Playing the Race Card in Japanese Governed Taiwan, or: Anthropometric Photographs as 'Shape-Shifting Jokers'

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14th European Association of Japanese Studies International Conference August 27-30th, 2014



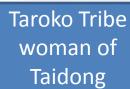
also centains much gold. It should be tend to the upbringing of

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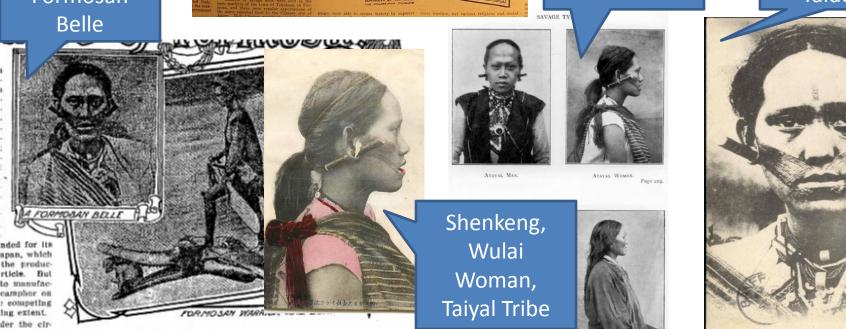
Paazeh Naheh (ca. 1880-ca. 1910)



Savage Type







竹管耳飾

Ear Ornaments

Atayal Facial Tattoo Culture



泰雅族文面男子 圖採自森丑之助《台灣蕃族圖譜》



泰雅族文面女子 圖採自森丑之助《台灣蕃族圖譜》



043

[176-1] Dia. 1.3 cm, L. 5.3 cm



插圖二十:戴竹管耳飾的泰雅族屈尺群女人(参考森丑之助 1977:圖版 35 重繪)





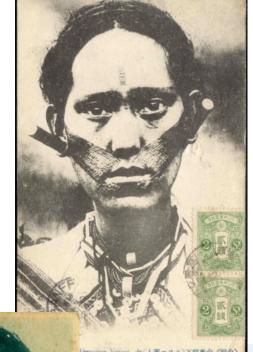
An Introduction to the Weaving Culture of the Atayal Tribe



Race Cards















A Strict Construction

Race Cards (and anthropometric photographs)

- Were part of an international scientific project to collect data on races of the world in metropolitan "centers of calculation" for analysis, ranking, sorting, etc.
- Emphasize somatic, bodily contours for the purpose of *racial* classification
- "Race"="Scientific Racism"="Biological Racism" (different from using culture, folkways, or other criteria for registering difference/community)



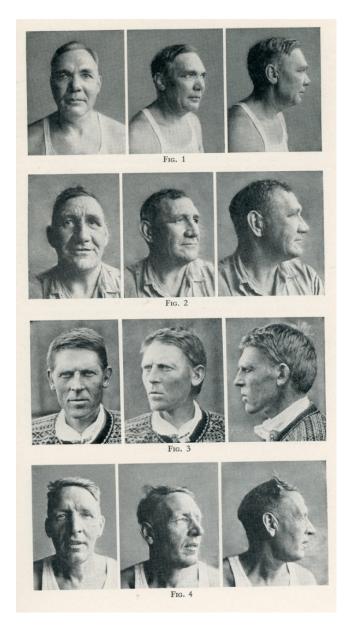




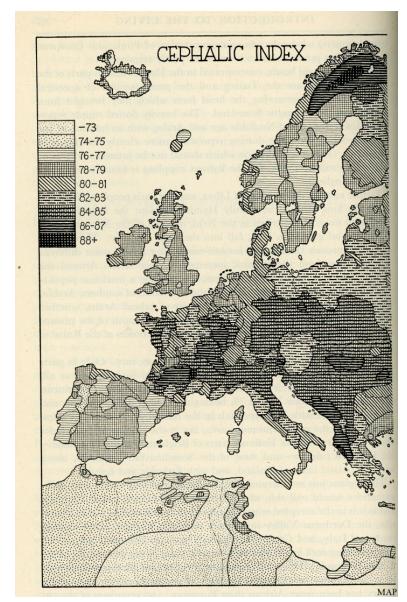
Mori Ushinosuke (1877-1926)



