

The Java Village

Midway Plaisance
World's Columbian Exposition



This village gives an exact reproduction of a village as found in the Preanger Regencies, the western part of the Island.

There are one hundred and twenty-five natives, among which thirty-four are women; they show the life and industries of the common people in Java.

For the convenience of the public, the houses are numbered, and in describing the different industries the number will be given, so that the house may be immediately located.

Walking to the right on entering, the first building is a police station or *Gardoe* (No. 40) in which a hollow piece of wood is suspended, this is the *Kohkol* or alarm signal. Then follow two *leuits* (No. 41 and 43) or store houses for rice, and a shed (No. 43) in which the women pound the rice in wooden blocks. House No. 21, is the home of the woman who weaves cloth with a most crude form of loom. In house No. 20, a bridge-maker makes models of the curious bamboo bridges as found in Java, which are built in all forms, arcs, girders, and even cantilevers. There is one cantilever bamboo bridge in Java which has a span of one hundred and thirty feet. Opposite is the Smithy (No. 29) in which two men make swords and daggers (*krisses*) of the curious form characteristic of Java. By working white iron and black steel together a beautiful damascened blade is obtained, which is further treated with drugs and acids. One man is employed to solder the tin cans in which the Java tea is retailed.

In house No. 19 the men make burnt bamboo blow pipes. In No. 18 a woman makes the beautiful embroideries which are applied to the costumes of the actors and dancing girls in the Theatre. She also makes slippers, cigar cases, etc. In No. 17 a wood carver makes paper knives and other things, decorated with the heads of the heroes of the Javanese Mythology. In No. 16 a man makes the big *toedoengs* or sun hats, which are for sale in the shop "B" on the other side of the street. Here are sold blow-pipes, fans made of aromatic roots, embroidered slippers, native dress goods, bamboo cigarette cases, rhinoceros feet, the *real Java coffee and tea*, etc., etc.

Nos. 15, 14, 13, 12 and 11 are the dwelling houses of the actors and musicians. No. 33 is a kitchen. In house No. 10 a black-eyed young girl makes embroideries. In house No. 9, tea and coffee are sold, while the natives roast and grind the Java coffee.

House No. 3 is the house of the superintendent of the natives. No. 38 is the house of the big *Orang-outang*, "Klaas," who hails from Sumatra and possesses a muscular power equal to three men.

The tea, coffee and cocoa house No. 2, is a big building with a verandah in which the tired visitors can obtain the genuine Java tea and coffee, also cocoa.

House No. 8 is the house of Radhen Adnin Soekmadilaga, a native prince from Java. The Arabic characters over his door are wise sayings from the Koran, for the prince is a Hadji or priest, and has been twice to Mecca. The Javanese are all Mohammedans.

The office of the Java Chicago Exhibition Syndicate is located in a native thatched house, and adjoining it are the houses of the officials of the syndicate.

The big building which comes next is the Theatre, in which performances are given of the native *gamelan* (Orchestra), the *wajang* and dancing. The *wajang* is the pantomime which represents a part of the mythical history of Java, in which Kings, Princes, Gods and Devils fight terrible battles about some lovely princess.

The dancing girls, or *Serimpi's* from the court of the sultan of *Solo* (Central Java), perform a dance or pantomime, which is considered the highest development of the native art, and which in Paris obtained for the dancers the honor of being introduced to President

Carnot, who expressed his admiration for the graceful and well-mannered little Serimpi's.

In the street on the left side of the entrance to the grounds, we find first a shooting gallery in which the natives show their skill with the blowpipe; they even kill snipe with it occasionally.

The next two houses (No. 28 and 27) are the homes of the Javanese Serimpi's. In the house No. 27, an old woman performs the difficult and curious process of dyeing the native garments. The garment is hung on a rack, and with a small spoon with a spout, she draws the pattern on the cloth with beeswax. The cloth is then soaked in the coloring matter, which dyes only those parts which are not covered with wax. The wax is soaked out with hot water and another pattern is put on with wax for the second color.

Sometimes five or six colors are applied, so that the manufacture of one skirt may take several months. These *batik* garments are highly appreciated and comparatively expensive.

In house No. 26 the leader of the orchestra lives with his numerous family.

In house No. 22 the Batavia hat maker makes his fine Batavia hats from split bamboo, while his wife makes the nice little bamboo cigarette cases. The two babies in this house attract the attention of all the lady visitors of the village.

In house No. 25 a native tailor shows that the natives appreciate the American sewing machine. In store "A," the same goods are sold as were seen in store "B." Native girls sell the goods to the public.

The Java Chicago Exhibition Syndicate is a commercial enterprise with the object of introducing Java products in their pure state into America, principally the tea, which is not yet sufficiently known in America, but which forms a yearly increasing product of Java. The natives in the village are mostly from the Parakansalak and Sinagar tea estates, which are situated in the Preanger Regencies.

With the Compliments of the

Java Chicago Exhibition Syndicate.