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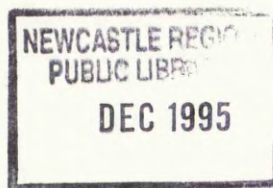
To Mr + Mrs Foggo
with many thanks
Richard Mulvaney.

20TH Apr. '89

FROM CURIO TO CURATION

The Morrison collection of Aboriginal wooden artefacts

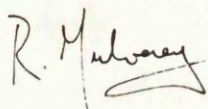
Richard Mulvaney



A thesis submitted to the Department of Prehistory and Anthropology,
The Australian National University, in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Letters

September 1983

Except where acknowledged, this work is my own

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Mulvaney". The signature is stylized, with a large, looped "M" and a horizontal line extending from the end.

Richard Mulvaney
(September 1983)

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Maureen Johnson typed the text, and Norma Chin typed Appendix 3 - to both of them I am thankful for their time and patience.

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INTRODUCTION

Like the aborigines all over Australia they used what tools they found ready at hand, or which were adaptable from the material Nature had strewn so liberally about. And because on the reliability of their weapons they had to depend for their very livelihood, necessity compelled them to achieve a sort of crude perfection that even to-day is the admiration and envy of our more enlightened people [Scott 1929:29].

The aim of this thesis is to offer a descriptive catalogue of a collection of Aboriginal wooden artefacts that originally was assembled at the end of the 19th century by a resident of Singleton, in the Hunter Valley, Mr Alex Morrison. The collection's existence was brought to my attention by Dr Ron Lampert of the Australian Museum in 1982. After the museum's recent acquisition of the artefacts, he felt that they warranted immediate research and documentation.

A study of this collection must place it into historical and ethno-historical perspective, in order to determine what influences resulted in its selection. Chapter 1 examines the history of the collection, its original acquisition by Alex Morrison, its fortunes since his death, and its present position in the Australian Museum and the National Ethnographic Collection. The early history is particularly relevant when attempting to provenance the artefacts, because no records or documentation accompany the collection, which would answer such questions. Chapter 2 discusses the contact history of the Hunter Valley in an attempt to reveal the reasons for the nature of the collection and its present condition. It also considers the available ethnohistorical literature relating to Hunter Valley Aboriginal weapons, in order to illustrate the likely components of a Hunter Valley material culture assemblage. This information provides a background into which the collection may be placed and from which analysis can begin.

Having recognised that it is possible to delineate a regional material culture for the Hunter Valley, the collection has been divided

into those provenanced within this region and those from outside it. The artefacts were individually documented on record sheets (an example of which can be seen in Appendix 2) which attempted to stress this division. I have discussed the features of each group of artefacts with this division in mind. A list of the individual artefacts and their attributes, and a pencil drawing of each item to scale is given in Appendix 3. This information is not included in the general discussion, but permits a readily retrievable record of each artefact.

It is hoped that the assessment of the collection outlined in Chapter 3 and the subsequent discussion in Chapter 4 will contribute to a general knowledge of Aboriginal material culture in recent times. The importance of this knowledge lies in the regional differentiation within southeastern Australian material culture portrayed by this distinctive Hunter Valley toolkit; in the elucidation of the influences which played upon the collection of Aboriginal artefacts by Europeans; and in the potential of such collections for educational displays today.

CHAPTER 1

THE HISTORY OF THE MORRISON COLLECTION

In the late 19th century Alexander Morrison, a newspaper proprietor in Singleton, began to collect Aboriginal wooden artefacts. A major part of this collection has remained intact until recently when it came up for sale, and was acquired by the National Ethnographic Collection and the Australian Museum. No descriptive catalogue accompanies the artefacts today, so it is necessary to place the collection into a historical perspective before one can attempt any analytical discussion. This history may answer many questions relating to the provenance of the artefacts and to their present condition. It may also illustrate some of the prevailing attitudes towards indigenous peoples over the last century.

The late 19th century witnessed a revival of interest in the native peoples of the world. It was a time of great economic competition and progress, highlighted by the International Exhibition of man and machine (see Cooper 1975:14). The Australian Aborigine became the scale by which the European world could measure its progress. The rush in Australia of Anthropological compendia was a direct result of the much espoused European theories of the development of mankind. Spencer best illustrates the prevailing thought:

Australia is the present home and refuge of creatures often so crude and quaint that have elsewhere passed away and given place to higher forms. This applies equally to the aboriginal as to the platypus and kangaroo. Just as the platypus, laying its eggs and feebly suckling its young reveals a mammal in the making, so does the aboriginal show us, at least in broad outlines, what early man must have been like before he learned to read and write, domesticate animals, cultivate crops and use a metal tool [Spencer and Gillen 1927:vii].

Alex Morrison would have been influenced by such thoughts, his collection being an amateur expression of this interest.

Alex Morrison was born in Singleton in 1871 and was educated at Maitland High School. His father built the family home in John Street, Singleton, and conducted a general hardware business in the downstairs section which became known as Morrison's General Store. In 1894 Alex established the 'Budget' newspaper, which was financed by his wealthy grandmother, J. Glass, who at the time of her death in 1899 owned properties worth over one million pounds (*Singleton Argus* 29.4.1899). After a fire destroyed the original offices in 1900, the business moved into the family home and a printing works was built next door. The paper was issued bi-weekly, with a circulation throughout the Hunter Valley.¹ It was a well informed and cultural paper that was very popular despite there being a competitive paper in the same town (C. Foggo pers. comm.).

It is important to note that the feelings engendered towards Aborigines in the late 19th century by the anthropological interest of a selected few were not shared by all members of society. In many country towns the local Aborigines were regarded with disdain and intolerance as is here illustrated:

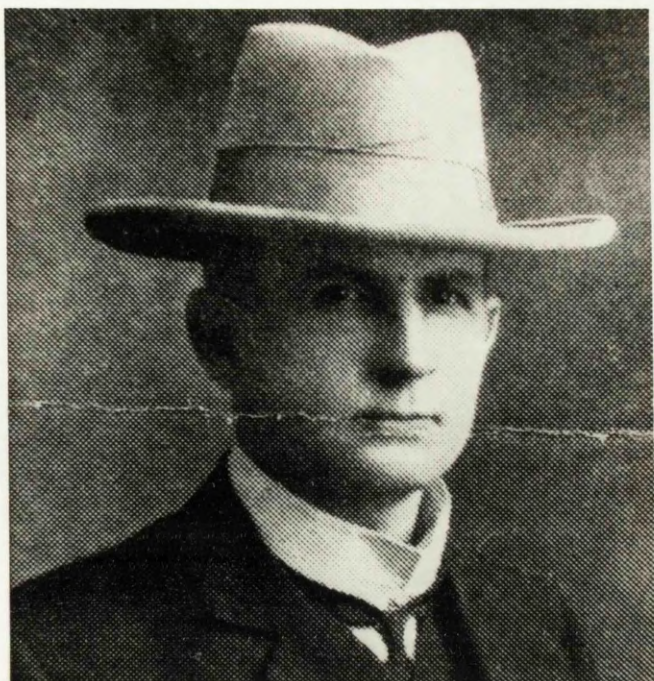
In giving judgement in the Police court yesterday in a case in which a hotel landlord was fined for supplying drink to the aboriginals, Mr C.H. Dight J.P., said that through liquor being supplied to them, the blacks have become most disagreeable to the townspeople...It may be mentioned in this connection that a petition is being taken round for signature asking the Government to remove the blacks camp from the common to a distance from town [*Singleton Argus* 14.8.1895].

