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**A Voyage To New Guinea, And The Moluccas, From
Balambangan: Including An Account of Magindano,
Sooloo, and other Islands; And Illustrated With Thirty
Copperplates, Performed In The Tartar Galley, ...**

Forrest, Thomas

London, 1779

Chapter V. Sent a Boat to the Island Salwatty, to purchase Sago Bread -
Was visited by the Synagees of the Country - Had my House robbed - A
Corocoro arrives from Batchian with Tuan Bobo on Board, ...

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CHAPTER V.

Sent a Boat to the Island Salwatty, to purchase Sago Bread—Was visited by the Synagees of the Country—Had my House robbed—A Corocoro arrives from Batchian with Tuan Bobo on Board, and another Officer, who bring a Letter from the Sultan to Tuan Hadjee—Farther Transactions there—Prepare to depart—Account of the Inhabitants.

ON Friday, December the 16th, the vessel hauled up and secured, we were most of the day employed in washing and cleaning her inside, for Mussulmen are not very cleanly. At high water we hauled her up a little farther. All day it blew fresh from north west.

1774.
December.

On Saturday the 17th, we had still fresh north west winds, with rain. Sent the people to cut wood for burning the coral rocks we had gathered, in order to make chenam (lime) for mixing with oil to be put upon the vessel's bottom.

On the 18th, fresh north west winds with rain. Hired a corocoro to go to the island of Salwatty, to purchase sago bread. For this purpose, I sent red handkerchiefs and various calicoes. Tuan Hadjee writ by the boat to some of his acquaintance there, to assist the commander in his business.



1774.
December.

On *Monday* the 19th, we had for the first part of the day moderate weather, with calms. Afternoon brought hard gales from the N. W. with thunder, lightning, and rain; a swell came also in, which made the vessel lie uneasy, and thump.

On *Tuesday* the 20th, with variable winds and rain, came to visit me, some persons, who Tuan Hadjee said were Synagees (certain chiefs) of the country. They wore long hair, were Mahometans, and held their title from the Sultan of Tidore. They behaved civilly, in expectation of presents, which I made them; Tuan Hadjee, to whom they paid great respect, telling me it was necessary. Two boats arriving, I bought from Papua men, who were in them, sago flour, put up in Cylindrical baskets, made of the leaves of the tree. These Papua men had their frizzled black locks sticking out a great way from their heads, and were as black as African Coffres.

On *Wednesday* the 21st, easterly winds and calms. This is the first fair day we have had since our arrival.

To day, came in from Gibby several small prows or corocoros; for they call them by either name. I found it was expected I should make the masters small presents, which I thought prudent to do. Tuan Hadjee was much respected by them, and loved to do things genteelly, to which I was not averse.

On *Thursday* the 22d, the weather was moderate, but we had at times, several very hard squalls from the N. W. In the night several, not all, of the Gibby prows failed. To day we made a new lateen mainfail,

mainfail, and breamed the vessel's bottom, into which I found the worm had just entered. I purchased also a corocoro, which we set about fitting up, to assist us in our intended voyage.

1774.
December.

On *Friday* the 23d, had westerly winds, with heavy squalls and rain in the night.

As I wanted to expedite our business, and get afloat, I embraced an opportunity when it was fair, to calk the starboard side of the galley, above water. In the night my house was robbed of some shirts, and other wearing apparel. My servant Matthew pursued the thief with a cutlass; but I was not displeas'd he did not catch him: Matthew being a lad of spirit, there might have been bloodshed.

On *Saturday* the 24th, we had N. W. winds, with frequent showers; towards the evening it was calm. While we lay here, we were accommodated with fish (bonettas) and greens, from Captain Mareca's garden; whence we were supplied with pumpkin sprouts, the tops of the sweet potatoe, and brinjals.*

On *Sunday* the 25th, the winds at W. and W. N. W. employed ourselves in covering the vessel with sago leaves.

