

The plain yellow Flag of Borneo used until 1888. Java had 3 but is now part of Indonesia; Ceylon is now Sri Lanka

7 - Borneo, Java, Ceylon and Home 1876-77

"AFTER a fortnight at Government House, Sir William wrote me letters to the Rajah and Rani of Sarawak, and I went on board the little steamer which goes there every week from Singapore. After a couple of pleasant days with good old Captain Kirk, we steamed up the broad river to Kuching, the capital, for some four hours through low country, with nipa, areca, and cocoa-nut palms, as well as mangroves and other swampy plants bordering the water's edge. At the mouth of the river are some high rocks and apparent mountain-tops isolated above the jungle level, covered entirely by forests of large trees. The last mile of the river has higher banks. A large population lives in wooden houses raised on stilts, almost hidden in trees of the most luxuriant and exquisite forms of foliage. The water was alive with boats, and so deep in its mid-channel that a man-of-war could anchor close to the house of the Rajah even at low tide."



Wild flowers of Sarawak



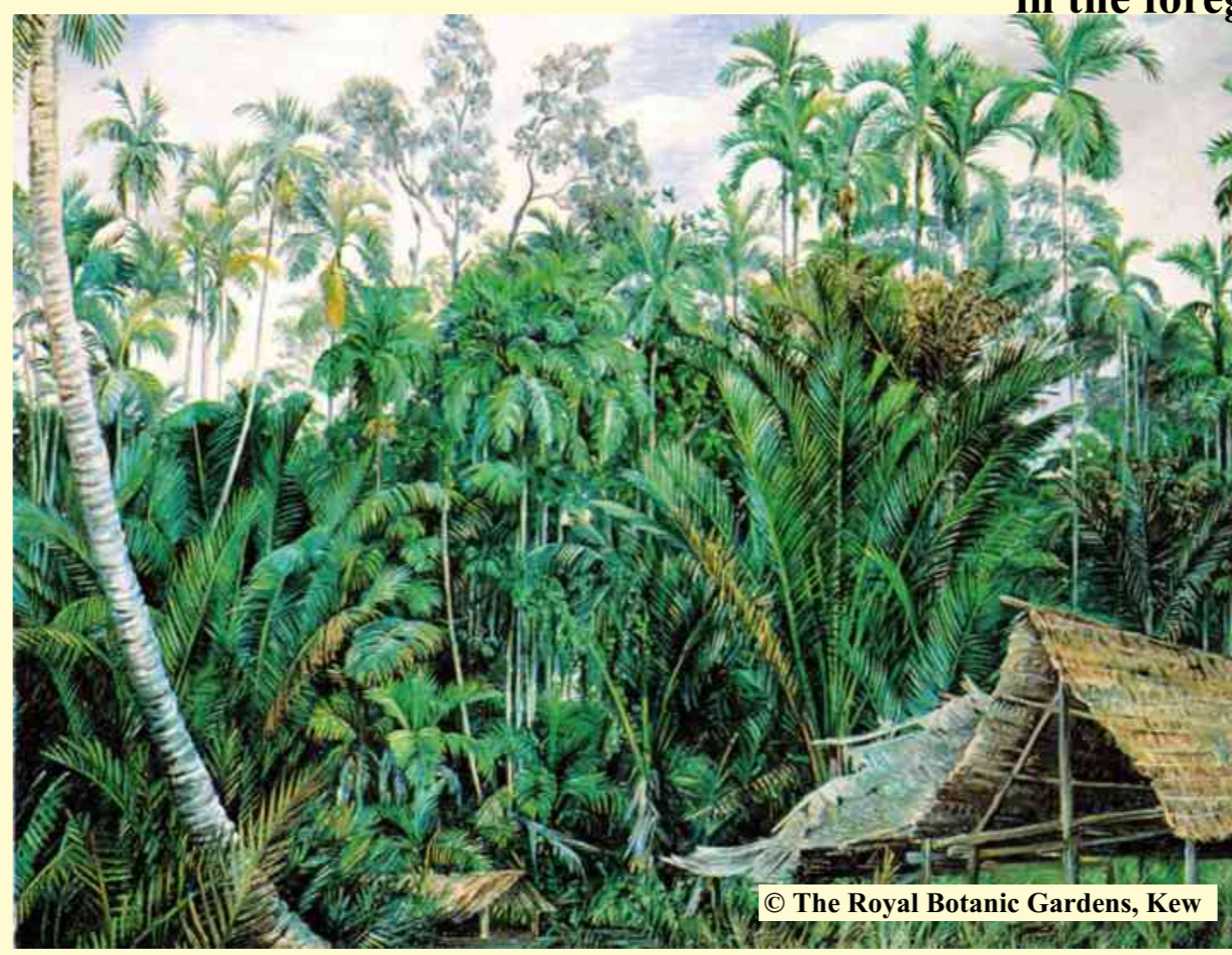
Nipa or Nypa palms with a Inflorescence in the foreground Sarawak



