

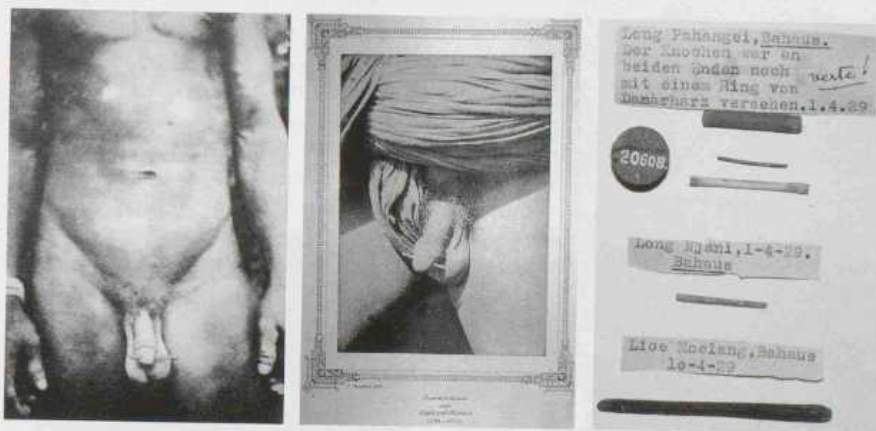
Center (p. 196): A ceremonial wrap of Flores with the *frenulum* insert. They name it *lua* in Ngada and *fu* or *wulu* in Ende.

Right (p. 196): This is the glass sheet of a modern ceiling lamp in Hotel Mahkota, Pontianak, West Kalimantan. The demonic figure shows a sexual organ probably with similar hair inserts. It calls the Balinese barbs to mind.

6. THE PURPOSE OF PENIS PINS TODAY

6.1 The first photographs and the inadequate interpretation

When the first photographs of palangs *in situ* arrived in Europe, shot by Borneo researchers at the end of the 19th century, fanciful interpretations of the purpose of that pins were discussed. The reason was, those pictures showed a long pin pierced through the glans. A general interpretation of the pin at that time was, it should inhibit sodomy, it should inhibit masturbation, and it should inhibit intercourse.



Left: Probably the first photograph of a man with palang *in situ*. It was published 1968 by APPELL and is supposed to have been made by a member of the Furness-Hiller Borneo expedition 1897 or 1898.

Center: This photograph is signed "J. Demmeni phot." The caption reads "Commissiereis naar Centraal-Borneo 1898-1900". That was the great Borneo expedition of Dr. Nieuwenhuis. He came up the Kapuas river, crossed the Müller mountains, discovered the Apo Kayan and sailed down the Mahakam river. Demmeni was his photographer who brought into existence excellent quality photographs of that time which are invaluable today. This photograph is fixed on a copper plate and stored in the National Museum in Jakarta. A second plate exists in the Netherlands.

Right: The National Museum in Jakarta owns a set of 13 palangs, no. inv. 20608, collected in 1929 by the German researcher *von Kühlewein* in villages of the Bahau tribe along the upper Mahakam. It seems, all are "placeholders", not for intercourse. Interestingly, half of this original collection has been brought from Batavia to The Netherlands under the name of the then Dutch director of the museum, not mentioning the name of the German collector.

The reason for the initial incorrect interpretation of a palang was, that all those thin long pins were considered to avoid intercourse. Actually, they were only "placeholders" or "sleepers" which are supposed to keep the perforation open during the time of no intercourse. The palangs for intercourse are much shorter and look quite different.