This situation was aggravated by the 1890s when there was a general movement of Aborigines from stations, where they had been employed, towards country towns. Read suggests 'the pressure to move Aborigines from the stations probably intensified during the depression of the middle 1880s and the drought of the late 1890s and Aboriginal station people were encouraged to leave' (Read 1980:98). Seemingly the resulting concentration of Aborigines in country towns, like Singleton, became a problem to the civic-minded townspeople who preferred an 'out of sight out of mind' attitude. A direct response to this attitude was the setting up of the St Clair Mission near Singleton by Rev. J.S. White, around the turn of the century.²

The last Hunter River camp was down Singleton way, whence all the Dartbrook and Page habitues made. They were located on the Rev. Dr. White's property, where they received every kindness. A well-kept farm, on which maize and fruit were

Plate 1 Alex Morrison circa 1900

Plate 2 Aborigines at St Clair Mission circa 1904



produced, was laid out on the banks of Glennies Creek, and their abode was at St Clair. A school and church were established, and seeing them when travelling through with stock for the southern markets, they appeared to be very happy and contented [Bridge 1959:2].

Alex was friendly towards the local Aborigines and actively encouraged and supported the Mission (personal correspondence, 1904). At various times he also employed a number of them in his printing works.

It was during this time that Alex began to collect Aboriginal wooden artefacts. In this interest he was not solely guided by anthropological interests or benevolent sympathies; he was very much a collector of many things. He had collections of Tasmanian convict relics, obsolete uniforms, antique guns, stamps, books and postcards, much of which has since been auctioned and dispersed (J. Magers pers. comm.). The 'Budget' printing works produced series of pictorial postcards, which a 'Budget' news print claims was 'the latest craze'. Alex exchanged many of his postcards with other interested collectors:

Alex Morrison. Thanks very much for postcards. I will be only too pleased to exchange every week.

Albert W. Dean c/- Echuca, Jul.26 1906

It is possible that Alex was part of a similar network with those interested in Aboriginal curios. As a journalist he would have travelled extensively over the Hunter Valley, as well as to the major cities reporting on political and cultural events. In the space of two months in 1903, Alex was in Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, and he was in Melbourne again in 1905 reporting on the 'Melbourne Cup' (personal correspondence).³ Alex could have acquired Aboriginal artefacts on any of these trips, or from already existing collections within the district. It is also possible that many of the artefacts could have been made for, or given expressly to, Alex by the Aborigines from the St Clair Mission. (For further discussion on St Clair Mission artefacts see Chapter 4).

Like those of many 19th century collectors, most of his acquisitions were for the private appreciation of a selected few. The only public viewing of the collection was on the visit of the then State Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, to Singleton on 27 April 1904. For the processional route the citizens of Singleton were asked to decorate the streets. It was decided by the Town Council that an arch should be built as the focal point of these decorations.

Ald. Lambert suggested the proprietor of 'The Budget' be asked to loan his collection of Aboriginal trophies, which would make an excellent arch [*Budget* 25.4.04].

Fanfare, processions and speeches were very much the medium of such occasions, with arches in particular a very popular expression of welcome to noted dignitaries. The value of an arch is that it can be erected across a processional route. The intended visitor has to pass underneath it so any expression of welcome is evidently noticed. The arch usually displayed a theme representing certain groups or distinct areas. A series of arches marked the processional route for the Federation celebrations in Sydney on 1 January 1901. One of these was the Coal Arch, supplied by the Newcastle citizens, which consisted of 125 tons of coal (*Maitland Mercury* 1.1.1901). Coal was the traditional theme expressed by the people of Newcastle until 1907 when it was replaced with an agricultural arch for the annual show (see Plate 4). Primary produce was a popular theme, with the classical architectural designs reserved for the more permanent structures, so often favoured for triumphal marches or lasting epitaphs to foreign wars.

The Aboriginal or 'native arch' is a surprising expression for the citizens of Singleton who had so recently petitioned to have the local population removed from the town. This theme was by no means distinct to Singleton as the town of Armidale erected an arch on a similar theme for the visit of the State Governor in 1893 (see Plate 3). David Marr from the *National Times* lamented after the most recent tour of regal resplendence:

There wasn't even bunting in Alice Springs this week, but, for Alfred (Prince Alfred's visit in 1868) Sydney put up a replica of the arch of Drusus, and Newcastle civic fathers built on the wharf an arch of coal. This disappearance of arches is sad. The last were seen for the Queen in 1954 [25.3.83].

Whatever the intentions of the Singleton council or Alex Morrison, the 'Budget native arch' was considered a very appropriate expression of welcome by the townspeople and the Governor, who specifically requested copies of the photograph of the arch as a memento of his day in Singleton (*Budget* 17.5.1904). The Budget arch which spanned the main street was positioned just outside the Budget office and is best described by that newspaper (see Plate 5):

Plate 3 'Triumphal arch' to welcome the Governor and Lady
Jersey to Armidale, February 1893

Plate 4 The agricultural arch for the Newcastle annual show,
1907



With other citizens, members of the local Aboriginal community assembled in force to welcome the Governor and Lady Jersey during their visits to Armidale in February 1893

(Folk Museum Collection)



