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SOME UNUSUAL CYLINDRO-CONICAL STONES FROM NEW SOUTH WALES AND JAVA.

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(Plate xv.)

The specimens described in this paper are in the collection of the Australian Museum.

1. E.50489. Found on a claypan twelve miles from Bancannia Lake, and eighty-five miles north of Broken Hill, New South Wales (Plate xv, figs. 5a-b).—A straight conical stone, flattened oval in section. It is completely polished, except for a band 1 cm. wide round the base and the concave butt which form a hammer-dressed area. No flakes have been struck off the base round the butt. The distal end is a sharp-edged blade 2.75 cm. long formed by two ground facets 0.5 cm. wide; a large spall 6 cm. long is missing from one side of this end. The material is a gneissic rock. It bears simple but unusual incised markings. On one flattened surface (Fig. 5b) is a "laced" design extending from the blade to within 5 cm. of the butt; the longitudinal groove is deep and distinct, but the numerous transverse scratches are shallow and faint, irregularly spaced, and mostly at right angles to the groove. There is a curved longitudinal incised line on each side forming a frame round the transverse lines. There is a pit, 0.5 cm. in diameter, at the end of the central groove, and from it three more deeply incised grooves branch out on each side. On the other flattened surface (Plate xv, fig. 5a) is a stellate design 8 cm. in diameter; it consists of a central pit from which radiate approximately 34 lines, some of which are single scratches, but others are two joined together. Below it are several transverse incisions, one pair being broad and deep, and above it is a number of single straight incisions. Presented by Mr. A. R. Campbell.

The designs on both surfaces of this stone are unique. The "laced" design without a frame occurs commonly on cylindro-conical stones, but the stellate design is the only one of its type known to the author. The latter design is represented among the rock engravings at Yunta, South Australia (Mountford, 1935, plate x, fig. 6, p. 213), and at Mootwingee, far western New South Wales (Dow, 1938, 110, pl. i, fig. 5), and is frequently seen among the rock paintings of the Hawkesbury sandstone area extending inland from the central coast of New South Wales, where it is considered to be a representation of the sun.

2. E.50621. Lower Macquarie River, New South Wales (Plate xv, fig. 3).—The proximal end of a straight cylindro-conical stone. It is polished on half of its surface, and the remaining area is rough and weathered. According to an analysis made by Mr. T. Hodge-Smith, Mineralogist, Australian Museum, it is made of white kaolin. It is 9.5 cm. long and 7 cm. in diameter, and was presented by Mr. P. J. Brennan. Etheridge (1916) recorded numbers 2, 8, 21, 29, and E made of clay, number 6 made of pipeclay, and number 30 of *kopi*, but in the series of four hundred and fifty specimens described by Black (*Cylcons*, 1943) none were made of these materials.

3. E.50752. Bulga, Hunter valley, New South Wales (Plate xv, fig. 2).—The proximal end of a straight cylindro-conical of flattened-oval section. The surface is polished, and covered with numerous parallel cuts or gashes up to 1 cm. long. The material is argillaceous sandstone. It is 8 cm. long, 7 cm. wide, and 5 cm. thick, and was presented by Mr. A. N. Eather. This specimen was listed by Black (1943, 18, 100) from Thurrabri, but it was collected by the donor on an old camp-site at Bulga, the furthest point east at which cylindro-conicals have been found. It may have reached this locality from further west as an object of magical significance by means of ritual exchanges at tribal meetings for ceremonies.

4. E.50640. South-west Queensland (Plate xv, fig. 1).—A conical-shaped piece of red ochre. The distal end has been rubbed to a conical shape, and parts of the natural surface are showing elsewhere, including the butt. Flakes have been struck off round the base, and also on the distal end. It is oval in section. It is 20 cm. long, 6 cm. in diameter, and was presented by Mr. P. D. Riddell, who found it on a clay-pan. It is doubtful whether this specimen should be classified as a cylindro-conical, although it bears some of the characteristics of the group; it might be a piece of red ochre that was in use by a local native as a pigment for paint.

