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## Introduction

This issue of *Studies in Third World Societies* and the next are both devoted to research in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak. The state has a population of 1,007,000 and an area of 48,250 square miles. The size of the present state is a result of treaties between the sultans of Brunei and the Brooke rajahs, who held the territory from 1841 until 1946. In the latter year the state was ceded to the British, who administered Sarawak until it joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963.

For more than two centuries adventurers, traders, and missionaries have written about the people of Sarawak. But only recently have systematic studies been attempted of the scores of groups that inhabit the coasts and interior. Like the rest of Borneo, Sarawak is an area of as yet uncomprehended ethnic diversity.

The articles in this issue are by two anthropologists (Appell and Sutlive) and an historian (Lockard). Articles in the third issue include those of three linguists (Asmah, Clayre, and Hudson), one rural sociologist (Grijpstra), an agricultural missionary (Schwenk), and two anthropologists (Fidler and Schneider).