Pitcher plants from Sarawak



The Quicksilver Mountain Sarawak



Boathouse and riverside vegetation Sarawak

"I stayed there [Borneo] till the Java steamer started - a most comfortable Messagerie boat with few passengers, but a most entertaining monkey belonging to the captain. It was entirely gentle, with an amazing amount of curiosity. Every man who would submit had all his pockets searched and the contents examined, tasted, and smelt one by one. My thimble puzzled him much. He could not get it off. He went from it to the middle finger of my other hand and found no thimble there. At last he gave the puzzle up in despair, and made up his mind it was a particular deformity of mine, having a silver tip to one of my fingers only. He used to take pinches of snuff out of a snuff-box, sneezing with great enjoyment afterwards ; and when a glass of water was given to him he would dip his hands in, then rub them over his poor wrinkled old face to cool it. I got quite fond of Jacko."



Mat houses Bendoeng, Java



The Soemberg volcano from Boro Bodo Java

"The order of everything in Java is marvellous; and, in spite of the strong rule of the Dutch, the natives have a happy, independent look one does not see in India. Java is one magnificent garden of luxuriance, surpassing Brazil, Jamaica, and Sarawak all combined, with the grandest volcanoes rising out of it. These are covered with the richest forests, and have a peculiar alpine vegetation on their summits. One can ride up to the very tops, and traverse the whole island on good roads by an excellent system of posting arranged by Government. There are good rest-houses at the end of every day's journey, where you are taken in and fed at a fixed tariff of prices. Moreover, travelers are entirely safe in Java, which is no small blessing."

"After eight days of slow stewing, I started in an open carriage (the coach) for Colombo with two young Oxford men for companions, thoroughly nice fellows, just come from China and Japan. We sent a boy up a cocoa-nut tree at the first post we stopped at, to ascertain if it were a fact that the leaves they tied on the trunks could rustle loudly enough to alarm the owners, when thieves climbed over them. I still doubt it, but the very reputation of their doing so may help to keep off thieves. The road was most interesting all the way, near the beautiful shore or through swamps full of pandanus and other strange plants, with perpetual villages. I much missed the neat mat and bamboo houses of Java. In Ceylon they were mere mud hovels, and everything was less neat, the people lazier, but the little bullock-carts were very pretty."



