA
SANDWICH-Is
HAWAII
III
CENTRAL
POLYNESIAN
SPORADES
SOLOMON Is
SAMOA
IV
II
FIJI Is
PAUMOTU OR LOW ARCHIPELAGO
NEW CALEDONIA
EASTER Is
NEW ZEALAND
SOUTH-AMERIC

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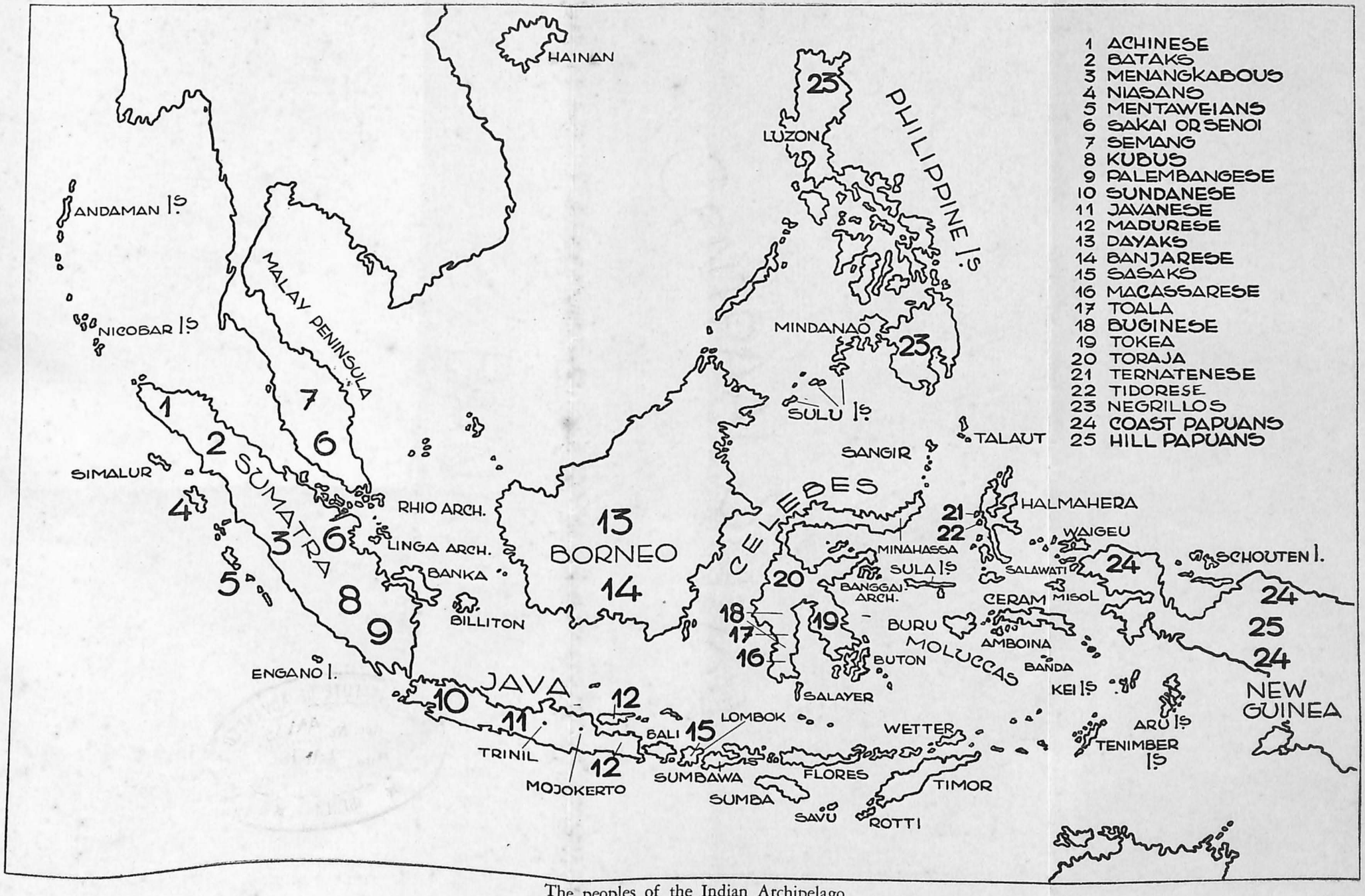

The peoples of the Indian Archipelago