



A road in Ife.

“The Yorubans are, perhaps, the cleverest and most talented nation to be found in the whole of West Africa”



A funeral procession in Ife.

“To show how closely forged are the links of their philosophy and the greatness of this nation, not alone in its practical existence, but in its intellectual quality permeating their religious thought”



A compound in Ife.

“An Orisha, or family-god, presides over each Yoruba clan. His commandments regulate the course of life. The entire business, especially of male but also female life, is centered in his worship”



A road in Ife.

“I never heard pedagogy discussed so conscientiously, so deliberately and with so much knowledge of its aim“



Market scene in Ife.

“One comes across little shops...”



The Ooni of Ife.

“Clad in a gorgeous robe of bright green silk, a magnificent tiara on his brow, and shaded by a huge silken canopy, the Oni, the head of the Holy City of Ifé’s hierarchy, advanced to meet us with a great crowd”



The palace of the Ooni at Ife after the Modakeke wars.

“A minute or two after twelve midday the monumental ruins of the Oni’s palace met our gaze. We stood before the portal of the castle in the middle of an enormous square”



The palace of the Ooni at Ife.

“It was like an enchanted castle. It was so large and noble in design, so superbly pure despite its broken lines, its mouldering to decay and the sordid exterior it now presents”



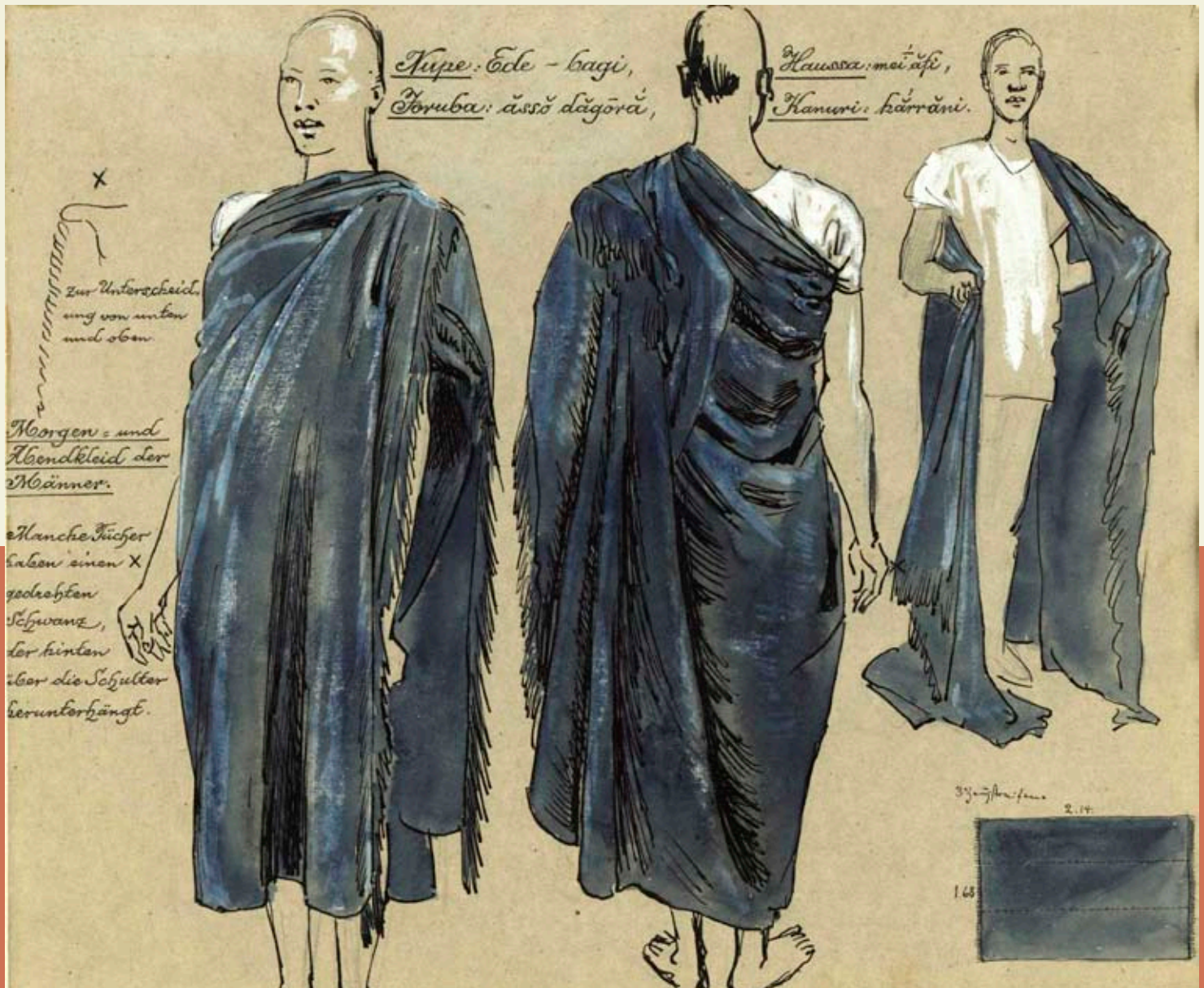
A dignitary greeting the Ooni of Ife



The Emir of Ilorin among his dignitaries



The Emir of Ilorin's musicians



Dresses worn similarly among the Yoruba, Nupe, Hausa and Kanuri.
 “Some women in pretty headdresses and some men in handsome flowing garments were standing here”



Detail of light trousers, ornamented with blue and red embroidery



Agbada from Ilorin



Sketch of a type of gown worn all over Nigeria



Sketch of a dress which was used to go to farm and in the bush

Lorem ipsum



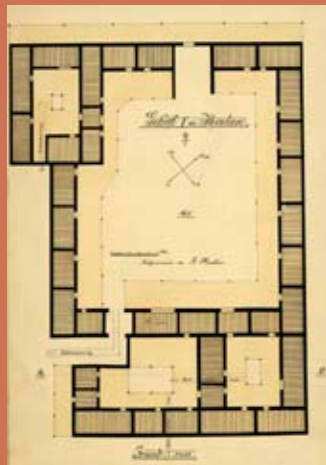
A street view in Ife.

