

The Aryan Homeland

by Henri Martin

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Typical Aryan of Nordic stock

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ANTHROPOLOGY SOCIETY OF PARIS

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I wish to present to the Society some observations with respect to the recent work of our learned colleagues, Doctor Piétrement and Doctor Lagneau. I have been struck by Doctor Piétrement's viewpoints concerning the localization of the Aryan homeland, that is to say, the primordial cradle of the Aryans, and am inclined to make room for his conclusions; however, due to my lack of sufficient competence in this area, I shall not focus on this point today.

I had doubts about another conclusion reached by Doctor Piétrement—that brunet Aryans preceded those with blond hair—and that such brunets had been Aryans from the earliest times; but, the recent research of Monsieur de Ujfalvy appears to tip the balance in favor of this opinion. Brunet brachycephalic Aryans therefore seem to have formed the initial composition of the populations inhabiting the original Aryan homeland, and then some time later, blond dolichocephalics, who from all appearances were the Aryans' neighbors to the west (towards the Caspian), intermixed with them.

From these brunet Aryans of central Asia were sprung the brunet brachycephalics of Old Europe, among which Monsieur de Ujfalvy finds again the type of their ancestral brothers of Asia.

Now, I must take exception to the opinion of Doctor Piétrement, who thinks that the brunet Aryans had invaded and dominated Europe, while the blond Aryans had only obtained equality with them posteriorly. We indeed see that in India the blond race had been considered inferior. However, in Europe it was just the opposite, and, in fact, all the traditions find themselves in accord with this. The Aryans, or Aryan-like blond dolichocephalics, came into ancient Europe well after the original inhabitants, and drove off or subjugated the brunet brachycephalics. This process occurred all the way from Greece to Ireland, and even outside of Europe, throughout North Africa as well. The Celtic conquerors of Ireland were blonds; the Hellenes and Thracians, dominators of the Pelasgians, were blonds; blond Libyans enjoyed preponderance in Africa. These blonds of ancient times are in the West the dolichocephalic builders of the dolmens. So, I maintain that in the West, taking into account the findings of Monsieur de Ujfalvy and Doctor Piétrement, the domineering blonds were descended from the Aryans, and the more or less brunet brachycephalics were of Celtic origin.

There remains one notable difficulty: this is the great difference which is evident between the type of brunet Aryans I've already discussed and those other brunet Aryans, most illustrious in history, who came down from central Asia into India and Persia.

One might well be able to identify some analogy between the Indo-Persians and certain exceptionally elegant and fine types of southern Europe; but, our brunet brachycephalics, of which the Ligurians comprise the most characteristic branch (and, if one insists, our inland Bretons as well), certainly do not resemble at all the Indo-Persians. It is quite likely that to these latter we can attribute, with their departure for the south, the first flight of the Aryan language and society.

Now, unlike Doctor Piétrement and Doctor Lagneau, I believe that it is entirely inadmissible to categorize the blond race in Europe as Germanic. The Germans or, to use a more ethnic term, the Teutons, are only an assemblage of this blond race; one does not begin to perceive the first swarms of them in western Europe until around the third century B.C. This term, in fact, ought to be renounced, as all it does is completely muddle up the ethnography of Old Europe. This is why for quite some time linguists have renounced the term *Indo-Germanic languages*, which possesses the same drawbacks for linguistics. Even the term *Cimbris*, which we willingly employ now, while preferable to that of the Germans in the sense that the Cimmerians had by far preceded the Germans in the West, is not yet itself sufficient; this is because other blonds had come into western Europe long before the Cimbris or Cimmerians. These dolichocephalics of the dolmens intermixed with and dominated the brunet numerical majority inhabiting Gaul, the British isles, Spain, and Italy, and brought the Celtic language into the West.

To this observation I must attach another. This is that the overwhelming majority of the Belgae, in the time of Caesar, were Gallic, spoke the Celtic language, and were not Germans, even though they had originally come from the Outer Rhine region that just a little before the Christian era had begun to be called Germany. They had come in *antiquitus*, said Caesar, which is incompatible with a Germanic origin, given the fairly recent arrival of the Germans. As for the Galatians of Asia, they were incontestably en masse Gauls and not Germans, and were absolutely identical to those Gauls who seized Rome; however, some Germans, the first ones mentioned in history, had begun to intermix with them, in the same way that much later one saw contingents of several Germanic tribes, 40,000 men out of 300,000, blended into the large Gallic-Belgic army which fought Caesar. Along these lines, Saint Jerome said that the identical nature of the language spoken by the Galatians with that of the people of Trier proves that many western Europeans of that era, along with the great mass of the Belgae, were Celtic speakers. All the historical Belgic names that the *Commentaries* of Caesar and the Gallic coins furnish us are Celtic names, as are those in other parts of Gaul.

My next remarks principally address themselves to the interesting and scholarly research of Doctor Lagneau pertaining to the ethnographic map of France. I have discussed the Belgae; there is also something to point out about the Bretons. It is not admissible that the blue-eyed blond or chestnut-haired inhabitants of the coastal region of Brittany descended en masse from the fifteenth and sixteenth century immigrants from Great Britain. The Bretons living overseas were not taller nor any more blond than the Armoricans of Brittany; they were, like the Armoricans, a composition of diverse types, much like the mixture of peoples one sees in Wales. Additionally, the ancients tell us

that the Bretons were less blond than the Gauls.

