

PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR



above: Island of Nias, Sumatra, Indonesia
photo: Ludwig Borutta (1915) courtesy of Tropenmuseum of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) and Wikimedia Commons

Megaliths such as this, some richly decorated, were a part of the culture of this small island off the western coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. There were also stone statues, stone seats for the chieftains, stone tables where justice was rendered and stone columns over which village men leaped during celebrations. The megaliths served to commemorate high-ranking personages and assure their place among their ancestors in the afterlife. When such a stone was transported and erected, a ritual feast was given. It took 525 people three days to erect this stone in the village of Bawemataloeo. ■

right: Island of Nias, stone figures, significance surmised, provenance unknown