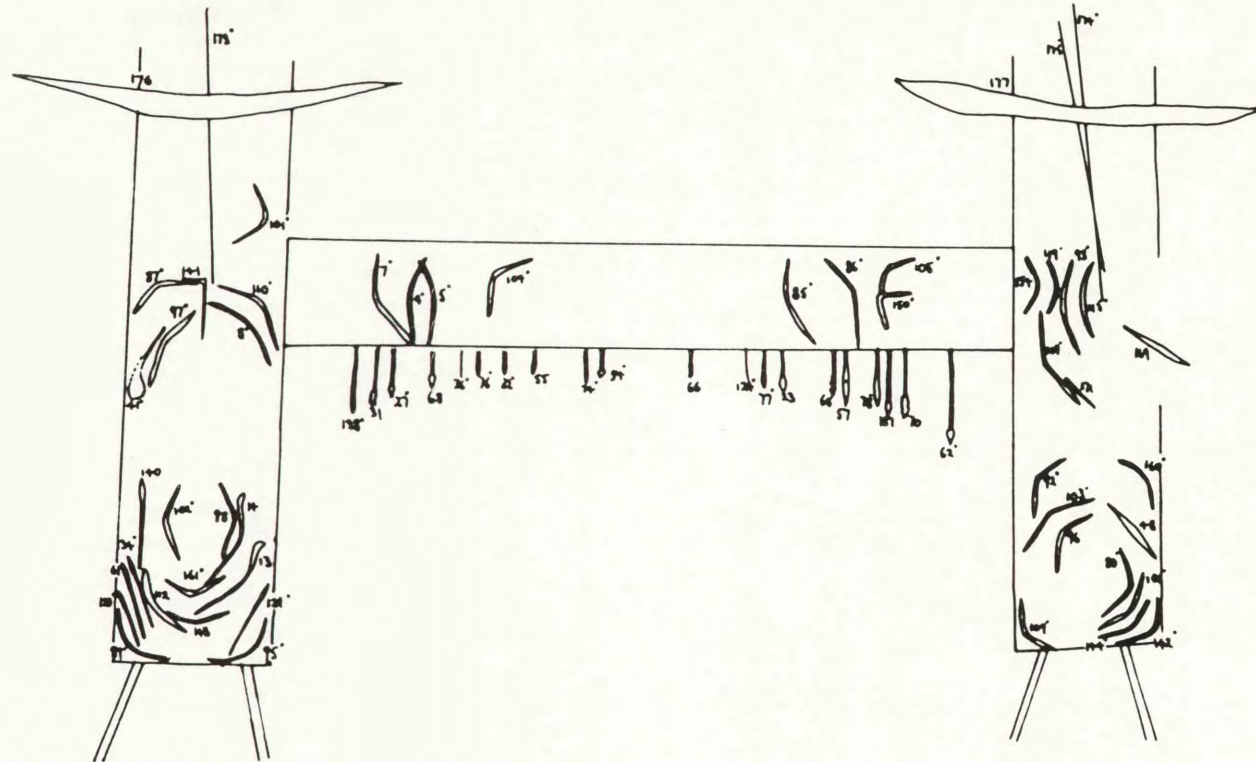
It was firmly built and well braced, the tops of the main poles forming turrets which were surmounted by aboriginal canoes and decorated with spears...in front of the arch the word 'Welcome' in large letters formed of Boomerangs was hung from the platform, below which was a fringe of Nullah Nullahs, Bundy's and other weapons, forming an arch in themselves, the whole of the framework was filled in with the green foliage of the gum tree and festoons of wild clematis, both sides of the front of the arch were decorated with aboriginal implements of war artistically arranged [Budget 29.4.1904].

Alex had also arranged that the Aborigines from the St Clair Mission should take part in the celebrations, perhaps as a genuine recognition of their past culture. As the procession approached the Aboriginal men brandished their weapons while the women and children sang songs of greeting. Later in the day some of the men gave a boomerang throwing display. The *Singleton Argus* report probably best illustrates the general feeling in the town:

The Aborigines day out - Not the least important factors in the welcome to the vice-regal party on Wednesday were the remnants of the once powerful tribe of aboriginals, that formerly populated this portion of the Hunter River...They were points of attraction that appealed directly to the onlooker, and, with pardonable vanity, they were quite aware that, if they were not exactly 'the glass of fashion and the mould of form', they were, at least, 'the observed of all observers'. There was a touch of pathos about the whole thing that appealed just a little. The last remaining links between the savage of the past, and the civilised remnant of that savage in the present [29.4.1904].

Such an appreciation may hardly have been Alex's intention, but was inevitable to a late 19th century audience who could now regard Aborigines as an amusing novelty.

The arch was not a permanent structure, it was dismantled after the celebrations, and the artefacts returned to Alex. It was probably decorated with a major part of Alex's collection, although he did continue to acquire artefacts after 1904. For some of his acquisitions Alex was aided by a local colleague, Mary Burke. While not having a collection of her own, she did provide interested contacts for curio purchase (personal correspondence). Mary Burke died in 1909 (*Budget* 29.4.1909), and there is no evidence of Alex collecting after this association ends. The notion that most of the collection pre-dates the first decade of this century is further enhanced by his son who claims that his father acquired all the



Above: Identification of artefacts in the collection that also appear on the arch
 . denotes not a positive identification.

Below: Plate 5. The Budget Aboriginal Native Arch, Alex Morrison in the foreground



THE "BUDGET" ABORIGINAL NATIVE ARCH.

Aboriginal weapons before he married in 1910 (Don Morrison pers. comm.). The collection was housed in the upstairs rooms, in the family home, which were set up as a museum. Many of the artefacts were displayed in glass cabinets or hung around the walls.

By 1910 the family home was firmly occupied by Alex and his newly married wife Lottie, by which time his mother had died and his father had become very ill. The general store had closed down, with the newspaper taking up much of the ground floor. About this time Alex became district coroner, a position he held for thirty years (*Singleton Argus* June 1955). His wife, who had been a music instructor, established her own school in the house. The gardens, which were quite large, supported a small zoo and an open-air theatre which was known as 'The Lyric Wintergarden'. Lottie would play the piano and her students would give recitals. Later they showed movie films. 'A night at "The Lyric" was always Singleton's social occasion of the week' (C. Foggo pers. comm.).

In spite of the obvious measures of display and the much visited gardens, the collection was never opened to the public. By the 1920s there is a general lack of interest towards the local Aborigines. The St Clair Mission operated until 1918 when it was taken over by the Aborigines Protection Board and renamed Mount Olive Reserve. It was finally abandoned in 1928 (J. Miller pers. comm.)⁴ and those that returned to Singleton were so few that they were able to live in one house in the town (C. Foggo pers. comm.). Perhaps this lack of interest was partly caused by the Aborigines themselves, who by this stage tended to repress any cultural identity as they competed in a European community. Read explains:

In the 1920s there were powerful pressures acting upon those who desired to succeed and to conform to the dominant ethos in thought as well as in action. And in their search for a stable identity the men perhaps fell victim to a widely held, and still prevalent, conviction in both black and white society that Aboriginal culture was dead in New South Wales [Read 1980: 112].

Alex died on 31 May 1955 (Obituary, *Singleton Argus* 1.6.1955), by which time the Budget newspaper, which had suffered flagging fortunes, was forced to close down after major flooding in February 1955. The Morrison house backed onto the Hunter River, and was in the part of Singleton that suffered the most damage (many objects in the collection have stains which would appear to be water marks). The collection was left to his wife and

Plate 7 Morrison's General Store, the Budget office and the family home in John Street, Singleton, circa 1900

Plate 8 The Morrison family home, circa 1970



son, Don Morrison. They did not show any interest in developing or expanding the collection, but did maintain the original display. By this stage, only a small number of people knew of its existence, and as before, only a select few were allowed to view the display. F.A. Davidson who was a ~~dentist~~ *chemist* in Singleton told F.D. McCarthy about the collection in the 1940s but they were not allowed to see it (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.) and as S. Kellner notes:

I knew about that collection when I visited Singleton in 1958, but the widow of the collector refused to unlock the 'sacred door' housing the collection [S. Kellner, Valuer for the Committee on Tax Incentives for the Arts - valuation certificate 25.6.1979].

The collection was maintained in its original condition until the late 1960s, when Don Morrison sent some of the artefacts to a Lion Park (possibly the Marbuk Park at Port Macquarie), that was intending to establish a museum (J. Magers pers. comm.). The museum idea folded and the artefacts were sent back to Don Morrison after they had been stored in an old hut for a number of years. (This could explain the dryness of the wood in some of the artefacts that has caused cracking, particularly in the clubs.) It was during this time that the 'Lyric' was forced to close down, after the Council demanded certain improvements in facilities. In 1973 Don Morrison was visited by an antique and curio dealer, John Magers, who heard of the collection while looking for Aboriginal weapons in a local antique shop. He was probably the first person in years to be able to see the collection and viewed the artefacts as they had been arranged by Alex in his museum room (J. Magers pers. comm.). Don Morrison did not then sell any of the artefacts, in fact until this time he had considered the collection worthless.

