Bali—Island of the Beautiful

By GUY MURCHIE JR.

Most beautiful of all the people of the orient are those who inhabit the remote island of Bali, a strangely picturesque slice of land in the Netherlands East Indies, just off the east coast of Java.

An admixture of Hindu-Javanese and Indonesian aborigines, with traces of Chinese, Polynesian, and various types of Malay, the Balinese possess clear, satiny skins of golden tan and round, smiling faces with almond-shaped eyes and full, well-formed mouths. The hair of the women is especially attractive, being thick, black, and glossy.

It is their natural and dignified grace, however, as much as their physical appearance that makes these people stand out conspicuously in part of the world that is famous for human beauty.

Artists rave over the Balinese. Tourists cannot get enough of photographing them. And even a long time ago, as early as 1619, people of this far land were in demand in the slave markets of Banten Island, off the coast of Africa, especially beautiful Balinese women often bringing amazing prices on the auction block.

The smiling grace of the Balinese comes in part from the active lives that they lead. From childhood the women walk for miles bearing heavy loads on their heads, which develop in them a great collocation and poise. Also their long training in dancing gives them a rhythm and movement unequal in the rest of the world.

While westerners go into ecstasies over Balinese beauty, the people of this island have little regard for accidental standards of comeliness. To them the Nordic features, such as white skin, narrow noses, blue eyes, and blond hair, are distasteful and... (Continued on page four.)