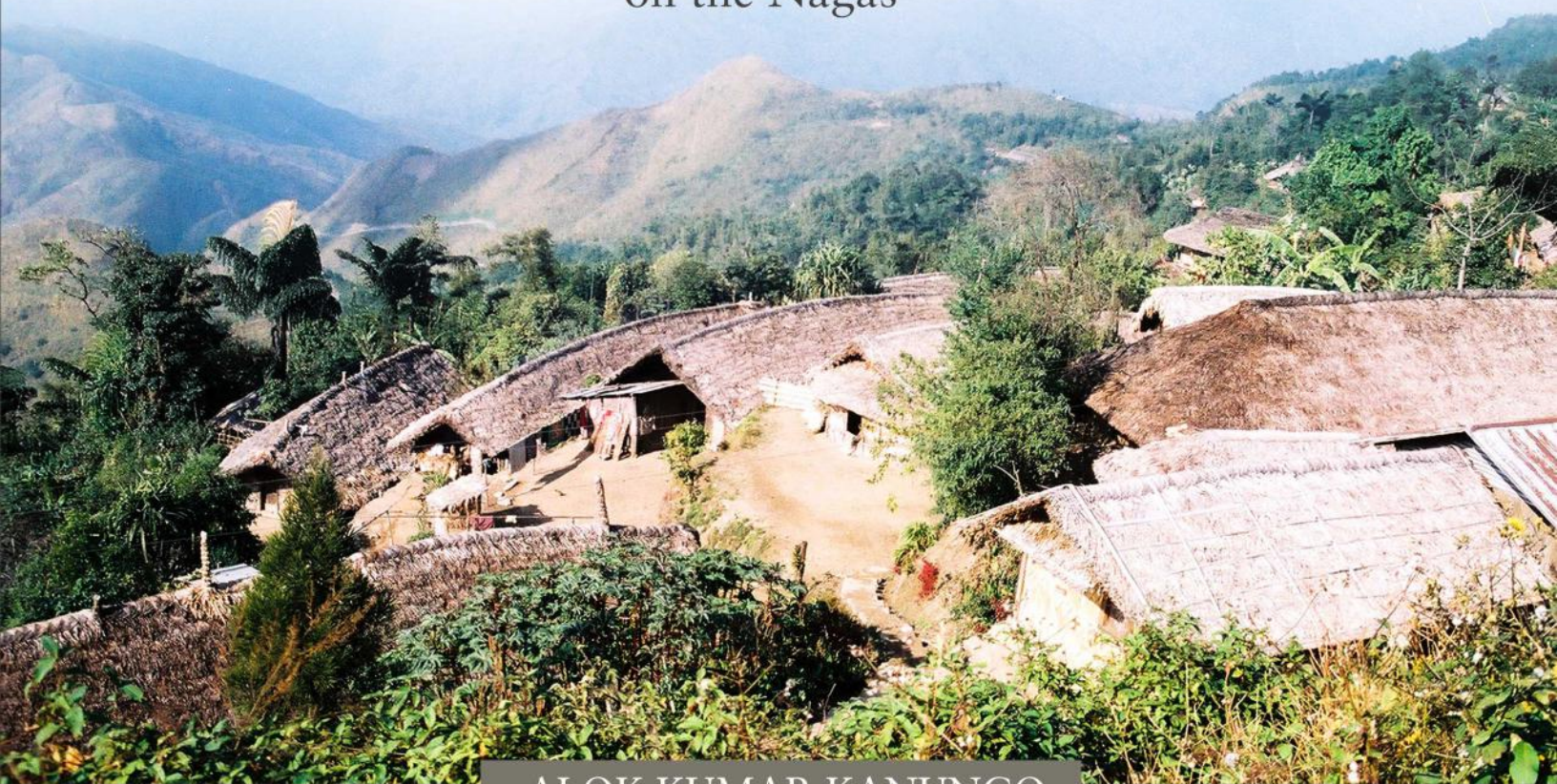




# German Anthropologists on the Naga Hills

An Annotated Bibliography of German Literature  
on the Nagas



ALOK KUMAR KANUNGO



**German Anthropologists on the Naga Hills**  
An Annotated Bibliography of German Literature on the Nagas

Alok Kumar Kanungo  
IIT Gandhinagar



**Heritage Publishing House**

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Aerial view of Longwa village, Mon district, Nagaland.

Traditional dance at Kuthur village, Tuensang district, Nagaland.

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## Foreword

I was glad when I heard that Dr. Alok Kumar Kanungo was going to turn his attention to a topic which not many would like to delve in. Nevertheless, he is the one exposed enough to write this book on German Anthropologists on the Naga Hills. Dr. Kanungo, a faculty in IIT Gandhinagar, has been working for over a decade in the field and have studied the collections and archival records of the Nagas in Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin and Munich, Society for the Preservation and Promotion of Naga Heritage, Frankfurt, Germany; Ethnological Museum, Vienna, Austria; Museum of Cultures, Basel, Switzerland; National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Netherlands; besides in Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University, Department of Anthropology Museum, Cambridge University, and Horniman Museum in the U.K. After a series of articles on the Naga ornaments and questioning the intellectual ownership of Naga artefacts in different overseas collections, this is a welcome move by Dr. Kanungo to bring to lime light the anthropological contributions of the German scholars on the Nagas for the non-German speaking enthusiast.

