

RACIAL TYPES FROM SOUTH ARABIA

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THE PHYSICAL characters of the South Arabs reveal the fact that they are remarkably different from the northern Arabs. Extremely round-headed, the South Arab has a small brain capacity; his hair is fuzzy and on face and body may be almost absent. The skin color is often dark and swarthy.

The North Arab, on the other hand, is long-headed, of lighter complexion and possesses dark brown hair with low waves. The great desert of Rub'al Khali serves as a formidable geographic barrier to prevent migrations. Between the North and the South Arab there has thus been little racial admixture in recent times.

Racial affinities of the South Arab lie in northeast Africa; a Negroid strain occurs in the belt from Africa through South Arabia to Melanesia, including the Dravidians of southern India. Inferences of these relationships may be drawn from photographs of racial types in South Arabia. Several years ago Mr. A. R. M. Rickards journeyed to Nisab, one of the larger Aulāqi towns, and along the Wadi Beihan, taking a number of photographs of the people he encountered. Through his general coöperation a series of his pictures illustrates these brief notes.¹ The photographs of the men from Dhufar and the Wadi Beihan show remarkable variations in physical type. Differences between the inhabitants of North and South Arabia can readily be seen when these photographs are compared to those of the Arabs and Beduins of Iraq.² Bertram Thomas has measured and photographed a small number of South Arab tribesmen.³ In the near future we can expect to see the publica-

¹ For further details see "The Ancient and Modern Inhabitants of Arabia," *The Open Court*, Vol. XLIV, No. 919, December, 1932, pp. 847-871.

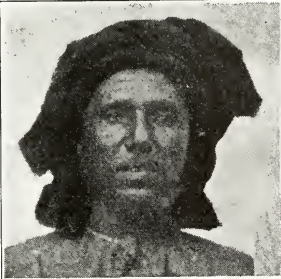
² See "Arabs of Central Iraq, their History, Ethnology and Physical Characters," *Field Mus. Nat. Hist.*, Anthr. Mem., Vol. IV, Chicago, 1935.

³ See *Arabia Felix*, New York, 1932. Especially Appendix 1, "The Racial Characters of the Southern Arabs" by Sir Arthur Keith and W. M. Krogman; also other publications by Thomas.

tion of anthropometric data from the Yemen obtained during 1934 by Carleton Coon.⁴ The early history of the human occupation of Arabia⁵ still remains little known, and at present there are no data available regarding the physical characters of the aboriginal inhabitants of Central and South Arabia.

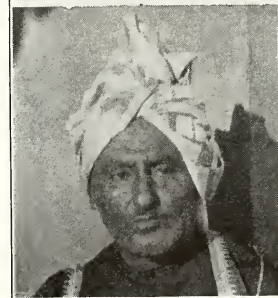
⁴ See *Measuring Ethiopia*, Boston, 1935.

⁵ See "The Antiquity of Man in Southwestern Asia," *Amer. Anthr.*, Vol. XXV, No. 1, January-March, 1933, pp. 51-62. Also "Early Man in North Arabia," *Natural History*, No. 1, 1929, pp. 33-44.



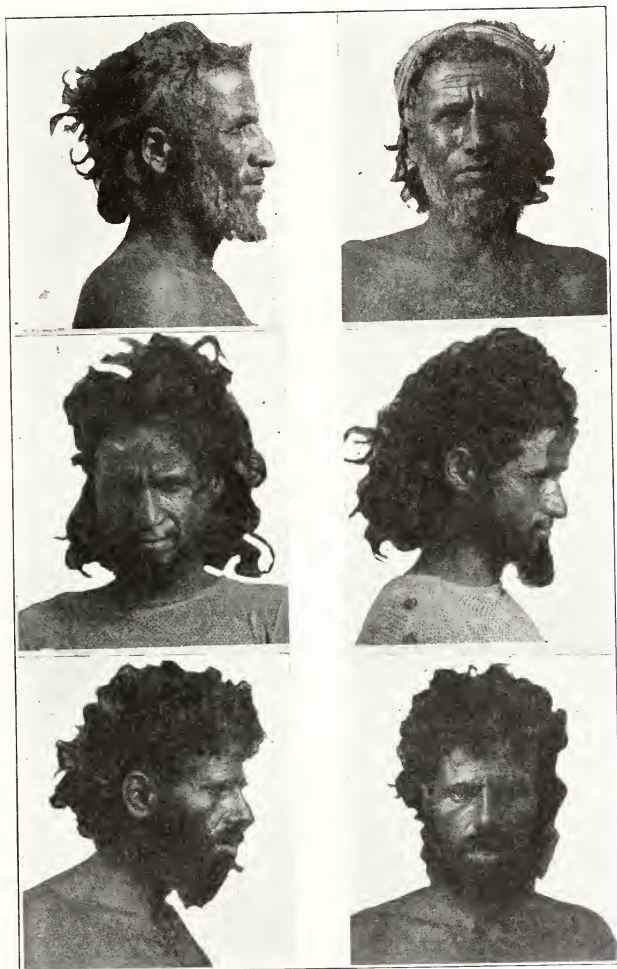
Photographs by A. R. M. Richards

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MUS'ABI TRIBESMEN, SUB-TRIBE, FATIMA



Photographs by A. R. M. Richards

HARITH TRIBESMEN, BEIHAN EL QASAB



Photographs by A. R. M. Rickards

HARITH TRIBESMEN, NORTH OF WADI BEIHAN