



Above: Believing they are thus banishing illness and distress, the Balinese every five years celebrate the monkey dance, a legendary rite observed in the village of Bedhulu.



Princess Sajoe, wife of Ida Bagoes of Bali, as painted by Elisabeth Telling.

(Courtesy Art Institute of Chicago.)

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 singularly picturesque sliver of land in the Netherland 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.

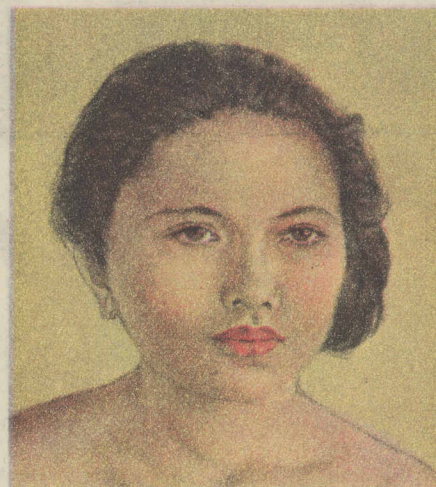
- It is their natural and dignified grace, however, as much as their physical appearance that makes these people stand out conspicuously in a part of the world that is famous for human beauty.

- 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 Reunion Island, off the coast of Africa, especially beautiful Balinese women often bringing amazing prices on the auction block.

- The sinuous 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 develops in them great coördination and poise. Also their long training in dancing gives them a rhythm and movement unequalled in the rest of the world.

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



(Courtesy Art Institute of Chicago.)

Balinese girl, by Elisabeth Telling.

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A fanatical dance of Bali is known as the dagger dance. Carried away by their performances, the participants in the dance often stab themselves with their krises. Here one is being disarmed to prevent self-injury.

(Black Star photo.)