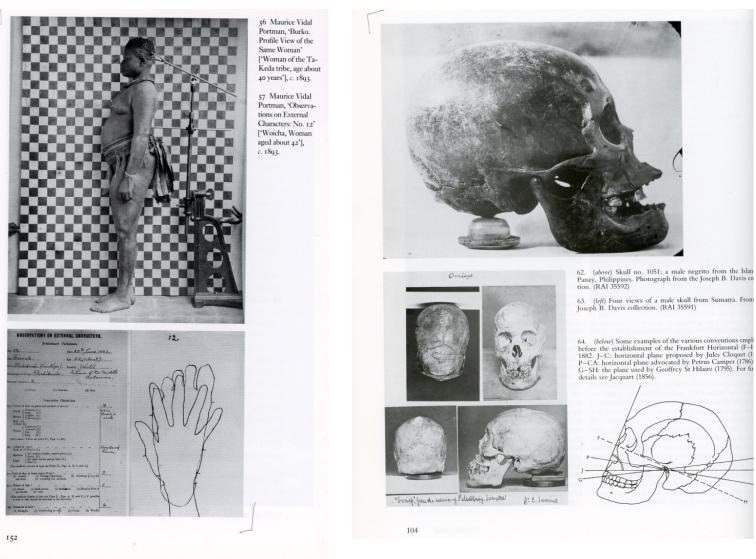
Carleton Coon, The Races of Europe



(1939)



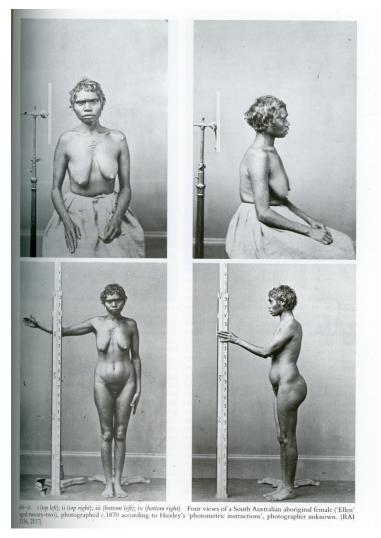
Colonial Anthropology



James R. Ryan, Picturing Empire p. 150.

Elizabeth Edwards, *Anthropology and Photography* p. 104.

Objectified "Specimens"



Elizabeth Edwards, *Anthropology and Photography* p. 101



James R. Ryan, Picturing Empire p. 152

Torii Ryūzō, May 1912





Main Point

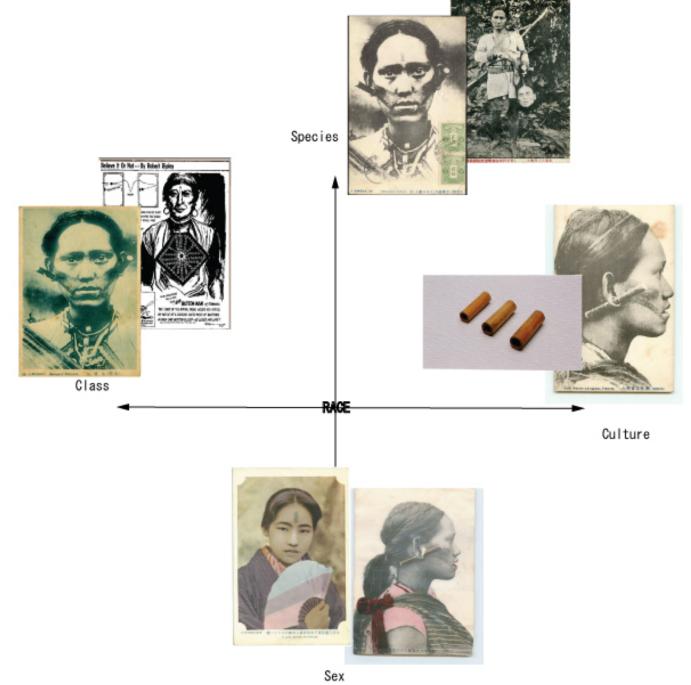
- The proliferation, durability, and long-term effects of Paazeh Naheh's portrait cannot be explained by a formal approach to anthropometric photography as an instrument of colonial domination and biological typification. Such an approach cannot explain:
 - Why Paazeh's image, and not others, was so prevalent.
 - Why this portrait is still reproduced by anthropologists themselves, even though race science itself is discredited.

