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# SOME UNUSUAL STONE ARTEFACTS FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW GUINEA.

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(Plate xvi, figure 7; and Plate xvii, figures 7-12.)

In this paper is described a series of stone artefacts which either possess unusual features or are new forms. They have been acquired from time to time by the Australian Museum.

(1). E.25986. South Wambo, near Bulga, Hunter Valley, New South Wales (Plate xvii, fig. 7).—This remarkable stone club was found by Mr. A. N. Eather on an old camp-site. It is made of a hard, fine-grained granular rock, and its surface is weathered. It is a natural club-shaped stone that has been ground at each end, on both facets, to a bladed or spatulate shape. The broad head, which is 9 cm. wide and 2.5 cm. thick, is rounded on the edges, but has a sharp-edged and rounded end 1.5 cm. wide. The handle tapers from a rectangular cross-section 7 cm. wide at the top, to a sharp-edged blade at the grip end. In shape it resembles bladed wooden clubs, with straight or curved handles, from this area, and it was no doubt utilized by the aborigines for this reason. It is 56 cm. long, and weighs 3 lb. 8 oz.

(2). E.50920. Murramarang, New South Wales (Plate xvii, fig. 8).—A large symmetrical pebble,  $20 \times 13 \times 5$  cm., of hard compact sandstone, which bears on one surface three elongate hammer-dressed areas; one is crescentic, the middle one is broad but is narrowed at one end, and the other one is slightly wider at one end than the other. They are indeterminate in shape and significance, but the fact that they are separated indicates that they are representations and not part of the shaping of the pebble in the manner that an axe is made, that is, by hammer-dressing from the blade end as a rule. It was found on a kitchen-midden in 1936 by Mr. M. S. Stanley.

4. E.49633. Glanmire Station, Bathurst, New South Wales.—A narrow, irregular piece of fine-grained shale which has on one surface a series of longitudinal and transverse scratches. Some are lightly and others deeply incised, and among them there are five white lines formed by an inclusion in the stone, but they cut across the longitudinal scratches at a regular and different angle from that of the transverse scratches. It is similar to an example from Mathewson Springs, northern Flinders Ranges, described by Mr. C. P. Mountford (1938, 144, Plate A, fig. 1) in a series from South Australia. It is  $10 \times 3.5 \times 1$  cm. Presented by the late Mr. A. E. Ivatt.

5. *Mena*.—This name is proposed for artefacts described by Mr. D. A. Casey (1936). Two of this group, and two more herein described, were ploughed up by Mr. G. Kimlin on newly cleared land on Mena Creek, Cairns district, Queensland, and he has kindly presented examples to the museums in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. They vary in shape from a Y to a triangle, and are difficult to refer to in simple terms in literature. The name *mena*, therefore, is proposed because it is associated with the type historically and geographically.

E.49897. Mena Creek, Queensland (Plate xvii, fig. 9).—A fine example polished all over and carefully shaped. The two surfaces slope inwards at the top. One of the pointed ends is missing, and there are two plough gashes on one margin at the top. The tang has a bladed end which has apparently had a flake broken off as a result of use, and the flake-scar is re-polished; its edge is battered. The top is flat and striated, and there is a deep incised line running from end to end. An interesting feature of this *mena* is a series of very fine scratches on one surface, one group of which is parallel

with the top edge, a second group with an oblique margin, and a third group is transverse; other fine scratches are scattered all over both surfaces. On one edge of the tang there are four deeper incisions 1 cm. long, and on an oblique margin are ten more similar cuts, both sets being transverse. The material is a fine-grained slate. It is 13 cm. long, 17 cm. wide, 1.5 cm. thick, and the tang is 4 cm. wide in the middle; 9 oz. in weight. Presented by Mr. G. Kimlin.

E.49898. Mena Creek, Queensland (Plate xvii, fig. 10).—A crudely made example on which there are patches of both hammer-dressing and polishing. Its flat but undulating top is striated, one corner shows marks of percussion use, and the other corner has a ground facet on one side. The end of the tang is a blade formed by two ground facets each 3 cm. wide, and the edge is heavily battered from use. It is made of an igneous stone, the surface is patinated, and one side bears plough cuts. It is 9.5 cm. long, 14.5 cm. wide, 2.5 cm. thick, and weighs 12 oz.

E.3317. Russell River, Queensland (Plate xvii, fig. 11).—This specimen was apparently the first *mena* found, and it was purchased in 1892. It is triangular in shape. The flat top bears striations. The whole of its surface has been ground on a coarse stone which has left fine scratches on every facet. The narrow end has been broken off transversely. It is lenticular in section and the oblique margins are bevelled. The material is slate. It is 12 cm. long, 10 cm. wide, and 1 cm. thick, and weighs 8 oz. This example differs from other known *mena* in not possessing a tang, and it is the smallest of the series. It was evidently ploughed up because the scratches are all filled with soil.

