

nous peoples of Papua New Guinea. "A review of recent and needed sago research," is provided by Patricia K. Townsend; "Sago for food in a changing economy," by Louise Morauta; and "Nutritional status of a sago-eating community in the Purari delta, Gulf Province," by Stanley J. Ulijaszek. These papers provide useful new information on one of the most important geographic areas of sago starch utilization.

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PALM BRIEF

Palm Symbolism*

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The palm is a symbol of victory, immortality and happiness. Among the ancients it was an emblem of constancy, patience and fecundity. The Roman Catholic church has a long tradition of using palm leaves on Palm Sunday,¹ to com-

memorate the victorious entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. In earlier times, pilgrims who returned from the Holy Land were called palmers because of the palm leaves they carried back with them.

Palm leaves adorn many coats of arms such as that of the Dominican Republic which features one crossed with a laurel branch to represent victory. The coat of arms of the University of Santo Domingo also includes a palm leaf, in this instance crossed with an olive branch to symbolize liberty and glory. As a symbol of immortality, it is often used as an ornament on monuments and tombs. Two bronze palm leaves decorate the pedestal of the statue of Christopher Columbus, erected in the park bearing his name in the city of Santo Domingo. The palm leaf has also been taken as an emblem of virginity; in popular festivals it is a symbol of happiness. In 1930, for the first time in the country's history, the royal palm was chosen as a political symbol by the Dominican Party, which was founded by President Trujillo.

* Translated from the Spanish. This passage is extracted from the author's book *Palmas Dominicanas*. 82 pp. Universidad de Santo Domingo, Ciudad Trujillo, 1945. It deals with native and introduced palms and is illustrated with photographs. The author was Director of the Institute of Botany of the Dominican Republic when the work was published. Dennis Johnson, Field Editor.

¹ In Spanish Palm Sunday is *Domingo de Ramos*,

literally "Branch Sunday"; the reference to a palm being assumed. In Portuguese and French the day is designated in the same way; however, in Italian and German, the equivalent of the noun for palm is utilized. The palm in question is, by tradition, the date palm. In countries where that palm is not cultivated, leaves of other feather palms are used as acceptable substitutes on Palm Sunday. Field editor's note.