Argument

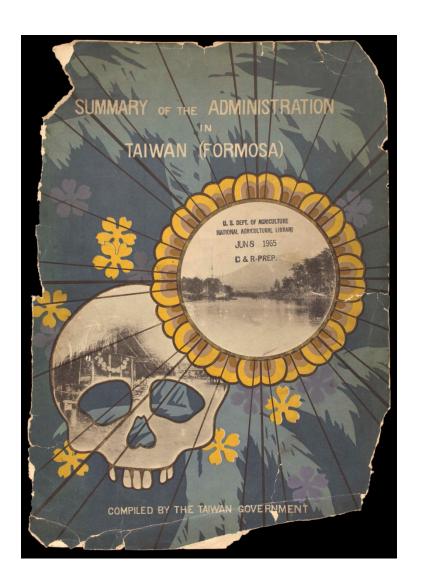
- Non-photographic evidence is required to explain the singularity, efficacy, and nature of the photograph. This includes:
 - Specific conditions under which the photograph was produced, displayed, circulated, and consumed
 - An examination of its predecessor, successor, and adjacent photographs (genealogy and excavation)
 - An analysis of its afterlife

WJT Mitchell, Seeing Through Race

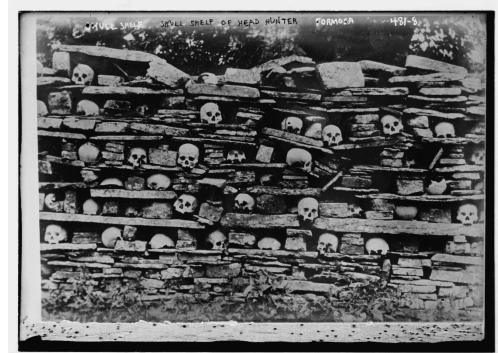
- "race is the ambiguous medicine/poison, the pharmakon, for inflicting or alleviating the pain caused by racism."
- "race" is not only a pseudo-scientific, top-down intellectual construct; it is also a folk category, and a lived experience—
- Race is a medium that encompasses a number of related, and not always distinct, means of establishing boundaries between groups, and homogeneity within groups



"The cold north pole" of race: species



"sociologically speaking, [Taiwan Aborigines] are indeed human beings (*jinrui*), but looked at from the viewpoint of international law, they resemble animals (*dōbutsu no gotoki mono*)."— Mochiji Rokusaburo (1902)

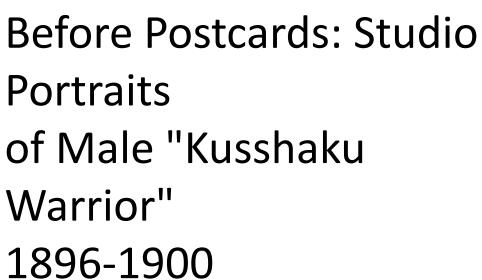




Studio Portraits, Ethnically Indeterminate 'savages' and 'headhunters'









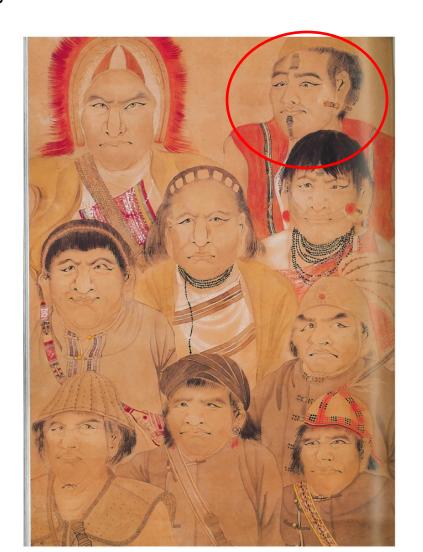


Ino Kanori's "Atayalization" of the "屈尺 Head-hunter"

1898 Bulletin for Study of Taiwan Aborigines

1900 Paris Universal Expo





Another Example

阿眉蕃ス ち 紅頭嶼土人

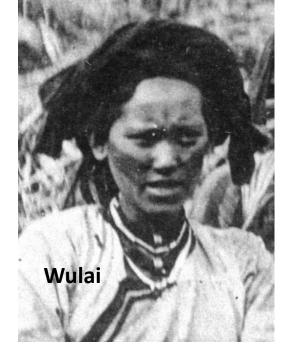
1907 Tokyo Industrial Exposition



Species of Savages in Formosa.