(6). *Yodda*.—It is proposed that the other group of tanged artefacts described by Casey (1934) be called the *yodda* type to distinguish them from the *mena*. *Yodda* is a locality in Papua from which the type was first described.

(7). *Worimi*. E.50647. Redhead Beach, New South Wales (Plate xvi, fig. 7). This *worimi* has been quartered by a blow off a block of hard, fine grained silicified grit. It tapers from the butt, which is 9 cm. thick, to the trimmed convex distal end, and is triangular in section. The inner face is a cleavage surface, and the outer face, which is slightly convex, is trimmed. It is 19 cm. long, 17 cm. wide, and weighs 7 lb. 8 oz. Thus it is not only the largest *worimi*, but is also one of the biggest knapped and trimmed hand-axes yet recorded in Australia, and was probably a double-handed chopping tool. Found and presented by Mr. P. D. Riddell.

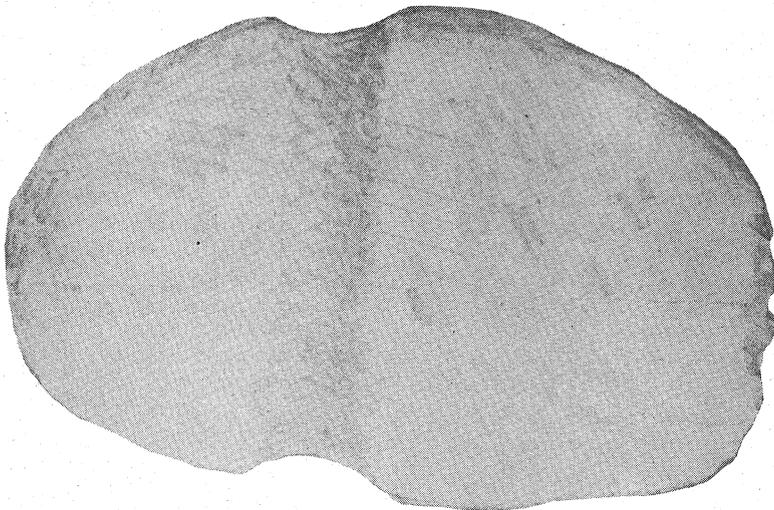


Figure 1.  
Grooved axe, Eruru, Keveri Valley, Papua.  
(F. E. Williams, del.)

(8). Waisted hammerstone. E.49177. Papua (Plate xvii, fig. 12).—A water-worn pebble of schist, pear-shaped in outline. The two grooves on the lateral margins are 4 cm. wide and 0.5 cm. deep, and were fashioned by hammer-dressing; they do not extend across the upper and lower surfaces. Both ends, especially the butt, bear signs of percussion use. It is 18 cm. long, 8 cm. wide, 4 cm. thick, and weighs 2 lb. 8 oz. The precise locality in Papua in which the specimen was collected is unknown, but it is similar to luffed pebble hammerstones used on Cape York, and it is considered that it is one of latter that has been traded across Torres Strait to the Daudai coast; spear-throwers and spears from Cape York have been collected in this area of Papua (McCarthy, 1939, 179-83, fig. 15).

(9). Grooved Axe (Fig. 1).—Grooved axes are extremely rare in New Guinea, and this specimen was in the collection of the Papuan Government at Port Moresby. The late Dr. F. E. Williams, Government Anthropologist, informed me in a letter written in 1940, that "I had rather a queer find early this year in the Keveri Valley, just north of the Main Range in the Abau district. Walking about the village of Eruru, where I was camping, I saw by chance a grooved celt lying on the ground. It was partly embedded. The ground had been cleared of grass and had been further scoured by rains. No one in the village had noticed the stone, and no one had ever seen an implement of the same sort in use. The oldest man said it was strange to him. The stone implements he had used were of the ordinary plain sort." Remarks attached to the pencil sketch state that the butt end is blunt, and both lateral margins and distal end are ground to an edge; the whole is rough and unpolished. It is 14.5 cm. long, and 9.5 cm. wide. No indication is given as to whether the surface is hammer-dressed.

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#### EXPLANATIONS OF PLATES.

##### PLATE XVI, FIGURE 7.

*Worimi*, Redhead Beach, N. S. Wales. E.50647.

##### PLATE XVII, FIGURES 7-12.

Figure 7.—Stone club, South Wambo, N. S. Wales. E.25986.

Figure 8.—Pebble bearing hammer-dressed design, Murrumurang, N. S. Wales. E.50920.

Figures 9, 10.—*Mena* from Mena Creek, Queensland. E.49897-98.

Figure 11.—*Mena* from Russell River, Queensland. E.3317.

Figure 12.—Waisted hammerstone, Papua. E.49177.

Photos.—G. C. Clutton.