“Cities which, in the sense we, too, give to the term, deserve to be called ,metropolitan”



A compound in Ife with thatched roof.

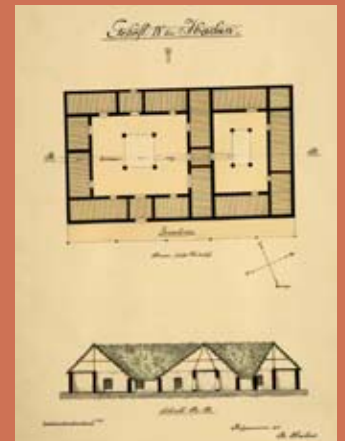
“Oh, how often did I look with longing across the space which kept me from the beautiful high roofs of the great Yoruba houses which were thatched with leaves!”



Plan of a large compound in Ibadan



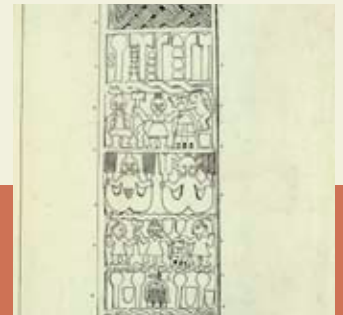
“Every one of these towns resolves itself into a definite number of astonishingly large compounds, all of which are severally built on a clearly organized system and in themselves again give expression to an extended, powerful, systematic and social ideal”



Plan of a compound in Ibadan



"The exterior of the courtyard was characterized by some wooden pillars, embellished with carving, which supported the overhanging roof"



Door in the Shango temple in Ibadan



"The doorway, some nine feet in height, was boldly sculptured with figures in relief of a mythological character"



Carved doors from the ruins of Modakeke

Wooden front door with relief woodcarvings.
"Ilifé must have been a unique example of the old-world style of timber architecture in the hundreds of sculptured beams. Ilifé, the ancient, well-preserved and ornamental city it once had been"



Weaving by the men on an horizontal loom in Ilorin.

“The Yorubans have two very different looms. One is used only by men and the shuttle is shot by a treadle”



Weaving by the women on an vertical loom in Ilorin.

“The hand produces the weft by throwing the shuttle backwards and forwards and the woof by shifting the beam upwards and downwards”



Bead making in Ilorin



Bronze casting in Yorubaland



A dyeing workshop in Ilorin



Shango temple in Ibadan.

“The whole scene, the richly carved columns in front of the gaily-coloured altar, the ancient man in his circle of devotees and the upward-lifting scaffolding towards the front, sustaining the mighty, soaring frame of thatch, was superbly impressive”



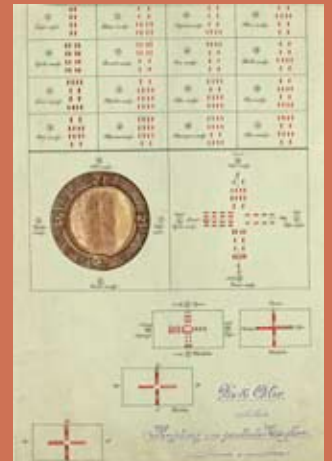
Shango temple in Ibadan.
“The dark chamber revealed a gorgeous red ceiling, pedestals with stine axes on them, wooden figures, cowri-shell hangings”



Ceremony of enrolment in the Ogboni cult.
“I declared, that I wanted to join the membership of the Ogboni league”



One of the Ifa oracle trays excavated by Frobenius in Modakeke.
“I consider the Orisha worship of the Yorubans as being purer and more original, more consistent and more unbroken than any other cult of the classical ages known to us”



Depiction of the 16 Odu and their relations towards the temple



“Before us stood a head of marvelous beauty, wonderfully cast in antique bronze, true to the life, incrustated with a patina of glorious dark green. This was, in very deed the Olokun, Atlantic Africa’s Poseidon!”



“The head was usually kept underground at the place of its discovery it was only brought out and sacrifices made to it at certain festivals”



A pencil sketch of the Olokun head



“Glaze again! We picked up some more. The body of them all was a substance like porcelaine clay, similar to cement, but they were all coated with a glaze of many colours”



Excavated objects from Ife

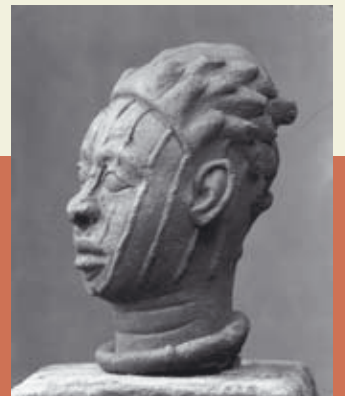


Terracotta head excavated in Ife.

“Here we found exquisitely life-like terracotta heads, with clear-cut features and purity of style, differentiated, however, by old-fashioned tattooing marks and the way of dressing the hair”



Terracotta head excavated in Ife.
“Two days later a terracotta head arrived intact. I bought it”



“Eloquent of a symmetry, a vitality, a delicacy of form directly reminiscent of ancient Greece”



“The Oni, conducted us in person to his ‘park of monuments”



“Relics dating from an age and epoch of culture, when the manipulation of quartz and granite was thoroughly understood”