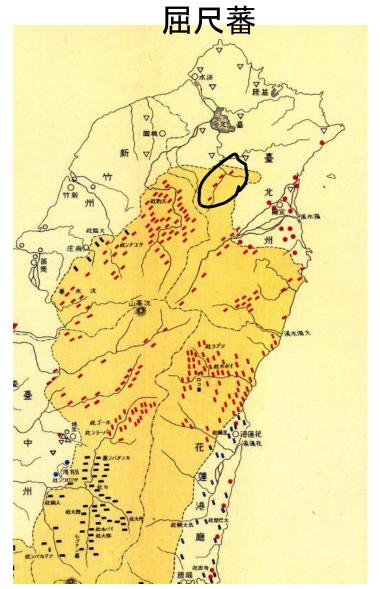
February, 1903, Paazeh Naheh, Watan Yura, Wulai







Mori Ushinosuke 1902-1903 Quchi/Kusshaku "tribes"



Atayalization of Paazeh Naheh





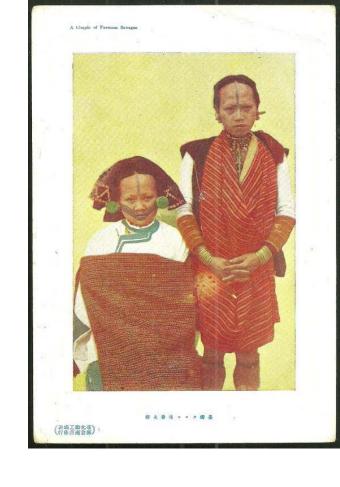
1915/1918 *Taiwan banzokufu* (Mori Ushinosuke) plate 23 (cropped magnified), plate 35 (frontal only)







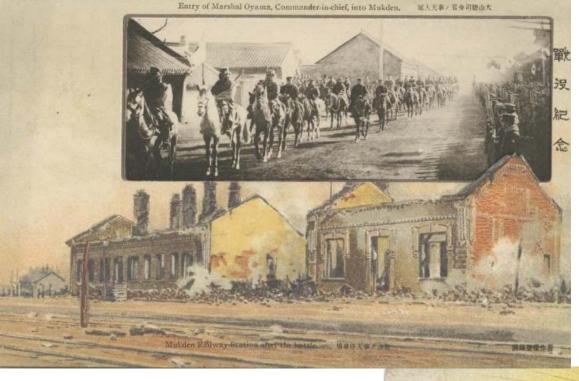




Atayalization of Yūgai Watan April, 1903

Osaka Industrial Exhibition 1903

- Draws over 5 million visitors from March-August 1903
- Japan's first International Exhibition
- Goto Shinpei wants to "advertise" Taiwan obtains funds for a large "Taiwan Pavilion/Hall" on the grounds
- Photographs of Taiwan Indigenous Peoples prominently displayed, and moved to St. Louis in 1904 (over 20 million visitors)



Russo-Japanese War Postcard Boom

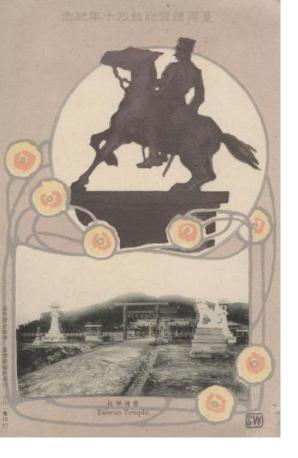
1904-1905

~ 1000 sets produced

~4500 different postcards

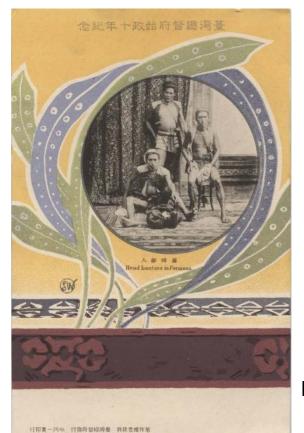
Print runs up to 700,000

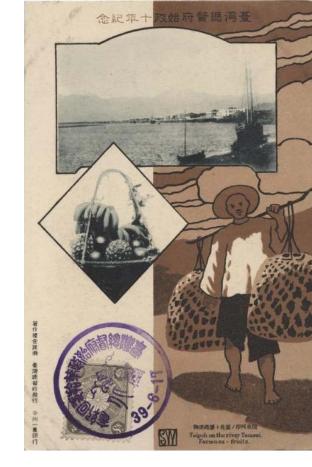




War Heroes

10th Anniversary Taiwan Government General (1905)





