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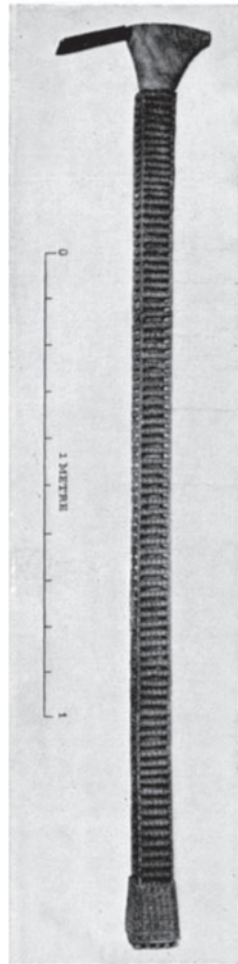
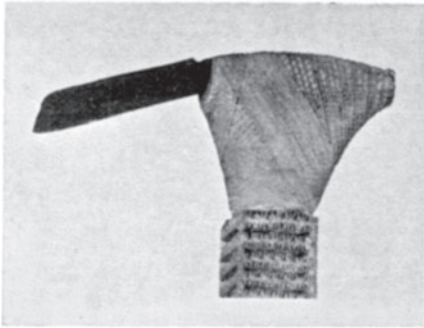
R. U. Sayce

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An axe become a god (see p. 128)

Photograph by T. A. G. Strickland

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PRIMITIVE
ARTS AND CRAFTS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE
STUDY OF MATERIAL CULTURE

by

R. U. SAYCE

CAMBRIDGE

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P R E F A C E

IN science as in other things fashions come and go in a certain rhythmic sequence. For some years past British anthropologists have devoted most of their attention to the sociological side of their subject, and comparatively little has been published in this country on the material culture of primitive peoples. There are now signs that the study of material culture is coming into its own again as it is being generally realised that, if we are ever to get a right understanding of human culture as a whole, we cannot afford to neglect any aspect of it.

The object of this little book is to give the reader a general idea of what principles are involved in this branch of the subject, to describe to him its present state, and to lay before him some of the problems that need investigation and discussion. It is not claimed that the work contains any new or striking solutions of the problems; but an effort has been made to state simply and without prejudice what the problems are. It is hoped that the book may be of some use to the student who is beginning the serious study of anthropology, and to the general reader who may be interested in the evolution, the nature, and the works of man.

In a work of this size it has been impossible to describe even the main varieties of the objects used by what are generally called primitive peoples, or the processes by which they are made. For information concerning these things the reader is referred to the cheap and excellent Guide-books which are published by the British Museum and the Horniman Museum.

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PREFACE

I am unable to make complete acknowledgement of all that I have borrowed from other sources. In the course of several years many suggestions are received from books and papers and even from remarks caught by chance during conversation; these may give rise to lines of thought long after their provenance has been forgotten. I must, however, express my warmest thanks to Dr A. C. Haddon, F.R.S., who very kindly read through my manuscript and made valuable suggestions for its improvement; to Mr L. C. G. Clarke, M.A., for giving me unrestricted access to the cases in the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, and for allowing me to publish many of the drawings; to Miss M. M. O'Reilly, B.A., who has given me a great deal of much appreciated help in selecting and arranging the illustrations, and in revising the proofs; and to Mr T. A. G. Strickland, M.A., for the photograph which has been used as the frontispiece. I should also like to thank Mr A. C. Himus, who has been responsible for the best of the drawings, and all those who have given me permission to publish copies of illustrations from other books, the sources of which are indicated in the list of illustrations.

R. U. SAYCE

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