

# The GALLONGS



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L.R.N.SRIVASTAVA

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THE PEOPLE OF NEFA

# THE GALLONGS

L. R. N. SRIVASTAVA, M.Sc.

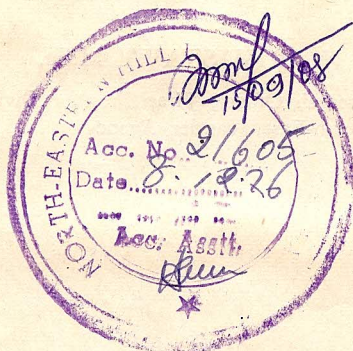
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## CONTENTS

CHAPTER		Page
	PREFACE	xi-xii
I	THE LAND AND PEOPLE	
	The Country — Climate — Different Groups of the Gallongs — Migration — Present Distribution — Language — Relations with the Outside World — Trade Routes — Communications — Physical Features .. .. .	1-12
II	DOMESTIC LIFE	
	The Village and its Approaches — The House — Manufactures — Dress and Personal Adornments — Agriculture — Land Tenure — Food — Music and Dancing .. .. .	13-58
III	SOCIAL LIFE	
	The Family — Kinship — Organization of the Clans — The Life Cycle — Marriage .. .. .	59-86
IV	POLITICAL LIFE	
	The System of Government — Customary Law and Justice — Methods of War — Slavery .. .. .	87-99

V	RELIGION AND CEREMONIES		
	Magic and Religion — Religious Beliefs and Practices — The Gallong Pantheon — Disease and Remedy — Death and Disposal of the Dead .. ..	100-112	
	EPILOGUE .. ..	113-116	
	APPENDIX .. ..	117-119	
	GLOSSARY .. ..	120-121	
	BIBLIOGRAPHY .. ..	122-124	
	INDEX .. ..	125-128	

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

HALF-TONES	Facing Page
Making designs on a skirt .. ..	xii
Gallong girls put on a number of bangles and chains of beads .. ..	1
At the water-point .. ..	32
Making bead-chains .. ..	33
Sowing seed with dibbles .. ..	64
Catching fish in a stream .. ..	65
A Gallong hunter in the act of shooting with bow and arrow .. ..	96
A 'Ponung' dance .. ..	97
A Kebang in progress. .. ..	97

LINE DRAWINGS	Page
A Gallong girl at her loom .. ..	9
Gallong houses .. ..	14
A house under construction .. ..	15
Inside layout of a Gallong house .. ..	16
A dangki—brass bowl largely used as a medium of exchange and to be given in bride-wealth ..	19
Different designs engraved on the dangki (after Dunbar) .. ..	20
A granary with wooden disc on top of each pile to prevent entry of rats .. ..	21
A creel made of cane .. ..	22
A carrying-bag suspended on the back by means of straps .. ..	23
A cane suspension-bridge .. ..	24
A Gallong loom .. ..	25
A Karka Gallong girl making yarn balls from hanks	26
Benyop—brass discs worn by girls and women round the loins till their first child is born ..	28

	Page
A Gallong hat woven of cane and creepers ..	29
A brass bangle .. .. .	31
An earring with bells .. .. .	31
A metal bracelet .. .. .	32
A brass bangle .. .. .	33
A bamboo quiver .. .. .	36
A Gallong hunter with bow, arrow and quiver ..	37
A fish trap .. .. .	38
Conical basket for carrying fire-wood ..	41
A dibble .. .. .	42
A bamboo weeder .. .. .	45
A Gallong girl brewing apong .. .. .	54
Ceremonial brewing of apong .. .. .	56
A Gallong girl husking paddy .. .. .	61
A Gallong girl on the way to the fields ..	65
An ornament .. .. .	78
An ornament worn on the chest during marriage	79
Bell ornament, worn by a bride at her marriage	80
A Tibetan prayer-bell used as marriage ornament by a bride .. .. .	81
Marriage ornament worn by a bride at the nape of the neck at the head of the bead necklace ..	82
A Gallong in ceremonial dress .. .. .	83
Graves .. .. .	86
A Gallong in ceremonial head-dress .. .. .	95
Altar erected near the house to drive away sickness	105
Altars for driving away spirits .. .. .	107
A sacrificial altar for killing mithuns .. .. .	110

THE NORTH-EAST FRONTIER AGENCY (NEFA) is a wild and mountainous tract of about 30,000 sq. miles in the Assam Himalayas bounded by Bhutan, Tibet, Burma and the Valley of the Brahmaputra. It is divided for administrative purposes into five Frontier Divisions—Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap—with their headquarters at Bomdi La, Ziro, Along, Tezu and Khonsa respectively. It is inhabited by a large number of Indo-Mongoloid tribes, speaking some fifty different dialects. This book describes the Gallongs, an important tribe living in the Siang Frontier Division.

## P R E F A C E

The most difficult part of an anthropologist's job, it is said, begins when he returns from the field. While in the field I found myself busy collecting materials. I did not have time to look back to them and write up there. But when I settled down to the sifting and the processing of the materials I found myself at sea. I could not make out where to begin and where to end. However, when I began working on them, the difficulties were overcome and the result is here.

This study has been undertaken to give an introductory idea of the Gallongs, their country, material culture, social and economic organizations, rituals and belief and a few other aspects of their life. Space and time did not permit to give a fuller details on the above topics. Theoretical interpretations have been avoided, as then it would have taken much time and space. Facts have been presented before the readers and now it is upto them to evolve theories out of these facts. As there has been no substantial material on the Gallongs, published so far, it may form a basis to future investigations. Keeping this in mind, an attempt has been made to give a brief outline of almost all the aspects of their culture.

In the field of publication of books, it is my maiden venture. Limitations and shortcomings are bound to be there, for which I myself shoulder the entire responsibility.

I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude and thankfulness to Shri K. L. Mehta, and Shri N. K. Rustomji the former and the present Advisers to the Governor of Assam, who have kindly given me the opportunity to carry on research on the tribes of the Siang Frontier Division. They have always extended their helping hands for the cause of anthropological research in the North-East Frontier Agency and have been a source of inspiration to us. The debt I owe to Dr Verrier Elwin, Adviser for Tribal Affairs, is that of a pupil to his pre-

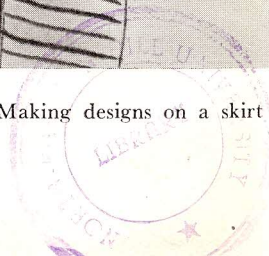
ceptor. He went through the manuscript with great patience and made valuable corrections and suggestions. And as a mark of all this, this book is dedicated to him. I wish to record in particular my gratitude to my Gallong friend Shri Taluk Rano, who was my interpreter and guide. I am greatly indebted and thankful to the officers and the staff of the Research Department, NEFA, Shillong, for their kindly going through the manuscript, making valuable suggestions and corrections, making drawings and for typing out the manuscript. I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my thanks to all others who have helped me in the preparation of this book, individual acknowledgements not being possible here. I look forward to their help again in the preparation of my next book, *The Minyongs*. I am highly appreciative of the co-operation and help given by the people whose life has been depicted here.

Shillong  
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Making designs on a skirt





Gallong girls put on a number of bangles and chains of beads