

Arunachal News. Ind. Day on 1979.

## Neolithic Celts from Subansiri District

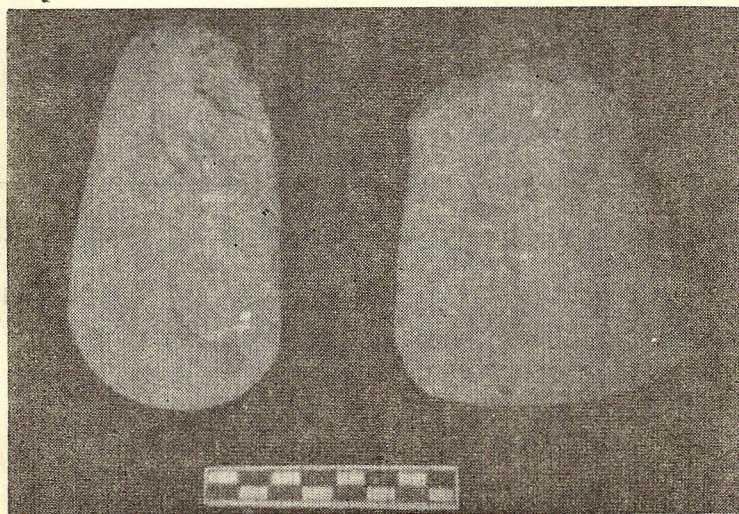
—D. K. DUARAH

We do not find enough of recorded evidences till now especially of prehistory of Arunachal Pradesh. Various geological records prove that the Siwalik formation, which indicates the existence of the earliest human in Asia, extended itself up to the Brahmaputra valley on the east. This also indicates that Arunachal Pradesh, which is situated on the foothills of the Himalayas, will definitely be able to play a significant role in Archeological as well as Anthropological spheres in course of time. So, any prehistoric information, in whatever form it may be, have a high value and can throw some new light on the stone-age culture of this area.

Recently, in course of levelling of the school play ground, three neolithic celts were found along with rubbles and pebbles deposite in the parchi - pole area of the Damin (Huri) circle of Subansiri

District, Arunachal Pradesh, by Shri B. Sukla, Teacher, during the month of March, 1979. Though Shri Sukla is a non-technical person, he felt attracted by the size and shape of the tools and preserved them properly. In the mean time, one Officer of the Research Department of this Government visited the place in course of his tour and collected the specimens. The site is located on the terrace of the river Kamala, one of the biggest rivers of the district and the area is situated at about 200 k.m. away from Ziro, the district headquarters. The place is inhabited by the Nishi people and is well connected by motorable roads.

Although with the present findings it is difficult to assess anything, yet, it will throw a new ray on the prehistoric remains. If more such rare things can be unearthed either at the present site or



Neolithic Celts found in Subansiri

elsewhere. it will definitely throw a new light on the prehistoric culture of North Eastern India, specially of Arunachal Pradesh.

Altogether three specimens (One is broken) were collected from the site and their descriptions are given below :—

1. **Grooved Ground Axe:—** The Size of the axe is  $10.8 \times 9.2 \times 2.4$  Cms. It is made out of diorite fully ground, fleshy and heavy Trapezoidal in shape with two grooves on either lateral sides just near the butt. The grooves are prepared by grinding for facilitating haffing. Working edge is medial and prepared by grinding from both the surfaces. Profile is straight and the cross section is tentacular. It is fairly fresh and unweathered.

2. **Oval Chipped and Ground Axe:—** The size of the tool is  $12.2 \times 7.2 \times 1.9$  Cm. It is oval in shape and the material is of sand stone. Both chipping and grinding techniques were applied for the preparation of the specimens. The working edge is convex; median and very well prepared. Upper surface is oval and the under surface is flat. Profile is straight and the cross section is crescentic.

3. **Working part of an Axe :—** This is a part of the working edge of a tool. Material is diorite and nothing more can be said about it.

The association of the specimens are quite interesting and some geomorphological considerations are highly essential. The presence of these tools are quite significant and some more work for establishing the existence of such a culture in the region is highly necessary. The foothills of Eastern Himalayas which includes mainly all the districts of Arunachal Pradesh is also interesting from the point of view of early human occupations. The geological history of the region say that the area enjoys the sporadic effects of glaciations.

Under the above circumstances, if the area is thoroughly and carefully investigated from geomorphological as well as archeological angles definitely some interesting results will come out which not only can help in reconstructing the history of Arunachal Pradesh, but will also provide a new thought to the historians and archaeologists India of and the world.

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Work and Love-these are the Basics. Without them there is  
Neurosis.

— THEODOR REIK.