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# THE STONE AGE CULTURES OF KENYA COLONY

by

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with Appendices by

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## PREFACE

**T**HE East African Archaeological Expedition has carried out two seasons' excavations and as a result we now know something of the sequence of Stone Age cultures in Kenya, and of their relation to each other. We have also been able to work out a number of clear subdivisions in Pleistocene and recent times, based upon climatic changes, and to establish in most cases the relation of the cultures found to these time divisions.

This book is intended not only for the archaeologist, but also for the more general reader in East Africa and in England who wishes to know the results of the Expedition's work in Kenya up to date; and for this reason no attempt is made to discuss the details of the excavations of any of the sites, and I have confined myself to giving an account of the culture sequence as we know it, and to describing a characteristic type series of tools for each culture. A more detailed study of the individual sites and of the many surface finds is now in progress, and it is intended to publish these shortly, probably in book form, or possibly as a number of papers in scientific journals.

Nor have I attempted to discuss the skeletal remains that were found associated with some of the cultures. These, too, are now being studied under the guidance of Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., and will be published in a special volume.

I wish to record my very sincere thanks to all the members of my two expeditions; without their co-operation only a tithe of the work could have been done. Mr B. H. Newsam was my colleague throughout the first season, 1926–7, while Mr T. W. Powys Cobb, Mrs Creasy (Mrs Shaw), Miss Kitson, Mr D. G. B. Leakey, Mrs L. S. B. Leakey, Mr D. G. MacInnes, and Mr J. D. Solomon were with me for periods varying upwards from four months during the 1928–9 season. Mr Solomon in particular contributed very largely to the value of the second season's work by his study and interpretation of the Pleistocene geology, and by establishing the relationship of various implementiferous horizons to each other. An important appendix has been prepared by him for this volume, and the results of his work will also be published in greater detail elsewhere.

## P R E F A C E

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to Dr A. C. Haddon, F.R.S., or to Sir Arthur Keith, F.R.S., who have from the beginning helped me in every possible way, and without whose constant advice, help, and encouragement the Expedition could never have been carried out.

In work of this nature the problem of finance is never far out of sight. Financial assistance to *both* Expeditions was generously given by the Percy Sladen Memorial Trustees, the Royal Society, the Government of Kenya, and Sir John Ramsden; and to the second season's Expedition by the Rhodes Trust, the Royal Geographical Society, and by Dr Tapp also; and I hereby express my sincere gratitude to them all. I also have to thank the Council of St John's College, Cambridge, the Goldsmiths' Company, and the Commissioners for the Royal Commission of the 1851 Exhibition for awarding me research studentships tenable in the field, which not only covered my personal expenses, but contributed considerably to the general research expenses of the Expeditions.

In England many friends have helped me in every sort of way, but I would especially thank Mr Benians, Senior Tutor of St John's College, Mr M. C. Burkitt, Mr A. T. Hopwood, Miss Tyldesley and Mr L. C. G. Clarke, who have on many occasions given most excellent help and advice. Mrs Burkitt has most kindly done a number of drawings for this book; Mr Ross Munroe has generously allowed me to use his farm at Elmenteita as the headquarters camp of the Expedition since January 1927; to these I would record thanks, as well as to many others whose names I cannot list here, but to whom I am none the less grateful.

Many friends in East Africa have also helped, and again I offer my heartiest thanks, and would like to make special mention of His Excellency Sir Edward Grigg, Mr C. Juxon Barton, Mr E. J. Wayland, Dr Erik Nilsson, Dr C. J. Wilson, Mr Dunlop, Mr Abbott, Mr Sikes, Dr van Someren, Archdeacon Maynard, and Mr Rickman. I also thank Major and Mrs A. J. Macdonald, Mr and Mrs Gamble, Colonel and Mrs Deighton, Captain and Mrs Long, Mr and Mrs Keeling, and the Hon. Mrs Galbraith Cole for permission to work on their land. Finally I would thank the many people who have sent me tools or other prehistoric remains from their farms, or who have given me information concerning possible sites. This material will be published as soon as it is worked out.

The Union Castle Steamship Company has on each occasion generously

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## P R E F A C E

allowed the crates of specimens to be shipped at special rates, while their staff have given every possible assistance to insure that delicate specimens should not suffer from careless handling. Besides contributing to the expenses of the Expeditions, the Kenya Government has, through the officers and the staffs of the various Departments—especially the Customs, the Railways, the P.W.D., the Medical Department and the Game Department—given help in many ways.

In connection with the task of working out the material published in this book, I have profited greatly from discussions with my friends Professor Fleure, F.R.S., Miss Caton Thompson, Dr Dorothy Garrod, Dr Hans Reck, M. l'Abbé Breuil, M. Péyrony, Mr C. van Reit Lowe, Mr Leslie Armstrong, Dr C. E. P. Brooks, Mr Horace Beck and Major Connolly, and many others. The last three, and also Mr Solomon, have contributed Appendices to this book, for which I thank them.

Finally I offer my warmest thanks to my parents who have frequently given hospitality to members of my Expedition, and who have allowed me to store boxes of specimens in their house; and last but not least do I thank my wife for having cheerfully undertaken much of the dullest work of the Expedition and of preparation.

The archaeological study of East Africa is as yet but in its infancy, and I look forward to many more years of work in Kenya and in other East African Territories. When I return in 1931 I hope to start an East African Archaeological Society, and I hope that many of those who have already shown interest in the work in Kenya will join it.

L. S. B. LEAKEY

*January 1931*