

# The Heart of Africa

## Three Years' Travel and Adventures

Dr. Georg Schweinfurth

Photo and text extracted from edition by Afro-Am Press, Division of Afro-Am. Books, Inc. Chicago 1969, Volume Two, pages 15-16 and 67. The original edition was in 1874<sup>©</sup> by Harper & Brothers, NY.

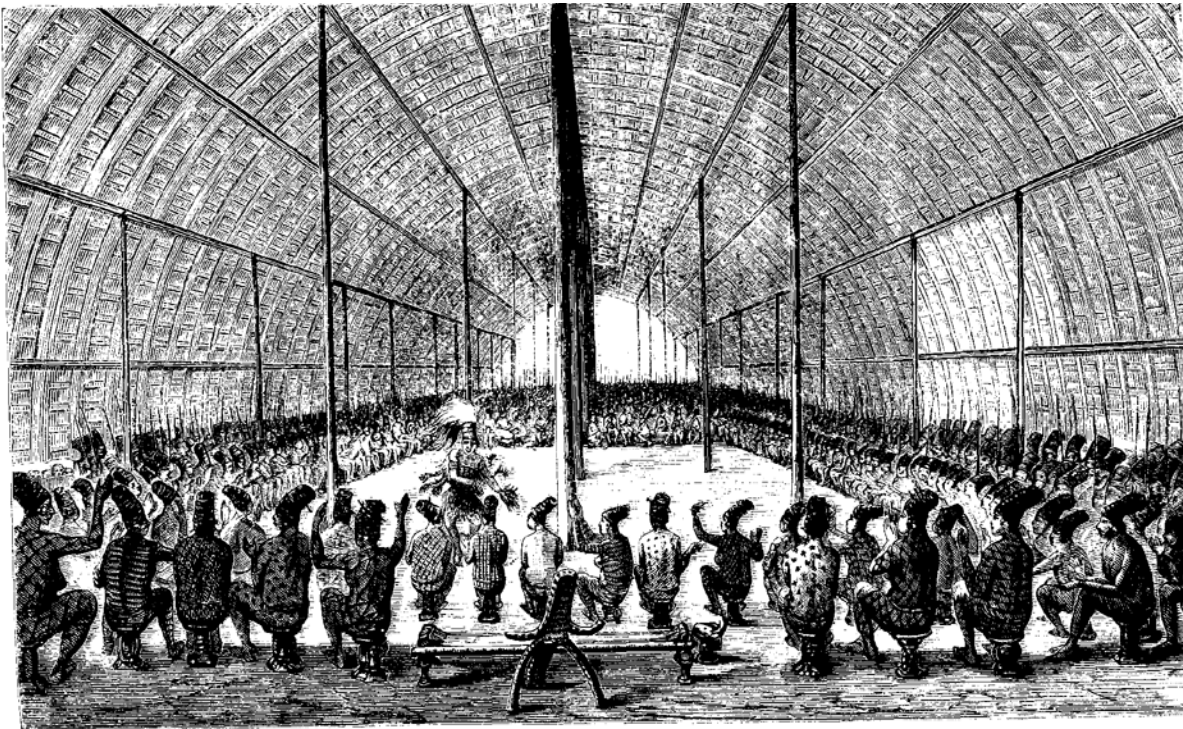
"In broad terms, it may be stated that no cattle at all exists in the land; the only domestic animals are poultry and dogs. The dogs belong to a small breed resembling the wolf-dog, but with short sleek hair; they have ears that are large and always erect, and a short curly tail like that of a young pig. They are usually a bright yellowish tan colour, and very often have a white stripe upon the neck; their lanky muzzle projects somewhat abruptly from an arched forehead; their legs are short and straight, thus demonstrating that the animals have nothing in common with the terrier breed depicted upon the walls of Egyptian temples, and of which the African origins has never been proved. Like dogs generally in the Nile district, they are deficient in the dew-claws of the hind feet. They are made to wear little wooden bells around their necks, so that they should not be lost in the long steppe grass. After the pattern of their masters they are inclined to be corpulent, and this propensity is encouraged as much as possible, dogs' flesh being esteemed one of the choicest delicacies of the Niam-niam."



Niam-niam Dog.

Another extract from a different area as these people had cattle:

“Some time afterwards Munza, in the most off-hand way, complained that I had not given him enough copper. Knowing the general expectations of an African king, I was only surprised that he had not urged his demand before. He reminded me of the quantity of copper that Mohammed had given him: “Mohammed,” he said, “is a great sultan; but you are also a great sultan.” When I reminded him that I did not take any of his ivory, he seemed to acquiesce in my excuse; but he very shortly afterwards sent me some messengers to request that I would make him a present of the two dogs which I had brought with me. They were two common Bongo curs of very small growth, but by contrast with the mean breed of the Monbutto and the Niam-niam they were attractive enough to excite the avidity of Munza. He had never seen dogs of such a size, and did not want them as dainty morsels for his table, but really wished to have them to keep. However, he had long to beg in vain; I assured him that the creatures had grown up with me till I was truly fond of them; they were, as I told him, my children; I was not disposed to part with them at any price, and might as well be asked to give the hair off my head. But my representations had no effect upon Munza; he had made up his mind to have the dogs, and did not pass a day without repeating his request, and enforcing it by sending fresh relays of presents to my tent. At last some slaves, both male and female were sent, and the sight of these suggested a new idea. I resolved to give way, and to exchange one of my dogs for a specimen of the little Akka people. Munza acceded at once, and sent me two of them. He could not suppress his little joke. “You told me,” said he, “not long since, that the dogs were your children; what will you say if I call these my children.”



KING MUNZA DANCING BEFORE HIS WIVES.

Schweinfurth lists these dog types he saw:

APPENDIX III.

19. *Canis familiaris*. L.

Dinka : Dyong.  
Dyoor : Grook.  
Bongo : Bihee.  
Niam-niam : Ango.  
Mittoo : Weehy.  
Golo : Ovio.  
Kredy : Kohno.  
Sehre : Borro.  
Monbuttoo : Nussy.

20. *Canis variegatus*. Cretschm. (*C. aureus auctorum*.)

Dinka : Awaun.  
Dyoor : Toh.  
Bongo : Galah.  
Niam-niam : Hoah.  
Kredy : Glommu.  
Golo : Ndaggeh.  
Sehre : Ndeh.

21. *Canis pictus*. Desm.

Dinka : Kwaty.  
Bongo : Well.  
Niam-niam : Tiah.  
Sehre : Sahr.