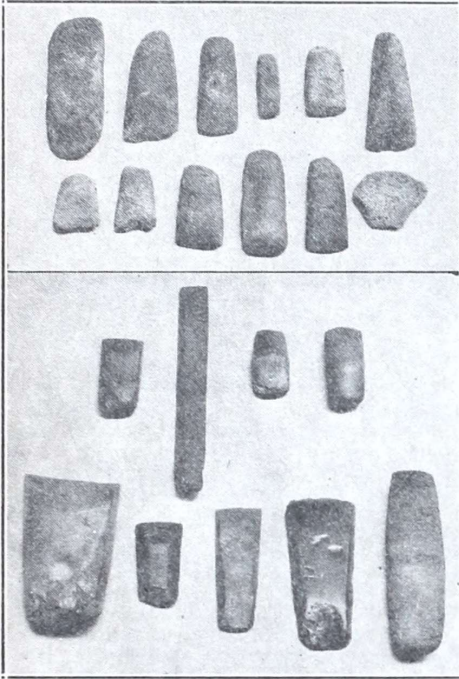


Man-Tracks on Luzon Hills 10,000 Years Old

Geologists reckon the world to be hundreds of millions of years old. Man is not so old, only, possibly, making his initial bow some half million years ago. Genesis gives a more recent date for both, and is much simpler than science and more easily memorized. Maybe it would be better, at least more comfortable, to embrace



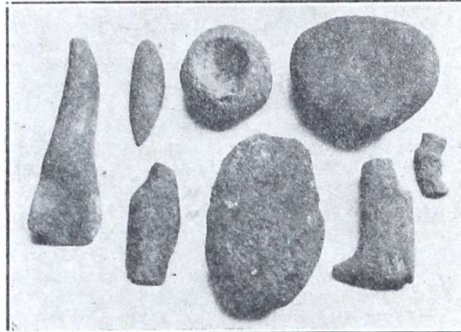
Stone Implements of Ground and Polished Types. Mostly Adzes, Axes, and Chisels. The upper two rows are of typical neolithic make, and are mostly from pre-pottery sites. The lower two rows are all finely polished specimens of late neolithic and iron-age date. The large adze in the lower left corner is of jade, and was doubtless imported from China.

fundamentalism and cease speculating. Yet the poet says there are "sermons in stones and good in everything," and those who have the wit to do it find not only sermons in stones but a deal of ordinary information besides. So perhaps the universe is after all a proper study for mankind, just a branch of his study of himself, which Pope values as his most worthwhile activity.

For three years past an eminent Manilan, Dr. H. Otley Beyer, has been learning, chiefly from stones, and pottery molded from stones disintegrated into clay, an easy and plastic material for the hand to fashion into tools and utensils, something of the antiquity of man in the Philippines; or more specifically, his antiquity on Luzon. As the head of the department of

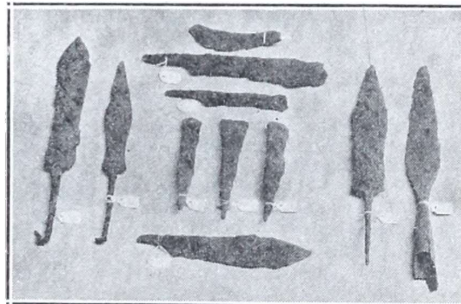
anthropology and ethnology in the University of the Philippines, his work led him into the bypaths of geology and archeology, where our story discovers him still engaged in intensive research. It seems that when a Chinese craftsman, say in the Sung dynasty, impressed an image in the waxy texture of a celadon he had shaped but had not baked, that when he did bake it he fixed more than the mere image in its surface; for he made an historical record there almost as accurate as if he had written it in alphabetical characters.

When the fragments of his craftsmanship are found, they can be read: to the extent of ascer-



Stone Mortars, Hammers, Sledges, Digging Implements, and Other Large Tools, from Both Neolithic and Iron-Age Sites.

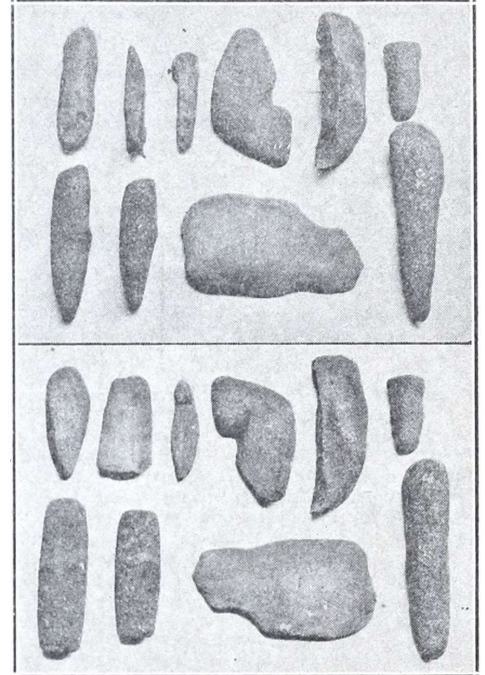
taining from what period they date. It is the same with stone, iron, and clay implements. The excavations for public works in and around Manila afforded Dr. Beyer his first opportunity to probe with accuracy into the prehistoric and protohistoric, periods in the Philippines, and from this he has advanced until now he is gathering the precious artifacts from a dozen



