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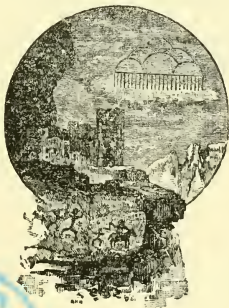
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JULIAN H. STEWARD, *Editor*

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THE PANCARARÚ

BY ROBERT H. LOWIE

The *Pancararú* (*Pankarú*, *Pancarú*) is an eastern Brazilian tribe sometimes classed as of the *Cariri* family, but at the present stage of knowledge it should be regarded as isolated. They have been found in recent years near the Paulo Afonso Falls on the north bank of the São Francisco River, at Brejo dos Padres, lat. 9°4' S., long. 38°19' W. Their culture, though imperfectly known, has maintained many interesting features, Carlos Estevão (1938) having witnessed the Yurema rite during the late 1930's.

According to Estevão, the intoxicant prepared from the yurema roots is tasted first by the chief. Only priests, warriors, and old women singers may attend; they kneel with bowed heads, then receive their portions, which induce fine dreams. The ceremony was formerly performed also by the *Cariri*, *Guegué*, *Acroá*, and *Pimenteira*—especially before going to war (Pereira de Alencastre, 1857, p. 31). Carlos Estevão witnessed it in recent years among the isolated *Tushá* somewhat above the *Pancarurú*, at Rodellas, on the south bank of the São Francisco River.

Estevão records a series of dances named for animals and plants (fish, bee, great anteater, parrot, and *Spondias tuberosa*). When the fruit of the *Spondias tuberosa* (imbú) appears, it is hung up between two forked sticks, to be shot at by archers; the victor gets as a prize a big liana, which is used in a tug of war. Further, there is a formal initiation into an esoteric society: the novices, about 12 years old, have to bring water, fire, and tobacco, and are pledged to secrecy on pain of being made to sleep on a bed of nettles.

Estevão photographed masqueraders carrying gourd rattles, staffs, and reed pipes. Their costume consists of a fiber headpiece and skirt, strips of cloth in the back, and feather ornamentation.

In one ritual there is mutual flagellation of men and women.

Noteworthy is the predominance of the coiling technique in basketry.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alencastre, 1857; Estevão, 1938.