On *Monday* the 26th, we had westerly winds and rain. To day the boat returned from Salwatty, with three thousand cakes of sago bread, all in excellent order. Fixed two gunnel planks, fifteen inches broad,

* A fruit, which parboiled, and then roasted, eats like an artichoak.

the



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December.

the whole length of the vessel. Captain Mareca, who had contracted to do it, cut the planks out of a tree. To day, the thief that robbed me was taken, and brought to Captain Mareca's house; but none of the stolen goods were brought with him. They asked how I would have him punished; I replied, as the robbery was committed ashore, they might punish him their own way. The fellow, who was a Papua Coffre, did not seem much ashamed. I suspected a trick at the bottom, which made me aware of indulging resentment. I was told they did nothing to him.

On the 27th, the former part of the day we had variable winds, with rain; the latter part easterly winds. About noon arrived a corocoro from Batchian, with two officers, one of them (Tuan Bobo) the person sent to me by the Sultan of Batchian, at Biffory harbour, as has been related; the other called Tuan Assahan. I saluted them on their landing, with three swivel guns. They brought a letter from the Sultan to Tuan Hadjee; but none to me. However, they brought me, with the Sultan's compliments, six baskets, about fifteen pound each, of excellent sago bread, of a reddish colour, and six baskets of fine rice. The officers told me they had orders from the Sultan of Batchian, to accompany me, whithersoever I thought proper to go, to assist me with every thing in their power, and afterwards to proceed with me back to Balambangan. I kept them to drink tea with me in the evening. The vessel had eighteen men, besides the two officers, with two brass swivel guns, and many bows and arrows.

On *Wednesday* the 28th, we had easterly winds, during the former, and north west winds, the latter part of the day. The Batchian people assisted me in repairing the vessel.

On

On *Thursday* the 29th, north west winds began, and easterly winds ended the day. Employed in finishing the gunnel planks. Observed the sun's amplitude ashore, and found the variation of the compass to be one degree east.

1774.
December.

On *Friday* the 30th, we had, for the former part, easterly winds, during the latter, had winds from the N. N. W. with fresh gales. Employed as yesterday. To day several Patany prows arrived. About sunset, I went to the top of the hill, and took the bearings off Piamis Peak, as well as of the low flat islands adjacent. From the hill I could see to the southward, the distant land of Famiay and Batanta.

To day, I employed a Papua man to make a wooden anchor; and advanced him a new Pulicat handkerchief, which was to be its price. About an hour after dark, several Patany men, lately from Gibby, which island lies in their way from Patany to Tomoguy, assembled at my house, and, in a very bold manner, asked me for Betel money. I got Tuan Hadjee, and Tuan Buffora, a man I had engaged to go with me to Tanna Papua, to assure them, that I intended to make them handsome presents, they being Synagees of Patany Hook, on Gilolo, and of the island Gibby; that I had made presents to some persons of rank, of Gibby-Monpine, on the island Waygiou, who had honoured me with a visit; and, that if they would come next day, I should be glad to see them. I kept, however, a good watch all night, not much liking the company I had got amongst.

Next day, *Saturday* the 31st, about seven in the morning, I saw the wooden anchor, I had employed the Papua man to make for me,
lying



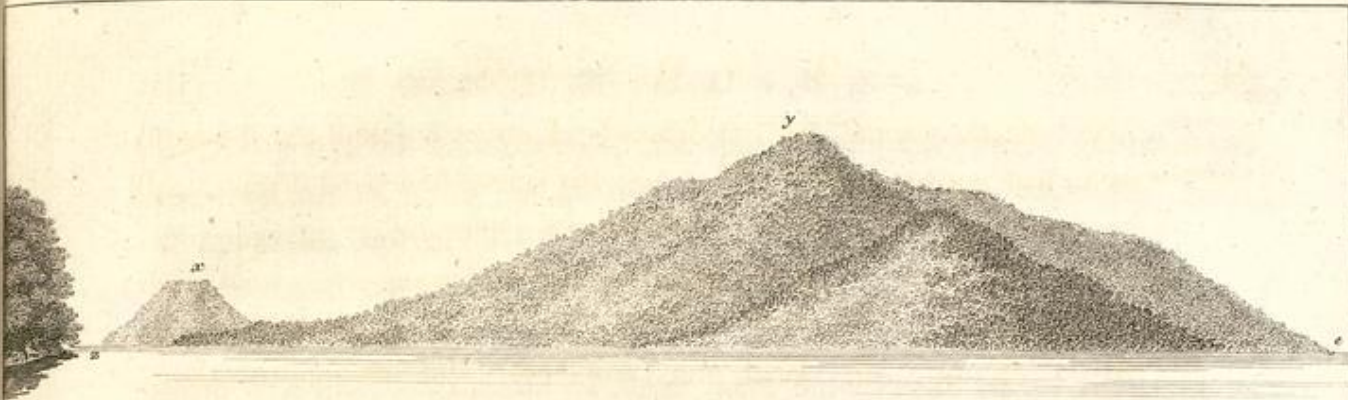
1774.
December.

