

A

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

21-5

88457

ENT.

Country German East Africa

Locality

People

Stock.

Name

Door and frame of teak (?)  
carved frame. Slab over door  
has inscription in arabic. (over)

Collection

Dr. Hugo Hardy, 1904

L. P. E., St. Louis, Mo.

Notes

Acc.

903

Price

copy of label prepared but not used

## Doors and Doorposts of Arabic Workmanship

Under the impetus of their newly-founded religion, the Arabs were, in the seventh century and subsequent periods, making rapid advances in northern and Eastern Africa; also along the coasts of Madagascar.

Islamic teaching as expressed in the Koran is somewhat forbidding to the progress of decorative art, as there is a taboo against the use of the human form. Arabic wood-carvers have therefore developed their style along geometrical lines which in this doorway include floral patterns and Arabic script.

The Arabs have expended much artistic care on their houses, and the illustrations show how wood carvings of this kind are used. The map indicates the spread of Arabic influence in Africa.

Zanzibar, East Africa.

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