As for the alleged Saxon origin of the inhabitants of the burg of Batz and the surrounding villages, not only has it not been proven, messieurs, but just the opposite is demonstrated by examining this population. For one, these people are the last in upper Brittany that have preserved up to now the Celtic language. Also, while their fine bodily type is blond, it has no resemblance to the physiognomy of the Anglo-Saxons. In fact, no vestiges remain of the Saxons along the banks of the Loire, whereas, on the other hand, quite interesting vestiges have been bequeathed on the topographical nomenclature of Picardy's littoral region, as is verified by the maps being prepared by the committee mapping the Gauls. These same maps will also probably provide the solution to the question concerning the origin of the Flemish. It appears to me that Monsieur Longnon is succeeding in establishing that those Flemish who speak in the Teutonic tongue originate from an immigration of Swedes and not of Saxons.

With respect to the blonds anterior to the Germans, I recently travelled through one of the cantons of ancient Sequania, specifically the Lomont region of the arrondissement of Montbéliard. Unlike in the greater part of Sequania, it is not the brunet brachycephalic race that dominates here; rather, it is the blond or chestnut-haired race that comprises the majority of the inhabitants, and there is not anything Germanic about their physiognomies nor do they denote in any way a Burgundian origin.

I can sum up my observations this way: all our blond Aryans or Aryan-like inhabitants in Europe originate from the same stock, but there are serious drawbacks in conferring on the mass of this race the name of its most recent branch, the Germans.

One point on which I am completely in accord with Doctor Lagneau is the identification of the Galatians, Cimbris, and Cimmerians; I associate the early Bretons with them as well, who in Gaul had preceded the warlike Gallic tribes from the Danube.

I must add that it will be very important to obtain from English scientists, who have more occasions than us to study the races of India, data respecting the dominant type among the Hindu Aryans. Even today we still do not know if the majority of them are brachycephalics or dolichocephalics.

DISCUSSION

Monsieur GIRARD DE RIALLE. At the time of our Society's earlier discussion about the origin of the Aryans, I responded to Doctor Piétrement by making a point that I regard as having preserved all its value. My reasoning dwelt upon this fact—that our colleague's position is reliant upon the Zend texts, writings that only pertain to the Iranian civilization.

Monsieur CHARLES DE UJFALVY. Messieurs, permit me to present to you a few thoughts on the subject of the Iranians of central Asia, whom Monsieur Martin mentioned in his stimulating talk.

At our next meeting I shall have the honor of offering you a monograph entitled: *Résultats anthropologiques d'un voyage en Asia centrale*. In this work I note that the Iranians of central Asia inhabiting the upper Oxus (the Galchas and Karategins constituting the purest type) are very brachycephalic, brunet, and of average height. It is in this manner that we encounter them in the center of their present-day habitat in the upper Zarafshan Valley (Galchas), Nouksou Valley (Karategins), etc. The farther we go away from this center, the more this type becomes altered; the height increases, brachycephalism lessens, and blonds are more frequent.

The following averages are therefore what we find amongst the peoples of this region:

	Cephalic Index	Blonds	Height (in meters)
Galchas	85.00	8.62%	1.668
Tajiks of the Ferghana	84.35	12.90%	1.709
Tajiks of Samarkand	81.26	27.58%	1.701

We see much the same proportions among the Uzbeks, who have lived with these Tajiks for centuries.

	Cephalic Index	Blonds	Height (in meters)
Uzbeks of the Ferghana	83.92	3.33%	1.684
Uzbeks of Samarkand	83.13	7.18%	1.675

It seems to follow that these populations intermixed themselves at a given moment long ago with a tribe composed of tall, blond people who were perhaps dolichocephalic. This intermixing occurred with much more intensity with the Iranians dwelling on the plain than with those living in the mountains.

There are a few more remarks I would like to make. The Aryans have certainly at some time in the past inhabited central Asia and the region of the upper Oxus. Did they come from Europe? Had they originated from Bactria? I shall refrain from rendering a verdict on such a ticklish question. However, messieurs, I will direct your attention to a work by Monsieur Poesche, entitled *Die Arier*, in which this author places the first homeland of the Aryans in Europe, as do several of you; he also fixes the exact location of this homeland, which according to him is Lithuania. Monsieur Poesche goes even further; he maintains that the Aryans—tall, blond dolichocephalics—are not a pure race, but instead are simply albinos. “In Lithuania,” he says, “everything in nature bears obvious traces of albinism. The animals are for the most part white, the foliage on the trees faded, etc.” This opinion seems to me absolutely unsustainable.

No doubt the various discussions our Society has had concerning the Aryans—discussions provoked by Messieurs Martin, Topinard, Hovelacque, and others—have not found favor with our counterparts in northern Germany. In their opinion, which is an absolutely immutable belief of theirs, the Aryan is tall, blond, and dolichocephalic. That is to say, the German is the most pure representation in Europe of the ancient Aryan race.

Setting aside the fact that the German is by no means as dolichocephalic, blond, or tall as these messieurs contend, one ought not to forget, moreover, that we absolutely do not know if the ancient language of the Aryans had originally been spoken sooner by the tall blond dolichpcephalics than by the short brunet brachycephalics. I believe that we will never be able to scientifically answer this question. Also, it seems possible that the short brunet brachycephalics had given their language to the tall blond dolichocephalics.

Madame CLÉMENCE ROYER. Monsieur Martin, what text or study have you relied upon in asserting the recent arrival of the Germans on the Rhine? If the Germans are recently arriving to this river, from where did they come? Can you provide us some facts about their previous sojourn?

Monsieur HENRI MARTIN. The only people called Germans are those endowed with the anthropological characteristics of this race, and as I stated earlier, Madame Royer, history does not mention them before the third century B.C. Now, at this point in time two German chiefs are cited as having accompanied the Galatians with the expedition proceeding from Galatia, where these Germans had previously made their residence.

Doctor ARTHUR BORDIER. I see that it is now 6 o'clock. As Secretary, I believe it is time to conclude this meeting. Thank you, messieurs and Madame Royer, for your attendance today.