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res Erachtens, in zweieinhalb Monaten das auszuführen, was mit gewöhnlichen Transportmitteln mehr als sechs Monate erfordert hätte.

Summary.

The ethnographical expedition, organized by the Ethnographical Museum of Neuchâtel and equipped with a private airplane of 4 seats, lasted from December 26th, 1946, till March 10th, 1947. It crossed the regions inhabited by the Touaregs and dealt chiefly with the Touaregs of the Niger (Goundam, Tombouctou, Gao), then with the Oullimindens of the West (Menaka), the Oullimindens of the East (Kao, Tahoua), the Kel-Aïr (Agades), the Hoggars of the Aïr and lastly, but very briefly, with a few Hoggars and workmen of the Tamanrasset region.

The ethnographical investigation had been prepared on the basis of card-indexed notes and experiences acquired on a former expedition in 1942 to the Tinguerriguifs and the Kel-Hausas. The collections were made according to this card-index system which proved very useful, allowing systematical and speedy work. The first contacts in the camps are as a whole the most successful ones; later on the native loses interest in the matter.

The truck or a small and simple gift is what the Touaregs prefer. They are hardly interested in money. Cattle is the payment they understand best.

Collections of a similar type were made in the most important groupings. The chief interest consisted in: dwellings, furniture, clothes, jewellery, cosmetics, basket-making, kitchenware, tools, transport, weapons, hunting, cattle-breeding, musical instruments and religious objects. This sort of investigation is very apt to serve as a comparative study at the museum, all the more since a few collections were made among neighbouring civilizations such as the Sonrais, the Peuls and particularly the Hausas. To these we added the investigation and collections made on the principal markets of Goundam, Gao, Niamey, Tahoua, In-Gall and Agades.

Among the ethnographical subjects treated more thoroughly we mention the technical study of the work of the joiner, the smith, the jeweller, the harness-maker, the worker in leather and the weaver.

Eleven collections, a film (16 mm.) about dances, over 500 photographs partly in colour are the results of the expedition.

We estimate that only the use of a private airplane of a type enabling us to land outside the official airports allowed us to realize in 10 weeks what by ordinary means would have required more than six months.