lying on the ground, cut and defaced. I instantly found out the man, who had got his shield in his hand, his lance, bows and arrows, and was preparing to set off in his boat, as on a journey; at the same time, he seemed to be very much displeas'd, and spoke angrily. I took him by the hand, and, pointing to the mangled anchor, laugh'd, saying, it would do very well. With much difficulty, I got him into my house, where I appeas'd his wrath, and gave him about ten times its value. Immediately after this, finding the Batchian officers did not come to breakfast as usual, I went to them. They look'd very grave, and had all their people ready as if to lanch their corocoro, that was hauled up, on hearing the anchor carpenter make a noise, which they left me to allay. A little while after this, they came to my house to breakfast. Some days before, I had presented the carpenter's father, whose boat carried Tuan Hadjee from Gag to Tomoguy, with a half worn scarlet waistcoat, and a fathom of new scarlet broad cloth. The father contributed much to appease his son's wrath; but, though I never could learn the truth, I suspected the man set on to impose, or perhaps to pick a quarrel: all that day, therefore, I went with loaded pistols, and kept others armed also.

About eleven, A. M. the Patany and Gibby men came to wait on me. I treated them with a dish of tea, and gave each some tea and sugar candy, put up in paper; which they accepted with a good grace. I then presented each of them (about eight in number) with two pieces of Surat, and various other calicoe goods, to the amount of sixty dollars, with which they were satisfied.

