

Palaeoanthropological Results of the Excavation at the Coast of Lewoleba (Isle of Lomblen)

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Introduction

The survey and excavation in Lewoleba, on the Isle of Lomblen (one of the Lesser Sunda Islands group) was done in August 1961 and our team was led by TH. VERHOEVEN S.V.D. The site of excavation lays north of Lewoleba (west of the Isle of Lomblen) in a bay between Lewoleba and Gunung Api, an active volcano. Geologically, the bay is relatively new and its present situation is not very stable as can be concluded from the present changes of the coastal line and also for instance through comparison with charts from about half a century ago (see J. D. H. BECKERING) and curiously also stated in folklore (see R. W. VAN BEMMELEN) including the sparse growth of sea weeds such as *Padina* and *Halimeda*. Even at present, the crumbling of the shore line can be followed from day to day at several places, showing 4 distinct layers (*Pl. 1: a*) which can be described as:

Layer A, the uppermost, which during the rainy season is used for farming, its thickness at the site of excavation (bearing the code: LLI) being 10-45 cm. Its colour is blackish and is full of roots of grass and other plants. Layer A also contains a number of ancient terracotta fragments of practically the same type as the terracotta fragments from the other layers below, layers B, C and D.