Iron-Age Weapons and Implements dating from 1200 to 2000 years ago. Of the vertical specimens, the two on the left are dagger blades, the center three are iron axes or adzes, and the two on the right are spearheads. The horizontal specimens are iron knives of four characteristic shapes.

or twenty sites. There is much to tell, volumes indeed, of the facts his bags and kegs and boxes and strings of specimens have already revealed, but this paper must be limited to the period of time the specimens cover.

First of all, be it said, there is no pretense to scientific ability in it; on the other hand, it is just a reporter's story. Catch-as-catch-can reporters are only expected to have a smattering of many things, without particular knowledge of anything. Reporters are dangerous customers for the victims of their black-and-white art, merely because a little knowledge is a dangerous



Grooved or Shouldered Stone Implements and Weapons from Neolithic and Early Iron-Age Sites. Hammers, adzes, "diggers", choppers, polishing grooves, and club-heads are all represented; and the same specimens are shown in two different positions in the upper and lower halves of the picture.

thing. It is when Dr. Beyer at last sits down himself to write on his subject that the world of science will prick up its ears. Also, the story now given to the reader is mightily helped out by the pictures and their captions. Emboldened then by almost total ignorance, let us proceed.

The Beyer artifacts, assorted and classified, embrace six periods of man-life on Luzon, the most antiquated of them possibly dating prior to 8000 or 10,000 years B. C., with a second group running down to 2000 B. C. Only mesolithic and neolithic artifacts appear in the horizons of this period, with probably no pottery at all. It is determined then, that pre-Malayans, or possibly proto-Malayans, were living at so early a period in the vicinity of Manila.

The last stone period, 2000 B. C. to 500 A. D., blends with the first iron period, 500 B. C. to

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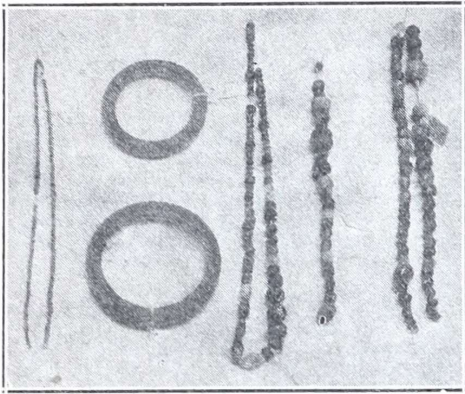
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Iron-Age Beads and Bangles, probably made in India from 1200 to 2000 years ago. The large beads of carnelian, agate, rock crystal, etc., and the large green-glass bracelet, were male ornaments exclusively; while the smaller bracelet and beads were worn by women. The small beads are of red- and orange-colored terracotta and were doubtless worn in the hair.

500 A. D. This period is identified by highly polished or finished stone artifacts of a late neolithic type. There are a few small ill-made iron artifacts, with probably some rough common pottery; also beads and other ornaments made of various stones. By this time, Malayan man had begun to get a hump on himself—speaking in the American vulgate of the late Victorian era. He had no plumes or feathers, but, hard put to it, he did resort to ingenious artificial ornamentation, capturing the wayward fancy of his primitive lady. Fancy the bold and patient swain, crouched at the edge of a river, with the current to help him—one of his first machines!—fashioning, on large hard stones, smaller and softer ones into beads to string on some wild hemp fiber!

But no doubt he enslaved women for this tedious task, or set his older wives at it whilst he went skylarking with the younger. No doubt he was a rogue, little ennobled as yet by religion and philosophy. He fought other men with bows and arrows, also spears, sometimes tipped with stone and sometimes with iron, and kept his neighbors and himself dwelling in a world of fear whose phenomena they all read as auspices and could in no wise comprehend.

With the same weapons he slew his game: his deadly missiles and his naked footsteps were alike noiseless in the trackless jungle. He could make fire, since he melted and molded iron; in working with flint, some of the flying sparks had fortuitously fallen upon tinder. If not that, then some other accidental discovery: let the scientists say.