To



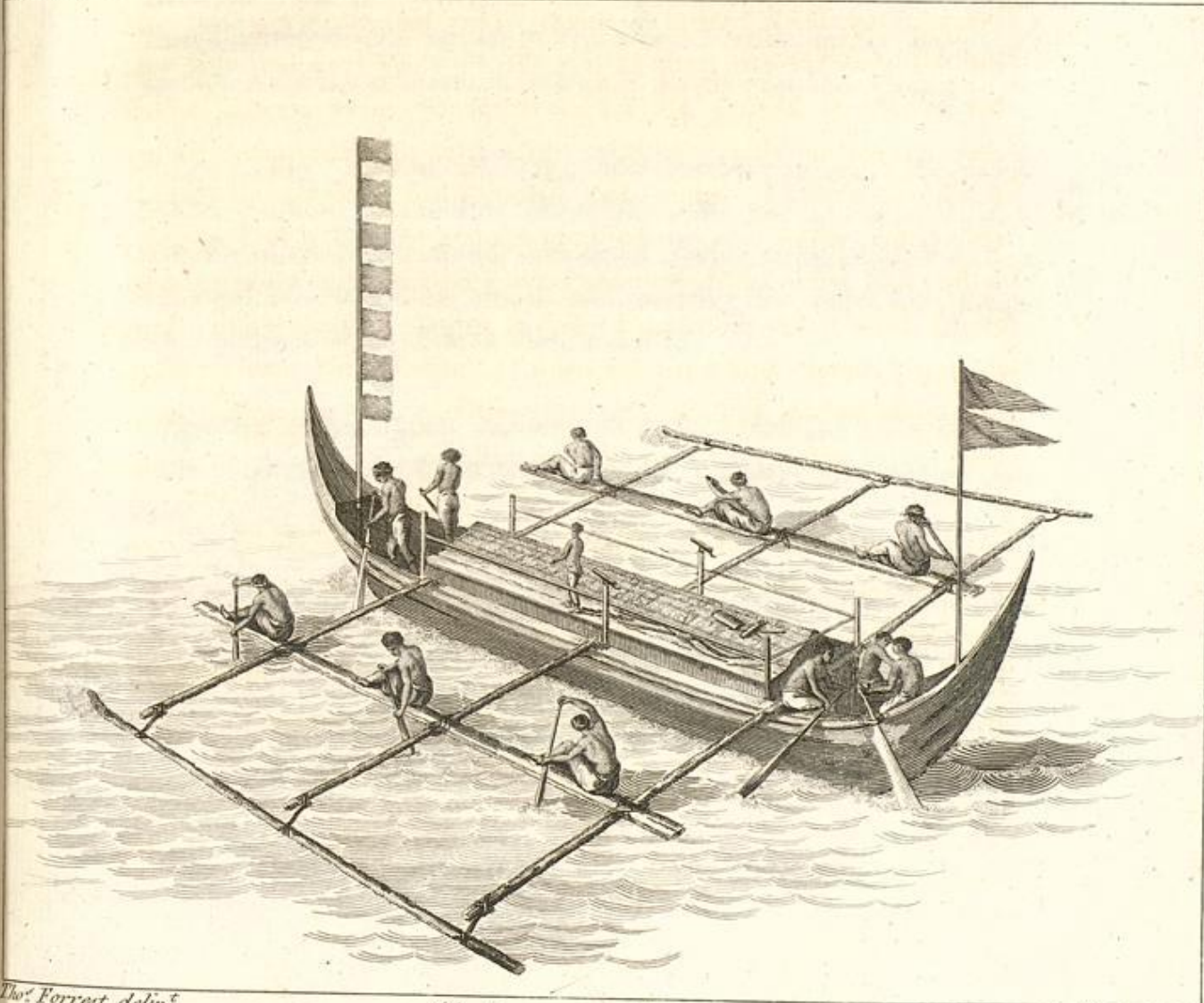


Manga Point
N.E. & N. 1

x. Gunung Senapy near Fort Barnevelt

y. Labuhat Hill E.N.E. 5 L.

e. E. b. N.



Tho. Forrest delin^r

Caldwell Sculp^r

Molucca Corocoro

Published by Captⁿ Tho. Forrest as the Act directs Jan^y. 30th 1779.



To day we had easterly winds, the former and latter parts. About noon we had N. N. W. winds and rain. Finished the starboard side of the vessel, and paid it with lime, mixed with water, in which certain leaves of trees had been steeped. This afternoon, arrived many small corocoros from Warjow, which lies on the north east part of the island Waygiou. On board of them were only Papua people, who seemed afraid of coming amongst the Mahometans. I bought from them thirty-six rolls of sago flour, very reasonable. I also purchased from Captain Mareca an old prow, which I broke up for boards, to lay across the lower beams of the vessel for the people to sleep on.

1774.
December.

On *Sunday*, *January* 1st, 1775, had northerly winds. To day I finished caulking the larboard side of the vessel, and paid it with lime, mixed with the liquid already mentioned, our oil being done. We were employed also in making attops, and covering the vessel with them, being resolved to get afloat as soon as possible.

1775.
January.

On *Monday* the 2d, we had variable winds. Finished covering the vessel. At three P. M. hauled off, and anchored just without the reef.

Tuesday the 3d. Got our stores, &c. very expeditiously on board, in a small new corocoro, I had bought from Tuan Bussora the Molucca man, whom I had engaged to go with me to the coast of New Guinea. At six in the evening, hauled farther off, then rowed on about a mile, and anchored in twenty three fathom, muddy ground, in Horse Shoe Bay.

K

On



1775.
January.

On *Wednesday* the 4th, we had light variable winds, with so heavy rain, as penetrated the new roof of the vessel, it being too flat. To remedy this uncomfortable circumstance, I raised the middle of it, by driving a few wedges below.