However in February 1974 Don Morrison held a public auction in Newcastle to sell most of Alex's books and journals, about fifty Aboriginal artefacts were also included (see Appendix 1 for catalogue of Aboriginal weapons). Magers who had maintained correspondence was able to purchase most of the wooden artefacts prior to the auction (J. Magers pers. comm.). By 1974-5 the Morrison house was in a general state of disrepair, and was resumed by the DMR to build a new levee to keep out floodwaters and a new bridge across the river. The house was eventually demolished after a fire had destroyed the building. Fortunately most of the contents had been moved to Don Morrison's new house in Newcastle (C. Foggo pers. comm.).

Plate 9 The Morrison house on fire, 1975

Plate 10 The Morrison house demolished by the DMR, 1975



Don Morrison who could not store all his family paraphernalia, sold about sixty of the better Aboriginal artefacts to his now trusted friend J. Magers in 1975. Throughout this period Don Morrison did not consider donating any of the collections to any relevant institutions. Even the local Historical Society Museum in Singleton does not have a single item from the Morrison house. By 1980 Magers had purchased, among other things, all the remaining Aboriginal wooden artefacts, with the intention of setting up his own museum (J. Magers pers. comm.). In spite of this he acted very much the dealer, selling most of the artefacts as soon as they were purchased. In 1975 he sold fifty-three artefacts to B. Edwards for the National Ethnographic Collection. The rest of the collection has been bought by the Australian Museum on three separate occasions, two personal sales in 1979 and 1982 consisting of eighty and fifty wooden artefacts respectively. A further fifteen items were purchased in 1981 when Magers held a general auction of Aboriginal artefacts which consisted of a number of Morrison artefacts.

The purchase by the museums constitutes a rediscovery of the collection and illustrates the renewed interest in Aboriginal material culture. How much of the original collection has been dispersed is not known. Alex probably kept records of his acquisitions, but their whereabouts remain a mystery.⁵ The only positive record of the artefacts being in Alex's possession is the 'Budget arch' photograph of 1904. There are about two hundred and thirty artefacts visible, of which about seventy can be tentatively recognised as present in the collection today⁶ (see Plate 5). There are probably a number of artefacts, particularly the boomerangs, that are present in both instances but cannot be specifically identified. Similarly there are a number of artefacts that are distinctive in the arch photographs that do not exist in the collections. Alex also made further acquisitions after 1904, so the photograph while providing a valuable record, does not illustrate the total extent of the collection. Parts of the collection were most probably distributed to fellow collectors during Alex's time. Magers assures me that he purchased all of the collection except some of the artefacts in the Newcastle auction and that he has subsequently sold everything that belonged to Morrison to the museums.

The artefacts purchased for the National Ethnographic Collection have been stored since 1975 and like much of their collection, will not be seen

on display for some time. Some of the objects purchased by the Australian Museum are now being prepared for its new Aboriginal exhibition. Such a gallery illustrates the changing public and official attitudes towards the Aboriginal people since the late 19th century, when they were commonly considered as merely another curious item of Australian natural history. The display reflects a conscious appreciation and desire by the community in general to illustrate and understand Aboriginal adaptability and expression as seen through their cultural items. That some of the collection is already on display at the Woolitji Cultural Centre in Maclean and the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, NSW Government, is an indication of a vastly different appreciation the same artefacts received when last on display in 1904.

FOOTNOTES

2. No firm date of the establishment of the mission has been discovered, but it would seem around 1900 as there was a petition in Singleton in 1895 to remove the Aborigines from the town, and the Rev. White died in 1902 (Cameron 1905:278).
3. There was only a small box of personal mail, all from the first decade of this century remaining, these have been stored in the Newcastle University Library archives.
4. I received this information as this thesis was about to be printed, and there was not time to carry out further research into the history of the mission before it was due to be submitted.
5. There might be some documentation concerning the collection in any remaining family papers, however his son Don Morrison would not allow me to investigate this possible source when I visited him at his home in Newcastle.
6. The original photograph, held by the Australian Museum, is a lot clearer than the reproduced copy in the text.
1. There are only a limited number of copies of The Singleton Budget presently available. The Newcastle University Library archives have a small number of copies that once belonged to Alex Morrison, mainly dating from the 1920s. The only other known copies are consecutive issues dating from 1899-1907, held in the NSW State Public Library.

CHAPTER 2

CONTACT HISTORY AND HUNTER VALLEY WOODEN ARTEFACTS

The items within the collection will be discussed in the next chapter. Before such discussion it is important to illustrate the prevailing attitudes and treatment towards the Aborigines in the Hunter Valley during the 19th century. This will be with particular reference to not only the conditions of their original acquisition but also to the influences that would effect the type and form of many of the artefacts in the collection. It is hoped such consideration and an overall survey of the ethnohistorical literature will provide a background to further discussion on certain aspects of Hunter Valley material culture. Many of the artefacts in the collection would have been made during the second half of the 19th century, a time by which traditional Aboriginal society in the Hunter Valley had experienced many changes. A brief discussion of the contact history of the Hunter Valley may illustrate the changing Aboriginal cultural circumstances when Alex Morrison was acquiring much of his collection, by the end of the 19th century.

The Hunter Valley was explored and settled very early after the initial colonisation of Port Jackson in 1788. Surgeon Harris while on an exploring mission on the lower reaches of the Hunter River in 1801 noted:

the natives 'here are remarkably shy, I'm afraid they have been badly used by the white people here some time since [Harris 1915:417].

The Hunter Valley offered a number of advantages to the colonists. Port Stephens provided an excellent harbour that rivalled the celebrated Port Jackson. The lower Hunter provided coal and timber, which were exploited for the Government by convict labour. A permanent settlement was established at the mouth of the river in 1804 which later became known as Newcastle (Wood 1972:1). The middle and upper Hunter provided excellent land for pasture, the navigable river easy access. James Wallis who was

