21. Dardania and Some Balkan Place-Names

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Strickland, and we may expect to find that the Karigara drink kava (cf. MAN, 1916, No. 87, and The Geographical Teacher, 1921), but the making of these stuffed heads does not seem to be necessarily an integral part of the kava complex, though it does appear to link on with the custom of making artificial faces to skulls, which obtains from the Sepik to the Purari-Fly districts and to Torres Straits.

A. C. HADDON.

Description of Plates C-D.

Pl. C, Fig. 1. Side view of a stuffed head (1) from Karigara district, in the Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology, Cambridge, presented by the Rev. E. Baxter Riley.

In the upper margin of the right ear is a hole, from which depends a thin string on which Coix seeds were probably threaded; in the perforated lobe is a coiled terminal portion of a dried hairless tail, probably of a cuscus. The upper hole of the left ear has a string on which are threaded halved Coix seeds; the lobe is perforated. At the back of the head a strong wooden peg projects, slanting downwards. One end of a loop of split rattan is tied to the nasal septum, the other end is split and lashed to form a loop to pass over the projecting peg. The head is of a dark reddish-brown colour, lighter where it is rubbed. Length of head, 305 mm.; breadth, 185 mm.; height, 310 mm.; probably male.

Pl. D, Fig. 6. Back view of the same head.

Pl. C, Fig. 2. Side view of a stuffed head (2) from Karigara district, in the Manchester Museum, presented by the Rev. E. Baxter Riley.

The left ear has a long string of cut Coix seeds hanging from a hole in the upper margin; the lobes of both ears were probably perforated. The right orbit has across it a line of three split Coix seeds, there are two in the left orbit. A bone (probably the fibula of a cassowary) is inserted into the hole at the back of the skull, and its sharply-pointed end projects in front. A long piece of split rattan is tied to the bone behind, and the other end was doubtless tied to the nasal septum. Colour as above.

Length of head, 235 mm.; breadth, 143 mm.; height, 291 mm.; probably female.

Pl. C, Fig. 3. Back view of the same head.

Pl. D, Fig. 4. Side view of a stuffed head (4) in the possession of Mr. W. O. Oldman, of which he has kindly sent me photographs and given me particulars. It was collected by Mr. S. G. MacDonnell, late of Orokolo, from the Rivikavan district (which I have not been able to locate).

In the distended lobe of the right ear is a long fibrous tassel (of finely shredded sago-palm leaf) of a red colour. In each orbit and in the mouth is a vertical bar of cane-work, which probably were once covered by the white clay. The nose loop is of plaited rattan. A small piece of wood is inserted into the back of the head. A long narrow plaited band is tied to the nose loop (it is wound round it in this photograph); the other end was doubtless tied to the peg at the back of the head. The head shows signs of great age and much handling; the skin is polished a deep brown, and the rattan work is dark-coloured and polished. The surface of the skin is coloured red, yellow and white.

Length from nose to back of head, 13⅔ inches (343 mm.); height, 11¾ inches (292 mm.).

Pl. D, Fig. 5. Front view of a stuffed head (5), in the Australian Museum, Sydney, where there are, I am told, two specimens.

Figures in text.

Fig. 1.—Skull of a young adult female showing the method of preparing a skull previous to stretching the skin over it. Length, 165 mm.; breadth, 124 mm.; height, 129 mm.; C.I.76.2, L-H I.78.2, B-H.I.104. Museum of Archaeology and of Ethnology, Cambridge; presented by the Rev. E. Baxter Riley.

Fig. 2.—Stuffed heads (5, 6) from Lake Murray, in the Museum at Port Moreby in 1914. In 5 there is a cut on the right cheek which has been roughly sewn up. Photographed by Miss Kathleen Haddon (Mrs. Rishbeth).

Fig. 3.—Front view of stuffed head (7) collected by D'Albertis, now in the Museo preistorico ed etnografico, Rome. From a coloured drawing by Professor Giammiti, for which and for valuable information I am greatly indebted to Dr. Ugo Antonielli of that Museum.

Balkan Peninsula: Place-names.

Dardania and some Balkan Place-names. By M. Edith Durham.