Not liking our road in Horse Shoe Bay, I rowed on to a land lockt harbour in the eastermost of the two islands that are called Batang Pally. It has no particular name, but lies about two miles from Tomoguy. The two Batchian officers came on board, and went back to Tomoguy in the evening, to look after their corocoro. There came also to pay me a visit a Molucca man, named Abdul Wahead; who gave me some information about New Guinea; telling me, he had often gone thither a trading for slaves, and that the people were not so barbarous as he understood they had been represented to me. I made him a present; upon which he said, that he would have told me so before, but never had a fair opportunity, as Tuan Hadjee and and the Batchian officers were constantly with me; and he found by their conversation, which he had overheard, that they wanted to persuade me not to go thither. This was really the case: The Batchian officers especially, prompted, I suppose, by Tuan Hadjee, were continually telling me, that the people of New Guinea were fierce and hostile in their manners, and even said there were cannibals among them.

On *Thursday* the 5th, we had fair weather. The carpenter's father, who helped to make up the quarrel I was near having with his son at Tomoguy, came on board. He presented me with a Loorequet of beautiful plumage, mostly green and yellow. Captain Mareca came also

also with two of his sons and three servants; one of them a female cook. Likewise came Tuan Buffora. We were pretty much crowded. Tuan Hadjee joined, in a corocoro of eighteen feet keel, and eight foot beam, which I had purchased and fitted up to assist us in our intended voyage. She was manned with fourteen people.

1775.
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Tuan Hadjee, for his encouragement, had one half of her; and she was taken into the Company's service. Such Batchians as chose to go in her, had pay: some other failors were shipped by me. The two Batchian officers came along in their corocoro, with about twelve people.

We rowed from the land lockt harbour on Little Batang Pally to Manafouin Bay, where we had once lain, and where I had wished to haul ashore. It lies in latitude $0^{\circ} 12' S.$ and longitude $127^{\circ} 0' E.$ We lay afloat close to the beach without any danger, and employed ourselves in cutting rattans, which we found at hand, to fix the outriggers of the corocoros; the fixtures of these embarkations being mostly made with rattans; but their timbers are tied to a kind of handle made in their plank, with a black strong cord, called Gumaty, which a certain palm tree produces, as the coco nut tree produces coir. Of this they also make good ropes. At Malacca they manufacture cables of it. At night, a son of Captain Mareca's, after I had made him some presents to engage him to go the voyage, went ashore, and I never saw him more.

Friday the 6th. I named the corocoro, on board of which Tuan Hadjee chose to remain, (for I durst not order him on board the gal-



1775.
January.

ley), the Banguay; and the Batchian corocoro, the Borneo. Employed in getting them both ready for sea.

The inhabitants of the small part of the Molucca islands, I had hitherto seen, were of two sorts, viz. the long hair'd Moors, of a copper colour, like Malays in every respect; and the mopheaded Papuas. These Papuas inhabit not only New Guinea, but the inland parts of most of the Moluccas; and those we saw at Tomoguy came mostly from the island Waygiou, which lay near it. The Moors had generally in their boats a few Papuas as slaves.

The sago bread already mentioned, and which they make delicately at Batchian, is called by those who speak Malays, Roti Papua (Papua Bread). They say the Papuas introduced the art of baking it amongst the Mahometans, who came to the Moluccas from parts farther west. Many of the Papuas turn Musfulmen, and then cut off their bushy locks, or at least comb them down as straight as they can. The person who carried Tuan Hadjee from Gag to Tomoguy was a profelyte of this kind, and was called Hujamat, a very civil man. His son the carpenter was a savage indeed, and wore his bushy locks.

Many of those Synagees who visited me, were no better than sturdy beggars, and paid great respect to Tuan Hadjee, on account of the pilgrimage he had made. He seemed to court this respect, and I was careful always to support him in it, as we lived on the best terms. He had his own servants to cook for him, and attend him at Captain Mareca's, whilst I lived in an opposite house. We generally drank tea or coffee once a day in company; though we seldom eat together: and,
upon



T O N E W G U I N E A .

upon the whole, I found him (whatever he might be in his heart) perfectly well bred, and a most agreeable companion.

1775.
January.

From the respect shewn Tuan Hadjee, whose ancestors were of the Serifs that came from Mecca, and gave kings to those parts, I could not help remarking the advantage Mussulmen priests have over others, as descendants from their great prophet (Nabbi) Mahomet. There is something striking, especially to the vulgar, in the certainty of a very noble extraction; and so far east Hadjees were seldom seen. It is perhaps remarkable, that I never met with any Roman missionary in Malay countries.

CHAP-