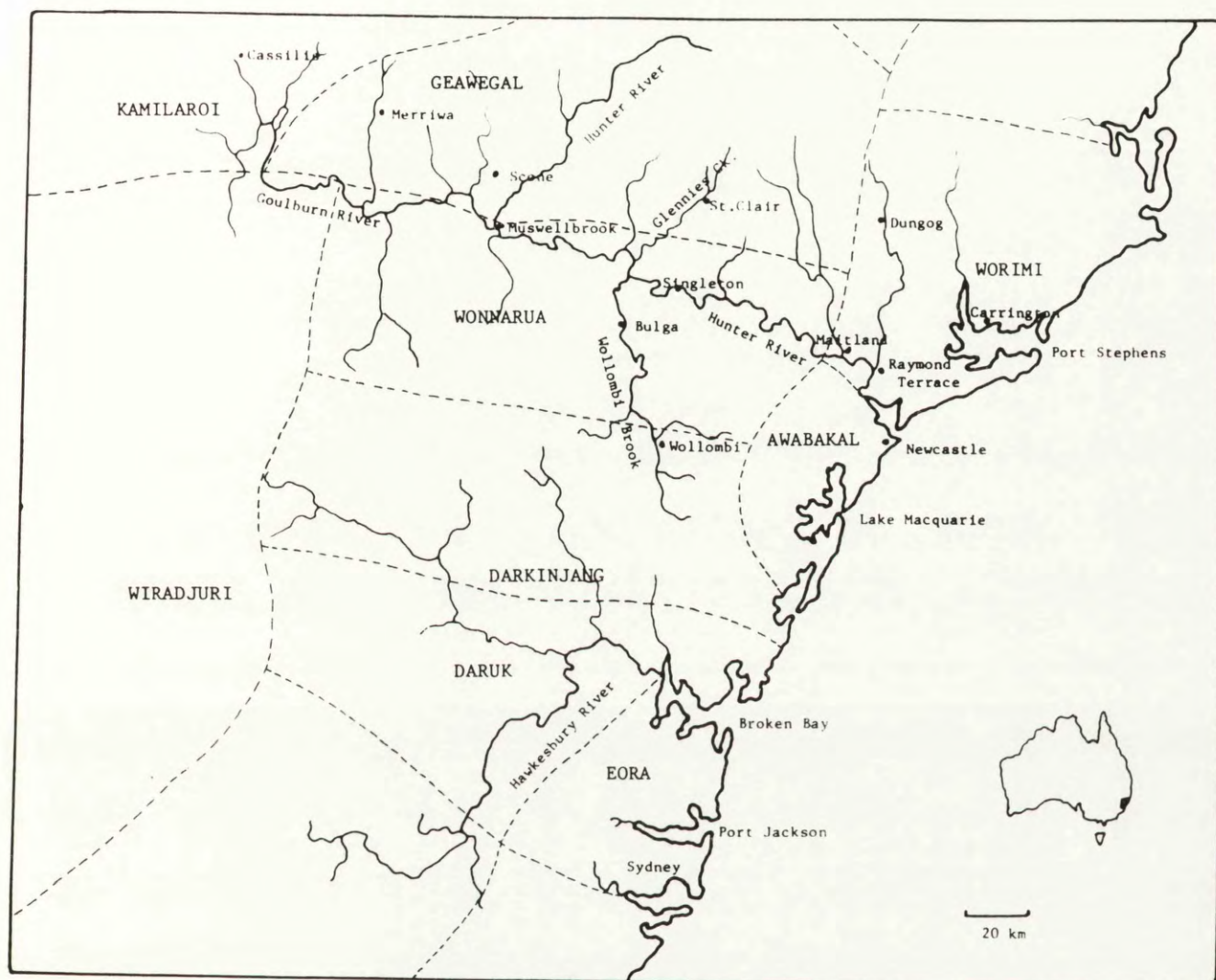


Figure 1 Map of the Hunter and Hawkesbury River systems, with Aboriginal tribal boundaries after Tindale 1974, *Aboriginal tribes of Australia*, Berkeley

in command of the settlement of Newcastle between 1816 and 1818 comments on the valley:

The scenery on the banks of these rivers is very fine; some parts being low and thickly wooded, while other parts present to the view sloping banks, luxuriant herbage, and majestic trees, scattered in beautiful profusion, and assuming the appearance of a gentleman's park in England...When this land is granted, it is likely to become one of the most fertile settlements in the colony... [Wallis 1821:40].

Although the middle Hunter was not settled until 1819, when an overland route from Windsor to what is now Singleton was discovered by J. Howe (Moore 1970:27), most of the good farming land was either granted or reserved for individual purchase by 1825 (Wood 1972:49). Dawson, who established the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens, notes:

I know of no country in the world more calculated as regards climate and situation, for human enjoyment [Dawson 1831:391].

During the 1820s to 1830s there was an uncompromising grab for Hunter Valley land grants by the emigrant gentry. The incompatibility of traditional Aboriginal life with the European interests resulted in inevitable hostility.

The natives are a mild and harmless race of savages, and where any mischief has been done by them the cause has generally arisen, I believe, in bad treatment by their white neighbours...They have been treated as if they had been dogs, and shot by convict servants for trifling causes [Dawson 1831:22].

Dawson's opinion is rather an isolated case with the general feeling towards the Aborigines far from favourable. Breton, who travelled through the Hunter Valley in the early 1830s, illustrates the common prevailing attitude:

Speaking of them collectively, it must be confessed I entertain very little more respect for the Aborigines of New Holland, than for the ourang-outang, in fact I can discover no great difference [Breton 1833:196].

Threlkeld, who established an Aboriginal mission on the shores of Lake Macquarie in 1825 (Gunson 1974:45), reports of an incident from the upper Hunter where an Aboriginal was hung on a tree with a cob of corn in his mouth as a scarecrow to keep away other Aborigines (ibid:49). Robert Scott, of Glendon in the Hunter Valley, illustrates the general mood when giving evidence before the Committee on the Aborigines Question:

If vigorous measures were adopted on the first occasions of offence, they would immediately be taught (what must sooner or later be taught them) that there is other law to which they are amenable, than their own will...men so constituted cannot be kept in check, except by force, and the certainty of instant retaliation. It is useless to deceive ourselves - it is wicked to do so [Scott 1838:15].

Under such policies many atrocities against the Aborigines were committed, without any fear of recrimination, until the much publicised Myall Creek massacre trials in 1838 (see Harrison in McBryde 1978). In this case, seven stockmen from the Liverpool Plains were found guilty and subsequently hung for the murder of almost thirty Aboriginal men, women and children. This decision incensed many settlers who continued depredations with a renewed circumspect vigour.

There is no reliable information on contact Aboriginal numbers in the Hunter Valley, except that the region could have supported a large population. The post-contact figures while also ambiguous do suggest a rapid decline in Aboriginal population in the area. A settler in the Maitland district noted that in 1824 he counted three hundred Aboriginal men in the neighbourhood and that by 1844 less than thirty-six could be found (Wood 1972:16). Wilkes notes a similar rate of decline when he visited Threlkeld's mission at Lake Macquarie:

Mr Threlkeld mentioned that a tribe which occasionally visited the lake, and consisted at the time of his arrival of sixty, is now reduced, after a lapse of fifteen years, to twenty, only five of whom are females [Wilkes 1838, II: 255].

By the middle of the 19th century the Aborigines that remained in the Hunter Valley had experienced many changes, unable to continue many of their pre-contact pursuits. The Aborigines had become dependent on European favours and were commonly found at the large stations (Mitchell 1839:20), or in the growing towns like Newcastle. Threlkeld's mission closed down in 1841 due to the lack of interest of the few surviving Aborigines:

The blacks have nearly forsaken this Lake, having found at Newcastle employment suitable to their habits, some being engaged in fishing, some as water carriers, messengers, servants, and some on board the numerous vessels, according as their services are required. Thus they seldom appear at this place, the employments already stated being more congenial to their taste than any of an agricultural nature... [Gunson 1974:166].

When Alex Morrison was acquiring much of his collection at the end of the 19th century, Aboriginal life in the Hunter Valley was far removed from the early contact observations. It is wrong to assume that those that remained had lost their knowledge of pre-contact life altogether. While realising the obvious effect, it is important to note that many traditions would have been maintained and expressed.