In South Slavonic and Albanian districts a very large number of place-names derive from the names of plants. Folk settled on fertile spots and named them from the crop that flourished. In all Serb-speaking districts with which I am acquainted such names as Grahovo (the place of beans), Orahova (of walnuts),
Jagodina (of wild strawberries), Treshnja or Treshjevo (of cherries), Jabuks (of apples), Krushevo or Krushevat (of pears), Vrbitza (of willows), Bukovina (of beeches), and many others are common.

Similarly in Albania we find Arnje (larch trees), Kashtenja (chessnuts), Mela (apple), Arra (walnut), Chereti (oaks), Kumula (plum), Dardhe (pear), and others, all occurring in various forms as place-names.

All the above-mentioned trees and plants are recognised as indigenous to south-eastern Europe so far as I can learn, and so have, in all probability, gone on calmly growing in the same spot, whether ruled by Alexander the Great, Justinian, Abdul Hamid, or Petar Karageorgevitch. We may, therefore, expect to find some of these place-names to be very ancient.

When we first hear of the Balkans it was inhabited by numerous tribes under independent chieftains, but, so far as our scanty information goes, most of them spoke a similar language and had similar customs. One important tribe was the Dardanian.

Of the Dardanians we learn from various classical authors that they were a powerful Illyrian tribe, occupying a valuable strategic position. Their territories lay on the watershed of the Morava and Vardar and along by the Drin. They thus commanded the routes to the Danube, the Adriatic and the Ægean. They harried the Macedonians. Livy gives a fairly detailed account of their warfare with Philip, last King of that name of Macedon (died b.c. 179). It was he who by provoking war with Rome brought about the destruction of Macedonia (Livy, lib. XXXI, c. 5). Philip having made ready an army with which to fight the Romans "undertook a sudden expedition into the territories of Oricum and Appolonia (South Albania), "in order that Macedonia might not be molested by the Illyrians and cities bordering upon them, in consequence of the terror he would strike into them. After "devastating the adjacent parts of Illyricum he . . . then took Sintia, a city "of the Dardanians, which would have afforded them a passage into Macedonia."

The natural result of this was that while Philip was occupied fighting the Romans "he was met by messengers with intelligence of still greater commotions, "that the Dardanians having passed into Macedonia were in possession of Orestis "and had descended into the Argestean plain." A report of Philip's death encouraged the Dardanians to this attack. The Dardanians then (lib. XXXI, 28), seeing that Roman arms were victorious, came, along with "several petty kings and princes, neighbours of the Macedonians, and offered their aid to the Romans "against Macedonia." The "consul replied that he would make use of the assistance ". . . of the Dardanians when he should next lead his army into Macedonia."

In lib. XL, c. 57 we find Philip furious, planning to annihilate the Dardanians and to "settle Bastarnians in their land, from which a double advantage would accrue." The ever hostile Dardanians would be out of the way, and the Bastarnians could be used to ravage Italy. Even were the Bastarnians cut off by the Romans it would be worth while for "the booty to be gained and the full possession of Dardania "would prove a consolation." But a miraculous tempest scattered the Bastarnians, and Philip died. I find no more of the Dardanians in Livy. But it is evident they were a rich and powerful people. True to Balkan type they sided with a foreign invader against their Balkan neighbours—and lived to repent. By the time of Strabo (ob. A.D. 25) we find them completely crushed and under Roman rule. He describes how the Romans drove recalcitrant tribes into the mountains "not fitted for husbandry." "People formerly very powerful are extinct or reduced to the "lowest condition; as the Boii and Scordisci among the Galate and the Antariatae, "Ardaei and Dardani among the Illyrians. . . . They first declined owing to "disputes among themselves" (the usual ruin of tribal peoples) "and were finally "prostrated by wars with Macedonia and the Romans."
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He describes exactly the situation of the Dardanians. "The river Drilon (the Drin) can be navigated up as far as Dardanica. This country is situated close to the Macedonian and Paeonian nations. . . . To the Dardaniatæ belong the Galabrii . . . and the Thunatæ, who approach the east close to the Mæsi, a Thracian tribe. . . . The Dardani are an entirely savage people, so much so that they dig caves beneath dung heaps, in which they dwell. Yet they are fond of music, and much occupied in playing on pipes and stringed instruments. They inhabit inland parts of the country, and we shall again mention them in another place." (Strabo, lib. VII. et seq.) But, alas, the rest is lost.

