

Malummba Nkusa - Cannibal Chief

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Shortly before their departure from Luebo the Snyders obtained a photograph of Malummba Nkusa, a powerful cannibal chief, and his



MALUMMBA NKUSA, AN AFRICAN CANNIBAL CHIEF AND HIS WIFE.

keep her at home and out of the ways of temptation. To prevent her from running away from home this great heavy collar is fastened about her neck and for the rest of her days she is compelled to wear the burden, even though its great weight and rough edges bear her weakly body to the ground at times and scratch the skin from her neck and wear away a part of her shoulders. The missionaries made protests against this ancient custom of the natives, and upon being told that it was cruel and wrong, many of the native men consented to abandon the custom of putting collars on their wives. Many brides of the jungles now go through their honeymoon without the brand of a suspicious husband showing around their necks.

Mrs. Snyder has a number of native war spears and axes. One spear is about six feet in length and the blade is keen and sharp, being about eighteen inches long and two and one-half inches wide at the widest part. It tapers to a sharp point, which would pierce through the body with the slightest effort. The spear has seen service in battle, and it is known that many natives have been killed by this particular weapon. There is a collection of African walking canes, made of native wood and having ivory tips and handles made of rhinoceros teeth. There is a wood pillow the natives carry about with them which they place under their heads if they tire on their way through the jungles and sleep as if their heads rested on pillows of down and mother goose's feathers. There is a native chief's insignia of authority and power, consisting of a short stick, wrapped with animal skin and with a hippopotamus' tail fastened on the end. There are weird looking masks worn by the natives at their dances. These are of heavy wood and are painted in the most fantastic colors and

wife. Malumba Nkusa is known for hundreds of miles about Luebo as one of the most dangerous cannibal chiefs and many hundreds of natives have been killed and eaten by his tribe. His warriors are well armed and strong men and they easily dominated the country for many miles about their village. Only a short time before the photograph of the cannibal chief and his wife was taken his tribe had gone to war with a neighboring tribe and, defeating the latter in battle, Malumba Nkusa's people forthwith proceeded to cook and eat the bodies of eighty natives they had slain on the field of battle. The tribe is feared and few other tribes have dared pit their forces against old Malumba Nkusa.

Among the relics and curios brought and sent to Brooklyn by the Snyders is a great copper collar weighing twenty-four pounds, pounded round like a great ring, with an opening. This collar is known as "the bride's wedding present." When a native takes a wife he forthwith takes steps to

curious designs are worked out on them by hand. They look much more frightful than the old time New England holiday masks which are pictured in the books for school children. In the collection is a number of pieces of native cloth, hand woven and painted. It is made of the bark of trees. Palm tree bark is the favorite raw material of the natives and they can make some very fine pieces of goods from it. The workmanship is really wonderful. There is a native necklace of ivory balls, a curious wood pitcher which a native made in imitation of the first modern china pitcher he ever saw, which was taken to Africa by Mrs. Snyder; a little skull cap made of tree bark patterned after a silk skull cap shown the natives by Dr. Snyder, and a number of interesting articles and weapons of war.

The natives wear a heavy chain of brass anklets which they clank together in their dances and marches, making a weird sound. These are heavy and useless. The tribes have a great dance every new moon.



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