Some indication of the change is clearly seen in the formation of the St Clair Mission, which could only attract a mere handful of Aborigines from a wide area of the Hunter Valley. The photograph of the St Clair Mission Aborigines (see Plate 2) illustrates how wrong Breton's prediction in the 1830s was:

The New Hollanders, like all the Hunter tribes, wish to be entirely unshackled in their movements (nothing is more natural), and they will, in all likelihood, remain so for a long period to come, for civilization is always of slow growth, and it is not likely to advance with rapid strides among wandering savages, who are constantly engaged in warfare, and love a life of liberty and independence [Breton 1833:242].

The artefacts in the collection would have had very little purpose as farming utensils at the St Clair Mission, and considering the general lack of interest in promoting Aboriginal culture at that time, must have been difficult to acquire. This situation would have been aggravated by a steady stream of Aboriginal cultural property leaving Australia, particularly during the second half of the 19th century:

It is probable that no Aboriginal artefact of wood or other perishable material in any Australian Museum is older than about 1840, while they are rare even up to 1870. This means that traditional life was extinguished in many areas, before Australian museums were able to collect representative specimens [Mulvaney 1983:3].

It is possible that Alex Morrison was able to acquire early material from existing private collections, but it would seem that many of the artefacts would have been made during the late 19th century, as a response to the curio craze:

Dear Alex....I have sent the weapons by rail today, so they will arrive as soon as this letter. I paid for them at this end so they ought to go thro. alright. I got the best I could but they are not very good. The blacks now are very lazy and I had great work to get even those I sent. The only inducement was the money with which they bought opium [personal correspondence, postmark unknown, 16.7.1905].

Such conditions and demands would have obviously influenced the artefact emphases on Aboriginal cultural property. Pre-contact material culture in southeastern Australia was much more regionally diverse in design than late 19th century expressions, Cooper explains:

the southeastern people did not continue advantageously to adapt their arts and their lives to the changed circumstances. The causes of the lowering of artistic standards and of the degeneration of designs into repetitious formulae lie not with the tools, but in the loss of the original cultural purpose of the designs and in the declining self esteem of the Aboriginal artists [Cooper 1981:37].

Aboriginal movement was far more extensive than in pre-contact times, once restrictions of tribal boundaries and traditional affiliations were broken. The search for domestic employment and the indiscriminant, often forcible, lure into Aboriginal reserves and schools diffused many aspects of tribal variation. Material culture, in particular weapons, were travelling greater distances than ever before. Bickford notes that while the boomerang was gradually being introduced into the lower Murray region from eastern New South Wales, its movement was greatly accelerated by European involvement (Bickford 1966:120).

The impact of different materials as well as the changing circumstances would also have influenced the type and form of Aboriginal cultural property. Roth notes in the much less affected area of northwest Queensland:

In the old days, i.e. before the advent of the whites, this graving was effected by means of an opossum-tooth or sharp flint fitted into a suitable handle. At the present time, though this primitive method is still occasionally followed, it is rapidly supplanted by iron in its various forms, obtained by filing or grinding down discarded shear-blades, springs, barrel bands, knife blades etc. to the suitable shape required [Roth 1897:143].

In some areas the European tools allowed a greater precision in design as in the Bogan River district (Cooper 1981:37), while in other areas, metal tools did alter Aboriginal reliance on wooden artefacts as well as effecting design:

It is commonly noticed that since the Black has obtained iron implements from us, his carving is carelessly done [Curr 1886, I:148].

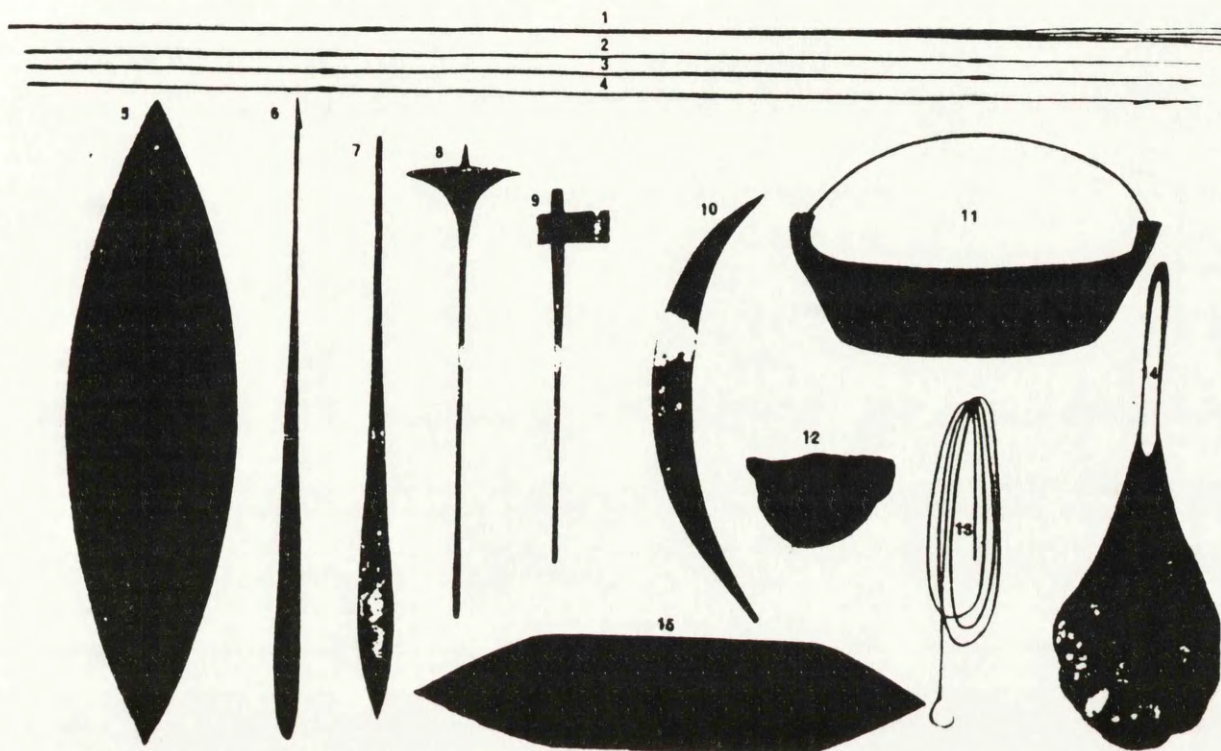


Plate 11 A native camp of Australian savages near Port Stephens, NSW, by Augustus Earle

The changed circumstances as seen in the St Clair Mission would obviously have necessitated European implements as farming tools. Certainly very early in the 19th century the iron hatchet had quickly replaced the Aboriginal equivalent, and metal nails were preferred to the carved spikes of clubs in many regions of southeastern Australia (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.).

While considering the climate of the day, in which Alex Morrison was collecting, it is important to note that such influences do not render the study of the collection pointless. Too often there is a tendency to concentrate on pre-contact cultural activity. While Aboriginal life has experienced many changes since 1788, contrary to popular opinion or prediction the people have survived and the interpretation of their cultural expressions since is every bit as important as the understanding of what preceded contact.