5. E.37554. Wilcannia (twenty miles east of), New South Wales (Plate xv, fig. 6).—A straight polished cylindro-conical made from a dark green basaltic stone; the surface has weathered to a light brown crust. The butt is concave, and round it flakes have been knapped in two series, one of which is old and weathered, the other recent with fresh flake-scars. The latter series of three might have been done by the finder seeking to ascertain the nature of the material. It is flattened-oval in section. There is a mortar or grinding depression on one surface, and it is 10 cm. long and 6 cm. wide, but very shallow. The distal end is a blunt blade 6 cm. long, with its edge in the middle line. It is 21 cm. long, 8 cm. wide, and 5.5 cm. thick, and was presented by the Sydney Technical College.

This cylindro-conical combines two unusual characters, namely, the worked depression and the broad bladed distal end.

6. E.7516-17. Darling River district (Plate xv, fig. 8).—Two straight cylindro-conicals made of sandstone, each bearing a well-used mortar depression. Etheridge (1916, 3) concluded that such use of cylindro-conicals was of a secondary nature, an opinion which is obviously correct. Very few cylindro-conicals have been used in this manner. One is 27 cm. long, 6.5 cm. thick, and has a mortar depression 15×6.5 cm., and 0.5 cm. deep. The other one is 18 cm. long and 6 cm. in diameter, with a mortar depression 13×5 cm., and 0.5 cm. deep. Presented by J. Milne Curran.

7. E.50490. Found on a claypan twelve miles from Bancannia Lake and eighty-five miles north of Broken Hill, New South Wales (Plate xv, fig. 9).—A straight cylindro-conical, oval in section, and made of slate. It is completely polished. The distal end is a blade 2.5 cm. long, formed by two ground facets each 0.75 cm. wide. There are percussion marks on each margin just below the corner of the blade. The butt is cupped, and flakes have been knapped round the base. This stone bears numerous incised markings. Most of its surface is covered with pairs, and a few sets of three and four, of transverse incisions of varying length; in a number of the pairs one of the incisions is in the form of a kangaroo-track, and there are many scattered single examples of the latter, but no pairs. Several longitudinal lines extend from end to end, and one of them joins together a series of five emu-tracks. There is a series of short incisions in vertical lines down one side, and another series of them fringing one facet of the bladed distal end. There is one isolated emu-track, and three small herring-bone designs. The most interesting feature of this cylindro-conical, not hitherto recorded, is that the butt is covered with numerous fine scratches, very close together, and all running the same way but at varying angles so that some cross others. It is 31 cm. long, 6 cm. wide, 4.5 cm. thick, and weighs 3 lb. It was found and presented by Mr. A. R. Campbell.

8. E.44779. G. Keroek, Nelipar, Java (Plate xv, fig. 7).—This exceptionally interesting artefact of cylindro-conical type was given to the author by Mr. Mounser, who had obtained a number of similar specimens from the above locality in the Djokjakarta district of Central Java. It is cylindrical and straight, and has a rounded conical distal end; the flat butt is at an oblique angle. It bears no incised markings nor have any flakes been knapped round its butt. It has been hammer-dressed and polished. The butt is very smooth, and bears in the middle a small pit 0.5 cm. wide and deep. The material is a fine-grained, compact grey rock.

Black (1943, 20) stated in error that this stone was obtained during archaeological excavations in Java. Mr. Mounser did not inform me whether he found these stones in an old or recent temple site, or whether he purchased them from the natives.

Incised markings on cylindro-conicals.—A comparison of specimens in the Australian Museum with those described by Etheridge and by Black reveals that several types of incised markings have not been recorded by either author. Etheridge (1916, 36) listed transverse and longitudinal lines, bird-tracks, simple pittings, herring-bone, cross, preputial or apical ring, median encircling or circumferential ring, and a spiral. Black (1943, 15) added the stellate design, but figured other types which he did not include in his list. Additions to the above series comprise the barred circle (Black, pl. xli, no. 22), crescent or boomerang-shape (Black, pl. xli, no. 22), kangaroo-tracks (on two Australian Museum specimens), oval formed by two crescentic lines overlapping at each end, and an M-shaped figure (on an Australian Museum specimen).

