

Kutlwano, 15(9): 28-29 (1976)
(?)

E tswa tsebeng 28

dilong di sekae fela, jaaka kafa mekgweng ya go ja le jaaka ba etelana. Gape go re lemotsha gore batho ba ditso tse dintsi ga ba bolo go nna ba aga ba bapile go tswa bogologolong, e le mo go re kgothatsang thata fa re go gopola mo malatsing ano a re duduetsa segopotso sa boipuso ja rona mo ngwageng ya jone ya lesome.

THE MISSING LINK BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

By Robert Hitchcock, James and Melinda Ebert
Illustrations re-drawn by Phillip Segola

The celebration of Botswana's 10th year of Independence is a good time to think about the past and the future. Although the past and future sometimes do not seem to be parts of the same thing, the study of archaeology ties them together. Archaeology is the study of past people through the things that they lose, throw away, or abandon through the years.

Everyone knows that one can tell something of the way people lived by looking at a compound abandoned last year, and archaeologists do the same with villages and camps abandoned much longer ago than this — sometimes a million years ago.

Botswana has had a rich past, something to be proud of. Archaeologists from the University of New Mexico in the United States have been exploring Botswana for evidence of prehistoric people during the last year and have discovered many places where these people lived and something of the lives they led.

Stone tools left behind by Early Stone Age people, who lived here between two million and 100 000 years ago, are common in the eastern parts of Botswana. These people probably gathered wild plant foods and ate smaller animals, rather a hard life.

Later, during the Middle Stone Age, people lived in almost all parts of Botswana. At this time, probably between 100 000 and 20 000 years ago, as many people may have lived in Botswana as do today. They hunted large animals and made beautiful stone tools — knives, axes, and arrow and spear points. Even more recently, from about 15 000 until 1 000 years ago, Late Stone Age people, who may have lived much like today's hunting and gathering Basarwa in the Ngamiland and Central Districts, left behind their camps and tools.

The most recent period of Botswana's prehistory is also the most obvious one today, for when people began to rely on agriculture and herding for their livelihood they very quickly settled down in villages like those of today.

Although they had mabele, other grains and beasts, these people also gathered many wild plants and hunted animals. Some groups probably hunted and gathered most of the time, especially in periods of drought when crops might fail, and they exchanged meat, skins and products of the bush like baskets and firewood with the village people.

During this time stone tools began to give way to those of iron, which was refined and shaped into knives and axes in the eastern hardveld villages. People traded and travelled widely,

and knew of other village groups in what are today Zambia, Rhodesia and the Transvaal.

In many ways, Botswana was a developed place since the beginning of village times, which archaeologists call the Iron Age, and thousand years ago!

Studying the past people of Botswana can tell us much about what the future may be like. For example, the population here is growing larger each day, and soon there may be many more Botswana citizens to live on the same amount of land. There may have been more people than there are today in the Middle Stone Age too, and knowledge of the way they lived in large groups in one place can show us how to do this peacefully and happily.

Archaeology also shows us people as they really are. Looking at people about us today, we are tempted to see many differences in terms of race or tribes — but studying the past shows us that people really differ in simple things, like what they eat or how they move about. And it also shows us that many different sorts of people have lived side by side in Botswana for thousands of years, a very encouraging thing to think about in the 10th anniversary year.

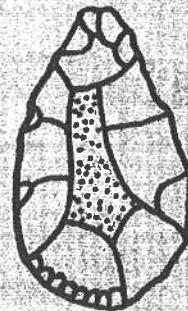
MIDDLE STONE AGE

100 000 to
20 000 yrs. ago



EARLY STONE AGE

as much as
2 million yrs. ago



ARCHAEOLOGY/ TSA SEGOLOGOLO

TSHWARAGANYO E E SEYONG MAGARENG A SEGOLOGOLO LE SESA

Ke Robert Hitchcock, James le Melinda Ebert

Ke akanya gore nako ya go duduetsa boipuso ja Botswana mo ngwageng ya lesome ke ya go gopola tsa bogologolo le tsa malatsi a a tlang. Lefa ka nako e nngwe segologolo le sesa di sa lebege, e lefelo se le sengwe, go tlhothomisa ditso ka go leba dilo go kopanya segologolo le sesa. Ka gore tlhothomiso e e ranola ka tebe go ya dilo gore lefa di sa tshole di leo kana tiriso ya tsone e sa bolo go tlogelwa mme ke tsa dipaka dife. Ba ditlhotlhomiso tse ba di dirisa ka go leba marope a metse ya bogologolo tala e e ka nnang ya didikadike tsa dingwaga tse di fetileng.

Sengwe se re ka ipelafatsang ka sone ke gore bogologolo Botswana bo ne bo humile. Go supegile jaaka e rile ngogola ba ditlhotlhomiso ba Sekolo-Segolo sa New Mexico ba United States ba bo ba tlhotlhomisa mo Botswana ba kanoka jaaka batho ba bogologolo ba ne ba tshela lefa ba neug ba agile magae gone.