In the absence of any documentation regarding the collection, a survey of the available ethnohistorical literature enables a general description of Hunter Valley material culture. Importantly such observations are from the time period in which this essay is concerned and they are not being used as analogies of pre-contact cultural activity. There are certain problems in relying too heavily on the ethnohistorical literature as a consensus. The observers were often biased by the opinions of the day, the individual and the intention of the documentation. When looking for a specific account of variation and type, the Aborigines were often viewed in the literature, as well as in sketches, on a fairly general level. For example, boomerangs were commonly called swords in early descriptions because they were shaped like a European weapon and were assumed to have been used accordingly (Tench 1961:284). While appreciating the shortcomings within ethnohistorical literature, it is possible to reach a descriptive impression of Hunter Valley material culture. Table 1 provides a list of relevant observations from that corpus. It is not intended to be a definitive list of all the available ethnohistorical sources on the Hunter Valley, nor is it a full inventory of the complete list of material culture items (see Brayshaw 1965). The purpose of the exercise was to illustrate the type of items that also occur in the Morrison collection, and enable a description of these tool types within the framework of a Hunter Valley assemblage.



Native Arms

(Specimens of Arms of the Newcastle district drawn by R. Browne in the Skottowe manuscript)

No. 1	Mooting or Fish Gig	No. 5	Cadgawang or ditto	No. 12	Cooroonang or Calabash in which they carry Water
No. 2		No. 9	Hyba or Hatchet	No. 13	Heringung or Fishing Line
No. 3	Camoy or Spears	No. 10	Wamerung thrown	No. 14	Wallingan or ditto Hook
No. 4			to disperse a Crowd	No. 15	Gienyang or Net
No. 5	Hyllman or Shield	No. 11	Tunde or Basket		
No. 6	Womra or Throwing Stick				
No. 7	Waddy or Battle Club				

Plate 12 'Native Arms', Newcastle, 1813, drawn by R. Browne.
From original Skottowe manuscript, Mitchell Library,
Sydney

The references are of observations from the early contact period up to the end of the 19th century. Many of the early reports are of the Sydney district, their relevance is that many of the descriptions are similar to later accounts in the Hunter district.

Their manners, habits and war-like instruments so clearly resembling each other as to leave no doubt of their having sprung from one common origin [Dawson 1831:33].

The Hunter was being explored not long after the initial settlement at Port Jackson, and many observations of Aborigines could easily have been influenced by Hunter River reports. Both Barralier and Collins visited the Hunter and commented that the weapons were made much the same, only perhaps a little larger than those seen in Sydney, and that they traded with the Hawkesbury and Broken Bay tribes (Gunson 1974:5; Collins 1798:408).

The accounts by Threlkeld, Dawson and Scott are valuable in that all three had lived with the local Aborigines for some time. Their comments are not just passing impressions but descriptions of genuine interest. Scott, whose father was initiated as a member of the Worimi tribe, was born at Port Stephens and played with the Aboriginal children. Although not published until 1929 he had written down observations when he left the area in 1873 (Scott 1929:1). Other accounts such as those of Henderson, Mitchell, Macklehorse and Breton are less specific, preferring to describe the Aborigine as local flavour for the 'home' reader. Their accounts need not necessarily be related just to the Hunter Valley, although Breton does comment that he saw more Aborigines in the Hunter than he did anywhere else (Breton 1833:196). The late 19th century observers, while having less opportunity to witness activities in which traditional integrity was preserved, offer some valuable material, since they had a greater length of contact and achieved greater familiarity with the Aborigines.

Most of the accounts are of observations from the lower Hunter. However the descriptions by Breton, Miller and Fawcett would suggest that the material culture items were similar over the whole area. Wurm has suggested, on the basis of recent linguistic evidence, that the coastal Awabakal had most in common with the inland Wonarua (Gunson 1974:3), and Scott notes:

often some black would feel the urge to make something, becoming suddenly industrious in the manufacture of a

Table 1. Hunter Valley wooden artefacts as reported in the ethnohistorical literature. Spears

Name	Description	Raw material	Reported use	Place and date of observation	Source
	Light stick, 1-4 prongs bound with gum and lashings, barbed with shell or bone	Low gum trees	Fishing	Sydney, 1788	Bradley 1792:126
	10-18 feet, sharp pointed end, 2-3 feet of hard wood secured with gum		Combat	Sydney, 1788	ibid:127
	Long spiral shoot, several prongs, barbed, stone pointed	Yellow gum		Sydney, 1788	Tench 1792:283
	9 feet, shaft two pieces, head four sticks		Fishing	Sydney, 1790	White 1790:200
	8-9 feet, head 18 inches	Reed, ironbark	Fighting	Sydney, 1790	ibid:200
	Several varieties, pointed, barbed, prongs		Several purposes	Sydney/Hunter, 1790s	Collins 1798:585
	18-22 feet		Warfare	Hunter, 1802	Barrallier in Gunson 1970:5
	4, 8-10 feet, three pieces, tip sharpened	Ordinary wood and ironbark	Warfare	Sydney, 1814	Rossiysky in Barratt 1981:23
mootin	12 feet, number of sections, one to four barbed prongs		Fishing	Sydney, 1821	Leigh in Gunson 1970:334
kul-la-ra mo-ting	8 feet, four points, fastened with thread and gum	Grasstree, ironbark	Fishing	Lake Macquarie, 1820s	Threlkeld in Gunson 1970:67
wa-rai	6-7 feet, three sections, end sharpened to a fine point	Grasstree, ironbark	Hunting	Lake Macquarie, 1820s	ibid:61
	9-10 feet, thickness of one's finger, point commonly jagged or barbed, not always			Hunter, 1830	Breton 1833:235
	10 feet, thick as a man's finger, tapering to a point			Sydney/Nth NSW, 1830s	Maclehose 1839:161
	Four long prongs, pointed and barbed, bound with ribbon bark and gum	Grasstree, hardwood	Fishing	Coastal NSW, 1840	Mann 1884:6
	Four to five points from main stem		Fishing	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	Henderson 1851:145
tutti	Stem, four prongs	Grasstree, ironbark	Fishing	Port Stephens, 1860	Scott 1929:18
cummi	Varying sizes according to purpose	Ironbark	Hunting	Port Stephens, 1860	ibid:29
durrane				Hunter, mid. 19th C.	Miller in Curr 1887:352
durrane				Hunter, late 19th C.	Fawcett 1898:153
	8 feet shaft, four prongs, 2 feet	Grasstree, hardwood		Port Stephens, late 19th C.	Enright 1900:115
	One sharpened point, 2 feet	Grasstree, hardwood		Port Stephens, late 19th C.	ibid:116
	Length head 22 inches	White ironbark	Hunting	Hunter, late 19th C.	McKiernan 1911:891