One of the most interesting features of the method of marking these stones is that the above series of simple designs were used in innumerable combinations, among which the so-called "laced" figure on the phacoid stones especially is the only one that is reproduced as a definite design on a number of cylindro-conicals. This lack of standardization of designs, and the variation in the arrangement of simple elements, are characteristic of Australian aboriginal art, and in some areas are of totemic significance. The markings on the cylindro-conicals appear throughout the pictographic and decorative art of Australia, and they represent a period extending from prehistoric to recent times.

9. *Bogan-type*. E.50909. Grong Grong, New South Wales (Plate xv, fig. 4).—A hammer-dressed elliptical artefact made of coarse granite. It is neatly rounded on its upper surface, and is flattened but undulating on its lower surface. One end is blunt but appears to have been in course of being pointed. The other end is conical, with a curved edge 2 cm. wide forming its point; it is not ground, but the surface is polished by use up to 4 cm. from the point all round the end. The surface is slightly weathered, and is a bright buff in colour. It is 23 cm. long, 9 cm. in diameter, and weighs 5 lb. Found and presented by Mr. H. Wright in 1943.

Another example, of which the Australian Museum possesses a cast, was found in 1935 near the upper Bogan River. It is very similar to the Grong Grong specimen, but is not as well shaped, and many humps and hollows have not been removed by the hammer-dressing. At each end is a conical point, one formed by three facets, the other by four facets, and the surface round both ends is polished by use in a similar manner to the Grong Grong specimen. It is 22 cm. long, 9 cm. in diameter, and about the same weight as the other example.

The function of these two artefacts is not known, but there is some reason to believe that they are crude examples of the grooved conical stones described by McCarthy (1939); they occur within the distribution of the latter group, the use-polished point and hammer-dressed surfaces are characteristic features of both groups. In view of the difficulty of referring to it in simple terms in literature, the name *Bogan-type* is proposed for the variety herein described.

10. A cylcon from Hughenden, Queensland, figured by Etheridge (1916, pl. ix, fig. 3).—It is hammer-dressed and at one end has a bevelled flange which forms the base, whilst the other end is pointed. Both Etheridge (1916, 35) and Towle (Black, 1943, 4) consider that its "workmanship appears to be too finished for that of an aboriginal hand", and the latter author suggests that it was fashioned by an extra-Australian people. It resembles several artefacts from the New Hebrides, the stone missile sticks (Etheridge, 1917, 194-97, pl. xxxvi, fig. 2, and pl. xxxviii, fig. 2), and the slaying-stone (Etheridge, 1917, 197, pl. xxxviii, fig. 4) of cylindro-conical form; both types are hammer-dressed. Thus the possibility should be considered that it was brought into Queensland by New Hebridean natives employed in this State during the late nineteenth century. On the other hand, its workmanship is equalled in Australia by the grooved conical stones, tanged artefacts, and some of the hammer-dressed axes and adzes. Its flanged base is unique among Australian cylcons, and in this connection might be mentioned the New Caledonian ceremonial greenstone axes, the bases of which are of the same shape.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATE XV.

- Fig. 1.—Conical-shaped piece of red ochre, south-west Queensland. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.50640.
- Fig. 2.—Portion of cylindro-conical stone, Bulga, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.50752.
- Fig. 3.—Portion of cylindro-conical stone, Lower Macquarie River, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.50621.
- Fig. 4.—*Bogan*-type from Grong Grong, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.50909.
- Fig. 5a-b.—Cylindro-conical stone from claypan twelve miles north of Bancannia Lake, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.50489.
- Fig. 6.—Cylindro-conical stone with mortar depression and bladed end, Wilcannia, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.37554.
- Fig. 7.—Cylindro-conical stone from G. Keroek, Djokjakarta district, Java. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.44779.
- Fig. 8.—Cylindro-conical stone with mortar depression, Darling River, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.7517.
- Fig. 9.—Cylindro-conical stone from claypan twelve miles north of Bancannia Lake, N. S. Wales. Austr. Mus. Coll. Regd. No. E.50490.
- Photos.—G. C. Clutton.