The Dardanians by Strabo's time were in a deplorable state. They remind me forcibly of the burnt out Bulgars of Macedonia in 1904. I repeatedly found a party of shivering women sitting with their legs buried to the thighs in a dung-heap with the hope of thus getting a little warmth. They were half naked, roofless and exposed to a bitter wind. Others crowded into a cowshed, where such could be found. The Dardanians after being beaten by the Romans were, doubtless, in similar plight. And, like the present Balkan peasants, when in acute misery would crowd round a man who sang of their heroic past. Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose! The Dardanians cannot have possessed a more primitive stringed instrument than the gusle, which is still played in their former lands.

The maps of Ptolemy (about 140 A.D.) next give the position of Dardania. The accompanying sketch (Fig. 1) from Magini's edition of Ptolemy, 1621, in spite of much distortion, gives a fairly clear idea and shows that it extended north of Nish. Later, in the time of Diocletian (A.D. 313), we find Dardania a Roman province with Naissus as capital. Diocletian was of Illyrian blood, a fact which may have caused him to preserve the Illyrian name.

The name has died out very recently. Dardania occurs as a small triangle in a map I possess of 1610, "by John Speed, sold by Roger Rea at Cornhill." It includes Nish and Uskub. And "Dardania deserta" is written across a tract of land lying well in the centre of the peninsula in a map published at "Norimberga 1770."

Have the Dardanians left a mark on the land to-day?

If, as I would suggest, we may derive Dardania from an Illyrian word meaning "pear," a word similar to the modern Albanian "dardhe," they certainly have. There are three Dardhees in high Albania close to the Drin, which in Strabo's day was navigable as far as Dardania. And this part of the land being very mountainous has, I believe, been continuously inhabited by people of Albanian (more or less Illyrian) blood and has been continuously Albanophone.

Beyond the Drin the plain lands fell completely under Serb rule for a long period and has now again reverted to Serbia. Here also we find many pear names, but they are Serbised as Krushevo and Krushevat. The accompanying sketch map (Fig. 2) gives the chief ones which fall within old Dardania. One,
which was called Krusha e vogele, when I passed it in 1908, was a transition form, "krusha" being Serb and "e vogele" Albanian—the little pear. By now it has doubtless become "Krusha mala"—Serb again.

The wild crab-pear is common in these lands, hard and astringent, but with a pear flavour. The "cultivated" form is not much better. The pear is used as a traditional embroidery pattern. Of the two examples I give (Figs. 3 and 4), the "little pear" is a common border to Montenegrin women's shirts. The larger and finer pear pattern is Bosnian, and shows the fruit, twigs and leaves fairly plainly. Neither come exactly from the Dardanian district. But the Montenegrin one is near by. They show the importance of the pear in the Balkans.

The family name of Pope Sixtus V. (1585–1590) was Peretti. He was the child of refugees driven from "a place in Schiavonia" called Krushevo, which I have not been able to identify the name they Italianised and adopted. Krushevo in question.

Description of Figs. 3 and 4: Fig. 3, Krushka mala—the little pear—is worked as a border of the Montenegrin women's shirts on a coarse cotton material in cross stitch in silk—red, green, black, blue, repeat. Twice natural size. Fig. 4, Pear pattern worked in cross stitch in indigo wool on the sleeves of women’s shirt, the pattern repeats closely and covers the material, which is coarse cotton. Bought at Jaitza, Bosnia (1906). Slightly larger than natural size. M. EDITH DURHAM.

Assam: Technology.


In "The Angami Nagas" (p. 62) and in "The Sema Nagas" (p. 51) I have given a very cursory account of Naga methods of dyeing. In the subjoined tables will be found what is, I think, a complete summary of the different dye stuffs used by the Angamis, and of the methods of employing them. Owing to the importation of dyed yarn from Manipur, and of aniline dyes from the plains, these Naga processes are beginning to disappear, and the use of nthoh (A. 2) is already obsolete.