Boats Engraved on Dōtaku and Iwaibe.

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The *dōtaku* (銅鐸) are often found at different spots in our country, and have been called by this name which means bronze-bell, because of the fact that their figure resembles that of a Japanese bell, but nobody knows what they were made for and how they were used. Prof. Kumazō Tsuboi¹ considers them to be ornaments used for some purposes, and Mr. Nobutarō Ōno conjectures them to be musical instruments, while a certain archæologist thinks that they were objects of worship, and says that an object, which resembled them very much, is held in veneration and actually worshipped by the natives of Oceania at present. Accord-

Fig. 1.—Three boats engraved on the *dōtaku*.

ing to Mr. Ryūzō Torii, they resemble in form and workmanship to the *tung-ku* (銅鼓—bronze-drum) which are found in Yunnan, China, and are considered as objects made by the ancestors of the *Miao-tsu* (苗族). It is certain, however, that they were used by the inhabitants of our land no later than the time of the thirty eighth Emperor Tenji; and there are several reasons that induce me to consider that they are relics of the aborigines who lived in this country in the earliest times.

There is a remarkable *dōtaku*, which was found in 1868 in the remain of *Kai-Shin-Jo* (海神城—the Sea-God-Castle) at Ōishi village in Echizen province. It is about one foot and eight inches in height, seven and a half inches in diameter at the top and one foot in diameter at the bottom. On the surface are engraved

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(1) "The Journal of the Anthropological Society of Tokyo," Vol. XXVIII, No. 311. p. 72.

different things among which may be seen three boats (Fig. 1). They are crescent-shaped ; namely, they are high on both ends and low in the midship. Each of the boats engraved, one on the right side and two on the left, carries two persons, one standing and rowing at the stern, and the other sitting down. At the stem, there stands a mast-like thing, and in the midship, there are eight to nine drops,

Fig. 2.—An Egyptian picture of a boat on jar.

Polynesia resemble our own very much.

In my opinion, these are no doubt drops which sailors made use of as the ancient Egyptians³ did, in order to prevent the boat from being swiftly carried away by current. Such drops are often found in ancient Egyptian sculptures and pictures of vessels (Fig. 2). At any rate, these boats engraved on the *dōtaku*, differ in structure from many other vessels unearthed in our country, or from those that appear in our legendary history, and may distinctly be styled as the Southern type, our ancestors or aborigines having no doubt introduced them from the South. But from what part of the South? It is not easy to answer this ques-

which an archæologist considers as the oars and the oarsmen, although none of them does not seem to represent a human figure. Another archæologist conjectures them to be the fishing-net suspended under the boat. I am told by an ethnographer that the drops are a sort of outriggers, which the natives of the Polynesian Islands are making use of in order to prevent the canoe from capsizing, and that Japan and Polynesia are closely connected in many respects ; the late Dr. Rinzirō Takayama² thought that our ancestors had come from the Polynesian Islands, because of the fact that the myths and legends of

(2) "Chogyū's Complete Works," Vol. III, p. 819.

(3) See Herodotos.

tion, yet I venture to conjecture that they came from South China or French Indo-China.

We must not, however, leave an unearthed pottery out of consideration. The pottery was disinterred in March, 1911, with a number of the different relics out of an ancient burial mound at Higashiyama Nakagaito, in Harima province. The pottery is an old vase, known by the name of *iwaibe*⁴ (齋貳) among the Japanese archaeologists, and is one foot and five inches in height. On the neck may be seen an engraving of water-fowls and a boat (Fig. 3). This is the only vase preserved in our country with the engraving of a boat for decoration, perhaps with the single exception of that which, according to Mr. Yasunosuke Seki, is preserved in the British Museum. The latter is an ancient Japanese vase, or *iwaibe*, with the engraving of a boat, in which a person is rowing. These two relics are so precious to us

Fig. 3.—A crescent-shaped boat engraved on the *iwaibe* for decoration.

that we can learn from them the form and structure of ancient vessels used in our country. The engraving of a boat on the vase found in the ancient burial mound of Higashiyama, is naïve in workmanship, and does not give us much knowledge as to the details of the structure of vessels built in those remote ages; the only thing we can see is the outward appearance of those ancient vessels. They resemble in shape to those of the natives of the East Indies and of Formosa, and are comparatively high in stem and stern, and low in the middle part. The vessel seems to have been propelled by two or more paddles. According to the general opinion of scholars, the *iwaibe* is to be distinguished from the vases of the stone-ages in our country and is considered to have been introduced from Korea. If it be true, such a crescent-shaped boat seems to have been brought into our country not only from the South, but also from the West.

In my opinion, however, the boat engraved on the *dōtaku* and that on the *iwaibe* are not in the same group, the former belonging to the southern group, and the latter to the western; for the former was made by the Indonesian or the Indo-Chinese, while the latter influenced by the Tunguse.

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4) A sort of vase used by ancients on festivals to put *saké* in.