

# ADZES AND ADZE-LIKE IMPLEMENTS FROM EASTERN AUSTRALIA.

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(Plate xvii, figures 1-6; and Figures 1-5.)

Occasional edge-ground adzes have been recorded from scattered localities in Australia, and their existence as a type has been referred to by the author (1939, 4-5, figs. 2 and 8; 1940b, 227, fig.), and Noone (1943, 274-5, 279, figs. 10-12, 30-31). In this paper is given a description of the examples in the collection of the Australian Museum.

The chief characteristic of the adze is the asymmetrical blade with its edge above or below the middle; the upper facet is usually rounded, and the lower facet varies from convex to concave and is often at a steep angle. Such implements are hafted, with the blade at a right angle to the haft. The body of the adze varies widely in shape and in Oceania embraces examples with round, lenticular, rectangular, trapezoid, or triangular section.

The axe is the predominant edge-ground implement in Australia; in various collections there are implements with adze-like blades, which, in this paper, are distinguished from true adzes.

## Axes with Adze-like Blades.

The examples described below have a distinct adze-like blade, but possess no other adze characters. It is considered probable that in the majority of instances such a blade is fortuitous, and is merely to be considered within the range of axe types in Australia. It does not appear to be due to adze influence, and they should not be termed proto-adzes. The following specimens are described from the Australian Museum collection.

### (A) *Trimmed coroid axes.*

E.29202. Woodbine, New South Wales.—An irregular piece of igneous stone, crudely flaked on the upper surface, and flat on the lower surface. The blade, which is 5 cm. long, has an upper rounded facet only 1 cm. wide, and a lower adze-like facet 2 cm. wide, with the edge in the middle line. It is  $9.5 \times 7 \times 3$  cm., and 12 oz. in weight.

E.13591. Lawn Hills, Queensland (Plate xvii, fig. 1; and Figure 5).—Made from a broad symmetrical flake, with a flat butt-platform. It is trimmed all over one surface. Both lateral margins are sharp-edged, although trimmed in places. The ridges on the upper surface, from the blade to the middle, have been smoothed by grinding, and the facet of the blade is 2.5 cm. wide. Most of the lower surface is polished, and the facet of the blade is 4 cm. wide. It is  $8.5 \times 8 \times 2.5$  cm., and 9 oz. in weight. The material is a fine-grained igneous rock.

E.9481. Hamilton Creek, near Mount Fitton, Queensland.—Its upper surface is carefully trimmed from the butt to the middle, and the polished adze-bevel of the blade occupies the other half of the surface. The lower surface is slightly convex and polished. It is lenticular in section, with a carefully trimmed edge on the lateral margins and butt. The material is a fine-grained igneous rock. It is  $12 \times 9.5 \times 3$  cm., and 1 lb. 6 oz. in weight.

### (B) *Hammer-dressed.*

The great majority of adze-like blades occur in the hammer-dressed group of axes. Six specimens, in particular, merit notice in this section. They are from round to oval in section, and several are elongate-oval in shape. They are from 9 to 15 cm. long, and