Mo bothabatsatsi ja Botswana go fitlhetswe dilo tse dintsi tsa bogologolo ja Botswana ba dirisa dilwana tsa lentswe e le ba ba neng ba nna mo dikgaolong tse mo bogologolong ja dingwaga tse 2 million kana tse di 100 000. Gongwe batho ba ke ba ba neng ba tshela ka maungo a naga le ka diphologotswana mme e le gore ba tshela bokete.

Mme e rile fa makgolo-kgolo a dingwaga tseo a ntse a tsamela pele ya bo e le gore batho jaanong ba teng gongwe le gongwe mo lefatshing la Botswana.

Gongwe mo dingwageng tse di ka nnang 100 000 kana 20 000 palo ya batho mono e ne le lekana le ya gompiano. Foo jaanong ba bo ba tsoma diphologolo tse dikgolo, ba betla dilwana tse dintsi tsa lentswe jaaka dihipa, dipetlwana, metswi le marumo a digai. Mme le mo dingwageng tse di ntse di feta tse di ka nnang 15 000 go tla go tsena tse di 1 000 bogologolo ba ne ba le teng ba ba neng ba tshedile thata, mme matshelo a bone a tshwana le a Basarwa ba Ngamiland le ba Kgaolo ya Legare, mme e rile ba fela ba tlogela marope a go fitlhetsweng didirisiwa tsa bone tsa maje mo go one.

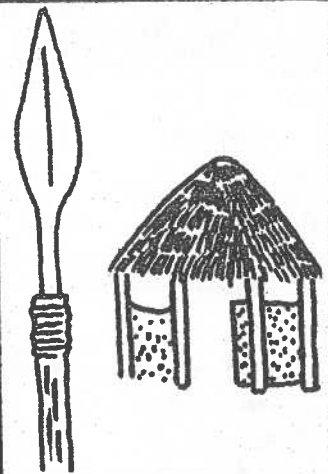
Go santse go ka bonala jaaka batho ba ba ne ba tshela, jaaka go bonala sentle gore ba simolotse go nna le mage ba sena go nna ba lema ba ba ba rua dikgomo ba ba ba aga metse e e tshwanang le e re e bonang gompiano.

Mme kana lefa ba ne ba lema mabele le dijalo tse dingwe ba bile ba rua dikgomo ba ne ba sa ntse ba tshela ka go bapala maungo a naga le ka letsomo la diphologolo. Merafe mengwe e ne e e tshedisana ka diphologolo le maungo fela, bogolo thata mo dinakong tsa mauba go sa rojwa. Ba bapala mo go ba metse ka dinama le matlalo le ka dilo tse dingwe tsa naga.

Dilo tsa fetoga mo dingwageng tse ga tla dilwana tsa tshipi e mothudi wa Setswana o neng a e thula a dira dithipa le dilepe

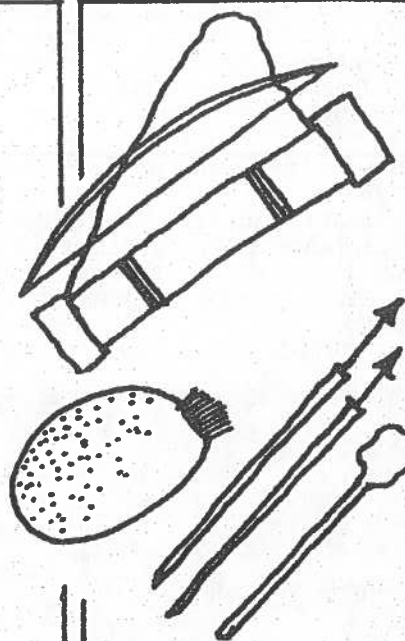
IRON AGE

AD 1 000
to about
1800



LATE STONE AGE

15 000 yrs. ago
to about 1800



mo metseng ya bothaba ja Botswana. Batho ba simolola go tsamaya ba eta ba ya metseng e e kgakala ya bo Zambia, Rhodesia le Transvaal.

Botswana bo simolotse go tlabologa mo dipakeng tsa go thaega metse. Batlhotlhomisi ba re tseo dingwaga e ne e le tsa go dirisiwa dilwana tsa tshipi.

Batho ba Botswana ba ka go boela sentle fela gore mo dingwageng tse di tlang go tla nna jang fa ba gadima mme ba lemoga ka tse di fetileng. Jaaka gompiano batho mono ba ntsifala letsatsi le letsatsi, mme ba bile ba tsamela go tla ka lefatshe la Botswana. Mme kana le mo go tsone dingwaga tsa go santse go dirisiwa dilwana tsa lentswe batho ba ne ba lekana le ba gompiano ka palo, ka jaana re ka lemoga fela ka go bona jaaka merafe ya bone e ne e tshela e agile.

Tlhotlhomiso e ya ditso e bile e re lemotsha kafa batho ba ntse ka teng. Fa re leba ba ba tshwanang le rona gompiano re bona dipharologanyo tse dintsi mo merafeing, mme e re fa re leba go tswa bogologolong re fithele tota ba farologana mo

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