

At the beginning of the Christian era, the peoples dominating Further India were probably Indonesian. They certainly were in North Annam, where recent excavations have for the first time shewn us what one part, at any rate, of Further India was like before the coming of the Indians—when, in fact, it was Further China rather than Further India.¹ The use of metal, principally bronze, had just spread to these parts, apparently from S. China, and flourished exceedingly. Side by side with neolithic implements, and a few Chinese coins and bronzes, there was found a great variety of thin non-Chinese bronzes, drums (including the oldest frog-drums), pediform axes, and other socketed weapons and agricultural implements. The human designs on the drums show a people quite unlike, in costume, the present inhabitants of Indo-China, but strikingly like the Dayaks of Borneo, worshippers of the Bird Totem, whose eyes and high tail feathers figure everywhere in their designs. Conditions in Burma were doubtless different then from what they were in N. Annam : but probably not very different.

With the coming of Indians on a big scale, things change abruptly. When did they first come ? Already, before 109 B.C. when the Chinese first occupied E. Yünnan, there existed some sort of a trade-route, apparently by land, from China to India. In 69 A.D. the Han dynasty occupied Yung-ch'ang on the Burma frontier.² Soon after, a great advance in shipping took place all over the seas of the south. The pioneers were Indonesian no less than Indian. The Burmese word *sambho*—a word shared with several other languages of Further India and Madagascar—is derived from Old Malay.³ Ptolemy speaks of the Delta as it was at the beginning of the 2nd century A.D., as inhabited by cannibals. But things must have greatly changed by the end of that century: and Chinese sources shew that this was largely due to the coming of the Indians. At the beginning of the 3rd century the Han dynasty of China fell : and from now onwards, till 1936 A.D. at any rate, India's influence on Burma has been of paramount importance. And this is never more conspicuous than at first, when the native genius of the country had not had time to master or adapt the large resources that Indian culture put at its disposal. The basis of her script, her literature, her art, her thought, and her religion, Burma owes to India, and a fair number of her economic products. But admitting this, we must not exaggerate the extent of India's influence. Fundamentally it was alien to the peoples here who received it. From the

1. See V. Goloubew, "L'Âge du Bronze au Tonkin et dans le Nord-Annam", *BEFEO*, t. XXIX, pp. 1-46. cf. also Franz Heger, *Alte Metall trommeln aus Südost-Asien*, Leipzig, 1902, 2 vols.

2. See *JBRS*, Vol. XIV, pp. 105 follg.

3. *BEFEO*, t. XXX, pp. 36-37. Old Malay *sāmvau*, Old Javanese *sambo*, Old Burmese *sanphaw* (*List* 186¹), Khmer *sāmbau*, Siamese *sāmbau*, Malagassi