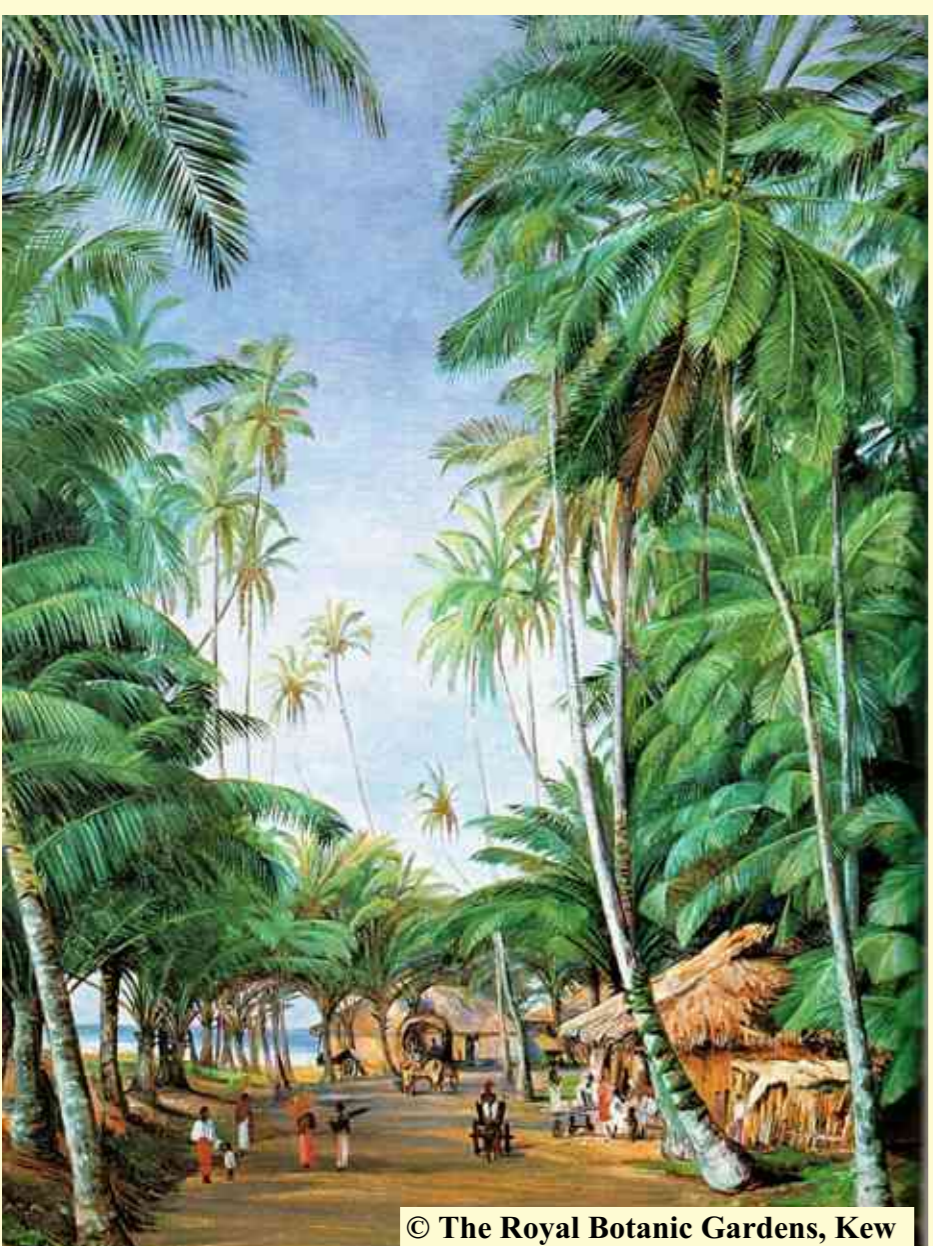
Wild flowers of Java



The Sacred Lotus, Java



The Salak Volcano, Java



Roadside scene and Coconut trees, Ceylon



The Red Cotton Tree and Paradise Flycatchers Ceylon



Avenue of India Rubber Trees, Ceylon

On arrival in Ceylon she was not impressed; "He turned me out at the hotel, where a tribe of more idle natives looked on at me as I tumbled out over the muddy wheels. Nobody offered a hand to help or to lift my things ; they never even thought of finding me a room till I got myself into a rage and scolded them. After a deal of hunting a key was found, which opened a long slip of a room with three beds and nothing else. When I declared that would not do for me the man said, " That very good, that double-bedded room." I said it was more, it was triple-bedded, but I must have a table and more room, on which at last they got civiler, found a good room, brought me some tea and a plate of half cold hard salt beef and carrots."



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