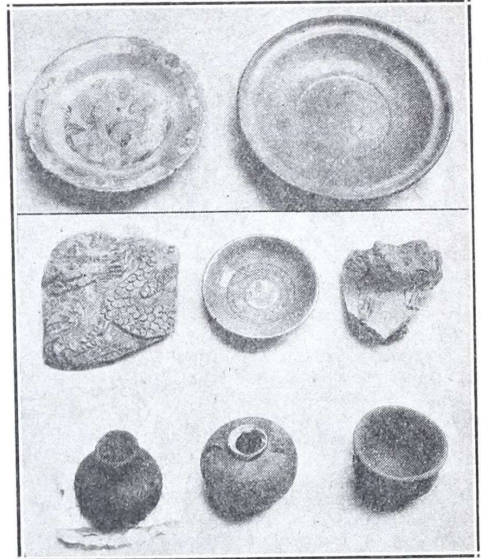
That will have been something for his sorceresses to have a hand in. They may have forbidden the purposeful repetition of fire-making, only to send the bolder and younger tribesmen into the mountains, to make fire at will and become bootleggers of iron. The younger generation must already have become the world's despair, setting grayheads to nodding portentously.

But iron continued to find its way into the villages, more and better iron.

The second iron period, 500 A. D. to 1000 A. D., is characterized by large and well made artifacts of iron; by finely polished and decorated common pottery, glass and terracotta beads and bangles, together with gold, silver and bronze ornaments. Now this is terrible. What is the source of all these fol-de-rols and fandangles, undermining native virtues and culture? There has been an invasion, that's what. Sure enough there has been, at least a cultural invasion—from Mother India.

Trade and intercourse with China begin later. Mother India is old, efete. Besides, she falls trading with the barbarian West, via Arab fleets and caravans. As India's glory sets, China's shines the brighter over the Philippines. But the Hindu period leaves its mark, in the blood and culture of the people. It is only that the barbarian West, stimulated to refinement by its great new religion and some Greek books rediscovered and painstakingly translated, is such a customer for Indian wares that the Philippine trade becomes unimportant and the apostles of Brahma go home.

The first glazed-ware period blends into the second iron age and dates 900 A. D. to 1500 A. D. For a long time now the natives have been making pottery, but the Chinese ceramic art is more refined, replete with the symbolism of a learned culture, hence it is a luxury for which the Philippines willingly trade junkloads of Manila hemp, rattan, cotton, and the like. There is a thriving China-sea commerce. To this period pertain porcelain artifacts, stone-ware or glazed hard-pottery fragments of the



Iron-Age Pottery and Sung and Ming Dynasty Porcelains, From Ancient Luzon Graves. On the bottom row, the first and last specimens are from early iron-age sites, dating from 2000 to 3000 years ago; while the center piece is a black-glazed jar let from a late Tong or early Sung grave of around 900 A.D. The second piece in the top row, and the center piece in the middle row, are celadon dishes from 12th century sites (i.e. mid-Sung), while the remaining three pieces are all from early Ming sites of around 1450 A.D.

Sung, Yuan, and early Ming dynasties. There are types of thick common pottery jars, stoves, etc., not previously known.

Last of the periods is the second glazed-ware, 1500 to the present date. The earlier porcelains of this period are those of the late Ming and early Ch'ing dynasties. Wheel-made common pottery persists throughout.

The reader will bear in mind that the artifacts mentioned are those made from materials which endure longest. Many others from other materials, more and more as time transpired, served their useful purpose and decayed.

Dr. Beyer was assisted in making the collection by W. S. Boston. Scientific studies of the collection will soon be published by the Philippine Bureau of Science. The illustrations are from *Journal* photographs.

Rubber Profits 100 Per Cent

At its 18th annual meeting, the Basilan Plantation Company declared a dividend of 10% from its net profits of \$54,000, in round numbers, last year. Its plantation of rubber trees and coconuts is on Basilan island, off the coast from Zamboanga. During last year, 53,394 trees were tapped daily, the tappers averaging daily 463 trees apiece, the rubber produced being just over 144 metric tons. The cost of rubber laid down in Singapore was just over 26 centavos a

pound, and on March 7, when the news of the dividend came out, rubber was bringing 52 centavos a pound in Singapore, or double the production cost. Of course much better prices were obtained by the company last year, rubber has recently slumped; so that it is seen that even the current low market affords the Philippine producer a profit of 100%. Indeed the average price the company received was P0.6729 a pound, against even a better price, P0.7690 a pound,

in 1926.

During 1927 also, the company marketed 304,410 coconuts with the Philippine Desiccated Coconut Company at Zamboanga, the average price being P44.82 per 1000 and the average all-in cost P27.05, compared with all-in costs of P16.09 and P15.83 in 1926 and 1925 respectively. A short crop last season probably explains the rise in all-in costs. The report says current prospects are better and more rubber is being planted. The company's capital is about \$222,000, and \$20,000 of stock amounting to \$24,000 heretofore unissued, was taken at 80% over par.

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