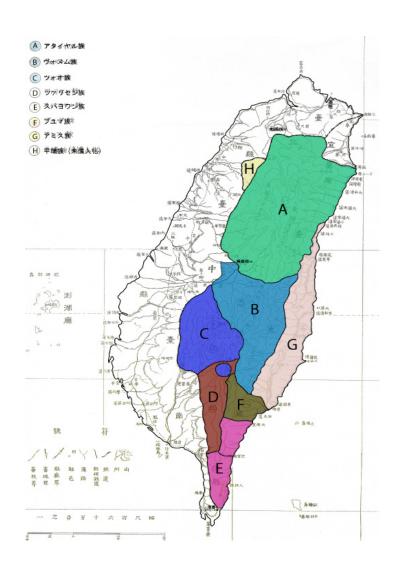
Bananas

Headhunters

Effects: Geobody within a Geobody

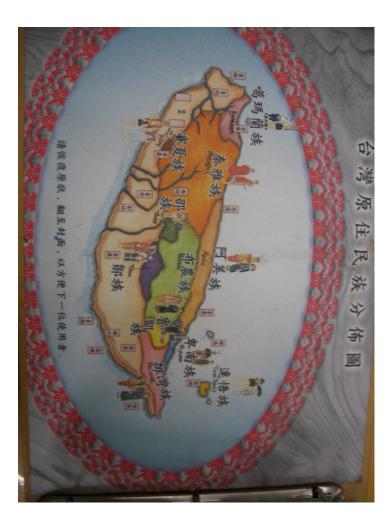


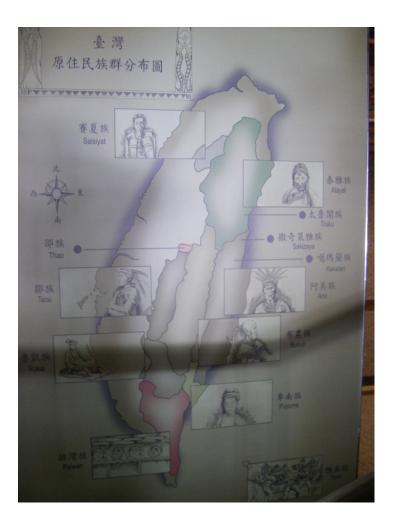
1905 Census of Taiwan



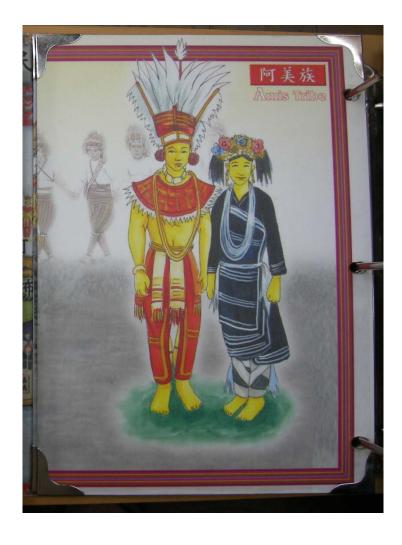
1900 "Conditions among Taiwan Aborigines

Yilan Prefectural Museum - 2008 *Taiwan Historica* - 2010







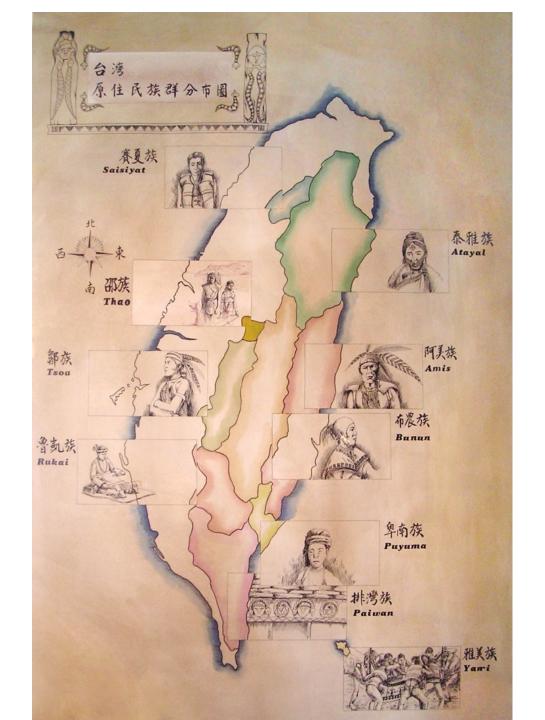


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Conclusions

- The ethnic cartography to which anthropometric postcards contributed were commercially viable, but went against some Japanese visions of Taiwan's future
- Their success advanced a vision of Taiwan bifurcated into "individuals" (Han Chinese) and collectives (Indigenous Tribes).
- The administrative expression of this bifurcation has continued down to the present day, both for better and for worse