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The first use of the word ‘anthropology’ in English was recorded in 1593, but its modern use to indicate the study and science of humanity became current in the late nineteenth century. At that time a separate discipline had begun to evolve from many component strands (including history, archaeology, linguistics, biology and anatomy), and the study of so-called ‘primitive’ peoples was given impetus not only by the reports of individual explorers but also by the need of colonial powers to define and classify the unfamiliar populations which they governed. From the ethnographic writings of early explorers to the 1898 Cambridge expedition to the Torres Straits, often regarded as the first truly ‘anthropological’ field research, these books provide eye-witness information on often vanished peoples and ways of life, as well as evidence for the development of a new scientific discipline.

The Races of Man and Their Distribution

The Cambridge anthropological expedition of 1898–9 to the Torres Strait and New Guinea, led by the zoologist and anthropologist Alfred Cort Haddon (1855–1940), marked an epoch in field methodology. This edition, published in 1924, examines some of the major physical differences between human beings that Haddon used to distinguish race, looking at skin colour, hair, stature, nose, face, and head form, and is thorough and wide-ranging in offering examples from throughout the world. He also suggests some reasons for the geographical distribution of the races. This was a new approach, though Haddon’s findings are necessarily condensed here, providing a valuable work of reference rather than a full study. Forming the basis for a larger work, this book is an important example of early scientific anthropology, while Haddon’s curatorial work in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology in Cambridge made this a primary centre for anthropological study and research.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-04627-5 - The Races of Man and Their Distribution

Alfred Cort Haddon

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JICARILLA APACHE

Frontispiece]

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THE
RACES OF MAN
And Their Distribution

BY
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Illustrated



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Plate II is from a photograph taken on the Cambridge Expedition to Torres Straits, etc., 1898.

Plates III, VI, and VII are from purchased photographs.

Plate V is from a photograph taken by my friend, Mr. J. Thomson.

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INTRODUCTION



IT is an extremely difficult matter to give in a very short space a well-balanced account of the races and peoples of mankind, for it is impossible to deal adequately with the subject in a small book; and, furthermore, our information is far from complete. The present effort must necessarily be open to grave criticism from many standpoints.

This little work falls naturally into two parts. The first deals with some of the physical characters employed in classification, and a grouping of the main stocks according to those characters, together with their geographical distribution. The effects of European colonisation are entirely omitted.

The second part is devoted to a consideration of the five large areas, Oceania, Africa, Europe, Asia, and America. Each section is preceded by a sketch of the distribution of the races and peoples in the area, and a hypothetical sketch of some of the larger movements of population that may have taken place. Then follows a brief account of some of the more interesting peoples of that area. The selection was not easy, and perhaps too

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much space has been given to the more backward peoples, but the difficulty of dealing in a satisfactory manner with the cultured peoples is very great, and the reader can find detailed information in more ambitious works. It will be noted that the treatment of Europe is very different from that accorded to the other continents, as it was felt that a statement of racial elements in the population would be more generally useful than an imperfect summary of national characteristics.

Those who wish to advance further in this study should consult Professor A. H. Keane's "Man, Past and Present," "Ethnology," and "The World's Peoples"; Dr. J. Deniker's "The Races of Man"; and Professor F. Ratzel's "The History of Mankind" (English translation).

The omission of references is rightly open to serious criticism, but it was felt that they would have to be so numerous as to unduly increase the size of the book. The short Bibliography at the end will, however, indicate to the serious student some of the more important books to consult.

Nearly all the special terms employed are explained in the text on their first occurrence, but for the convenience of the reader a short Glossary has been added.