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. 5*a*–*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. 5*b*) 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. 5*a*) 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.