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összefoglaló tanulmányához

African research in Hungary, Emil Torday's comment on the summary paper by H. H. Johnson

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REMARKS OF EMIL TORDAY
TO JOHNSON'S SURVEY
OF THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

TORDAY, Emil

A Survey of the Ethnography of Africa: And the Former Racial and Tribal Migrations in That Continent. Author(s): H. H. Johnston, E. Torday, T. Athol Joyce, C. G. Seligmann Source: The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1913, Vol. 43, Jul. - Dec., pp. 375-421. (Torday's note: pp 414-415.)

The intimate personal acquaintance Sir Harry Johnston has with the various inhabitants of Africa (including the white men inhabiting the north, among whom he began his brilliant career) makes him a much fitter person to judge their' respective merits than most of us who only know one race or the other and consequently are prejudiced in its favour.

I admit my partiality for the black man and consequently have to distrust my own judgment when I feel convinced by certain arguments that seem to prove to my satisfaction that we are indebted to the Negro for the very keystone of our modern civilization and that we owe him the discovery of iron. That iron could be discovered by accident in Africa seems beyond doubt: if this is so in other parts of the world, I am not competent to say.

I will only remind you that Schweinfurt and Petherick record the fact that in the northern part of East Africa smelting furnaces are worked without artificial air current and, on the other hand, Stuhlmann and Kollmann found near Victoria Nyanza that the natives simply mixed powdered ore with charcoal and by introduction of air currents obtained the metal.

These simple processes make it possible that iron should have been discovered in East or Central Africa. No bronze implements have ever been found in black Africa; had the Africans received iron from the

Egyptians, bronze would have preceded this metal and all traces of it would not have disappeared.

Black Africa was for a long time an exporter of iron and even in the 12th century exports to India and Java are recorded by Idrisi.

It is difficult to imagine that Egypt should have obtained iron from Europe where the oldest find (in Hallstadt) cannot be of an earlier period than 800 B.C., (1) or from Asia, where iron is not known before 1000 B.C., and where, in the times of Ashur Nazir Pal it was still used concurrently with bronze, while iron beads have been only recently discovered by Messrs. G. A. Wainwright and Bushe Fox in a predynastic grave and where a piece of this metal, possibly a tool, was found in the masonry of the great pyramid.

We, must, however, not forget that no archaeological work whatever has been carried out in the greatest part of Africa, and future discoveries may disprove all that is said above. The country west from Lake Mweru and of the Lukalaba, (Lualaba) with its great number of undisturbed caves ought to attract the archaeologist who wants to contribute to this most fascinating research in the ancient history of Africa.

E. TORDAY.

1 German authorities would make this 2000 B.C., or even earlier.-H. H. J.