Visiting Naga Hills by the anthropologists and writing their observations have been a common practice since this land was exposed to outsiders in 1830s. In the process, a large amount of cultural artifacts were collected and transported to various museums across the USA, UK and Europe. It is only in the last two decades that the collections of artifacts of the colonial period were explored in the UK and translated to pictographical books. In the last decade, a few German scholars have revived the anthropological expeditions to the Naga Hills, published a few travelogues and exhibited selected Naga artifacts from various collections in German-speaking countries. More data about these cultural markers, i.e., the artifacts which may lead to understanding the unwritten past of the Nagas is stored in the notes and publications by the same collectors and/or/cum anthropologists.

We have respectable knowledge about the work of various British Colonial administrators turned anthropologists of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, we hardly know about the content of the equally important work by contemporary German-speaking trained anthropologists who visited the Naga Hills without any administrative or missionary prelude and published their expedition results in German language. Thus we welcome the present volume covering individual summaries of most of the publications originally done in German language with special emphasis on material culture, migration and culture contacts.

Such a comprehensive contribution would, undoubtedly, be of considerable value for scholars and the lay public. It is, therefore, gratifying to me that this initiative has been published by the Department of Art & Culture, Government of Nagaland.



17/11/2016.

Vevo Sapuh  
Director, Department of Arts & Culture  
(Government of Nagaland)  
Kohima, Nagaland

## Preface

This work has been compiled with research assistance from Reinier Langelaar during my stay at Humboldt University, Berlin as Experienced Humboldt Research Fellow (2012-14), where I was mainly working on German museum collections of Naga artifacts. In the process, a number of interesting publications mostly by the same people who have collected the artifacts to various Museums in Germany and other German-speaking countries were noticed which hitherto was not known to many non-German speaking people. Even if it was known the content was beyond the understanding of scholars who are used to English let alone any Nagas. At the same time, the knowledge in these literature contains very important records and information for the Nagas and researchers on the Nagas. These works were mostly done by trained anthropologists who wrote in the German language unlike the then colonial administrators turned anthropologists whose contributions were in English literature. The present work summarises the German literatures on the Nagas individually. Themes that received primary attention are: 1. Material culture and 2. Locations and areas visited by the researchers and “tribal” affiliations of those places. Secondary areas of concentration, (with the latter making only scant appearances in the literature), are: 3. Migration and inter-regional connections [e.g. to the Pacific (Polynesia, Melanesia etc.) and Burma] and 4. Trade.

Because the sources presented here are in German and therefore inaccessible to many, materials that were deemed relevant received attention far beyond what a standard annotated bibliography would warrant. Thus one finds more than a handful of lines on most sources; some articles and books have been extensively summarised, some running into various pages, so as to forgo the need to dig out the German originals as far as is reasonably possible.

The literature compiled here is limited to the publications on cultural anthropology and needless to say, there still exists an exhaustive list and the German scholarly record that has plenty more to offer towards contributing on past Naga lifeways.

However, irrespective of the necessarily limited size and scope of this work, I am hopeful that this handbook is a stepping stone in introducing the German records on the Nagas and also for those without knowledge of the German language. The present work comprises of the first ever attempt to delve into the writings of these German-speaking explorers and their experience of, and thinkers on, the Nagas of North-East India.

While the textual data are extracted from various publications for annotations the corresponding and related photographs are provided either from archives or from the present day Naga Hills. Nevertheless, the lists of images in original sources along with the places visited by the respective authors (if mentioned) are listed. One interesting paper published in French is also included in this work besides a rare English work of H.E. Kauffman who otherwise wrote mostly in German.

I acknowledge the support of Humboldt and Homi Bhabha Foundations; the guidance of Prof. Toni Hubber and Peter van Ham; useful insight by Prof. Michel Oppitz; the academic and research environment of IIT Gandhinagar; the help with proofs by Drs. Tiatoshi Jamir and Ditumulü Vasa, Nagaland University; and the encouragement by Bou, Baba and Shahida.

Alok Kumar Kanungo

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## About the Book

**German Anthropologists on the Naga Hills** recreates Nagas of late 19th and early 20th century through the eyes of trained German anthropologists.

The Nagas were first reported by surveyors and explorers and later by administrators and trained anthropologists. As soon as the Naga Hills were accessed in the 1830s the area became one of the anthropological paradises and the occupants' material culture attracted all leading ethnology museums and the anthropologists from around the world. Right from the beginning, three groups comprising American Missionaries, British Administrators, and German speaking Anthropologists have worked on and in the Naga Hills. However, due to various reasons, neither the collection of artifacts from Naga Hills to Germany has ever been exhibited in Germany nor the rich anthropological literature published in German language ever got its dues share amongst the English speaking academia in general and Nagas in particular. This book attempts to bring the essence of German literature on the Nagas for the public at large.

## About the Author

**Dr. Alok Kumar Kanungo**, a faculty at IIT Gandhinagar, was born in Odisha and grew up in close contact with many indigenous communities of eastern and north-eastern India. His early childhood experiences led him to eventually focus on archaeological and ethnographic studies of indigenous and ancient technology.

For the last two decades, Dr. Kanungo has travelled and documented the rich heritage of the Nagas of northeast India, and the Bondos and Juangs of Odisha both in the field and in museums across Europe and United Kingdom. He has worked in many areas where it is difficult to say where anthropology or history stops and archaeology begins. He has studied and published extensively on the subject of glass and glass-bead production, and written or edited ten books and about five dozens research articles. He has been the recipient of many prestigious awards including Humboldt, Fulbright and Homi Bhabha Fellowships. He has lectured in many universities and research institutes in Taiwan, England, USA, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Italy, France, Turkey, Malaysia and Germany, besides India.



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