Table 1 (cont'd). Spearthrowers

Name	Description	Raw material	Reported use	Place and date of observation	Source
	Stick 3 ft, peg one end, and other end is fixed a shell		Throwing stick	Sydney, 1788	Bradley:127
	2½ ft stick, one end peg fastened with cement, other shell			Sydney, 1790	White:200
wo-mer-ra	3 ft, hook at one end, other shell	Wattle spit	Knife	Sydney/Hunter 1790s	Collins:585
wig-goon	3 ft, hook at one end, other rounded	Heavy wood	Digging	Sydney/Hunter 1790s	ibid:585
	2-3 ft, hook at one end, other shell		Throwing stick	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1795	Barrington 1810:26
wumaru	3 ft 10 in.			Hunter, 1802	Barrallier:5
wamra			Throwing stick	Sydney, 1821	Leigh:336
wom-mur-rur	4 ft x ½ in., tapers to a point where barb 3/8 in. fixed, other end flat and wedge-like	Hardwood		Lake Macquarie, 1820s	Threlkeld:67
hornerah	Edge thin and sharpish at the flat end		Peel bark from tree	Port Stephens, 1830	Dawson 1831:20
wommora	3 ft 3 in. at broadest end tapering to a point, hook fastened		Throwing stick	Hunter, 1830	Breton:236
wammera	3 ft, slight rod, one end niche to receive the end of the spear			Victoria, NSW, 1830	Mitchell 1839:348
womera	2-3 ft, 3 in. broad at one end, point at other where hook is fastened			Sydney/Nth NSW, 1830s	Maclehose:161
wammerah	3 ft, shape like a long-handled spoon		Paddle	Coastal NSW	Mann 1884:6
womera	flat one end, hook at other		Throwing stick	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	Henderson:144
womerah	2-3 ft, well balanced flat or round piece of wood	Hardwood		Port Stephens, 1860	Scott:30
werrewy			Throwing stick	Hunter, mid. 19th C.	Miller:352
werrewy			Throwing stick	Hunter, late 19th C.	Fawcett:153
wommara	2-3 ft, widest at hand end, tapering, notch sharpened			Port Stephens, late 19th C.	Enright:115
whommerah	3½ ft, 1½ in. wide, tapering to a point, peg attached by gum			Hunter, late 19th C.	McKiernan:890

Table 1 (cont'd). Shields

Name	Description	Raw material	Reported use	Place and date of observation	Source
	Oval shields	Bark of gum tree	Security against spears	Sydney, 1788	Bradley:128
Il-ee-man	Handle fixed in the inside	Bark		Sydney, 1788	Tench:283
	Plain in appearance	Bark of cork tree	Ward off their weapons	Sydney, 1790	White:110
E-lee-mong		Bark of gum tree		Sydney/Hunter, 1790s	Collins:585
Ar-rah-gong		Solid wood, hardened by fire	Resisting the spear	Sydney/Hunter, 1790s	ibid:585
		Bark		Sydney/Nth NSW, 1795	Barrington:26
	2½ ft x 18 in., oval, slightly convex, 1 in. thick, handle attached	Bark of ironwood, red and white paint	Warfare	Sydney, 1814	Rossiysky:23
illaman			Defend in combat	Sydney, 1821	Leigh:336
ko-reil	3 ft x 18 in., lozenge shaped, pointed top and bottom, 1 in. thick, handle inserted in two holes	Figtree, white with red St George cross		Lake Macquarie, 1820s	Threlkeld:68
carrillē		Thick bark, hardened by fire, white pipe-clay and red ochre	Proof against spear	Port Stephens, 1830	Dawson:64
hieleman	2½ ft, tapering to each end, little thickness, handle behind	Wood	Warfare	Victoria, NSW, 1830	Mitchell:349
heliman	Varying size, oval, about 3 ft x 18 in., ¾ in. thick	Standing tree retains natural curve		Coastal NSW	Mann:12
heelamon	2½ ft x 18 in., convex side facing foe, concave within, handle attached	Standing tree, vine handle, black and red design	Warding off spears	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	Henderson:150
tourang	2-3 ft, pointed at ends, hole cut middle of one side for handle		Warding off clubs	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	ibid:150
cooreel	Oval, 2 ft wide, hand grip inserted into two holes	Hardwood, vine	Warfare	Port Stephens, 1860	Scott:31
kooreil/murribi				Hunter, mid. 19th C.	Miller:357
kooreil/murybye				Hunter, late 19th C.	Fawcett:153
	30 in. x 9 in., handle fastened into two bored holes	Mangrove wood, pipe-clay and red stripes		Port Stephens, late 19th C.	Enright:116
ben-dool-gun	Three sided, tapering to points			Port Stephens, late 19th C.	ibid:117
	19 in., 2½ in. broad, tapering to ends, one side convex other flat	Ironbark, irregular incised pattern		Hunter, late 19th C.	McKiernan:892

Table 1 (cont'd). Boomerangs

Name	Description	Raw material	Reported use	Place and date of observation	Source
	Hardwood, curved with two handles		Repel the club/sword	Sydney, 1788	Bradley:129
	Large heavy piece of wood shaped like a sabre		Warfare/sword	Sydney, 1788	Tench:284
	18 in., blunt sword	Hardwood		Sydney, 1790	White:201
	3 ft x 2½ in., curved like a sword	Smooth piece of wood		Sydney, 1820	Bellingshausen in Barratt 1981:86
wamereen		Heavy wood		Sydney, 1821	Leigh:336
yir-ra	Handle at one end with a bend contrary to the blade		Warfare/sword	Lake Macquarie, 1820s	Threlkeld:68
tur-rur-ma	Seldom more than 3 ft, varying curve, sharp bend returning		Warfare, amusement	Lake Macquarie, 1820s	ibid:68
	Hurling curious weapons of war			Port Stephens, 1830	Dawson:108
	Various forms, throwing straight 30-40 in., widest in middle tapering to a point and returning shape	Hardwood	Hunting, amusement	Hunter, 1830	Breton:237
	Held in hand, occasionally thrown		Combat/club	Hunter, 1830	ibid:238
	28 in., one side convex and sometimes carved, other flat and plain	Curved parts of acacia or hardwood		Victoria, NSW, 1830	Mitchell:348
	30-40 in., 2½-3 in. wide at middle tapering to the ends	Hardwood		Sydney/Nth NSW, 1830s	Maclehose:161
	18 in. to 3 ft or more, varies in size, flat curved piece of wood	Natural bend of a tree branch or root		Coastal NSW	Mann:7
	2-2½ ft, thin and flat, 2-3 in. broad, some curve, some sharp bend	Roots of brush trees		Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	Henderson:145
	Two varieties - slightly curved and sharply curved	Wild myrtle, hardened by fire	Hunting, toy	Port Stephens, 1860s	Scott:30
tootoo-kera burragan			Fighting, toy, hunting birds	Hunter, mid. 19th C.	Miller:352
tootoo-kera burragan			Fighting, toy	Hunter, late 19th C.	Fawcett:153
burragan tūree				Port Stephens, late 19th C.	Enright:115
	29 in. from tip to tip	Root of white ironbark		Hunter, late 19th C.	McKiernan:892

Table 1 (cont'd). Clubs

Name	Description	Raw material	Reported use	Place and date of observation	Source
	3 ft, different shapes, some pointed	Hardwood	Fighting	Sydney, 1788	Bradley:128
	Handle carved to give a good hold, smooth and sharp at both ends, 2-3 ft long, 2-3 in. broad	Hardwood	Fighting/sword	Sydney, 1788	ibid:128
	2 ft stick of natural root cut into large knob, other end rough with notches for handle	Tree root		Sydney, 1790	White:201
	Several sorts, some very large dimensions			Sydney/Hunter, 1790s	Collins:585
	Various sorts, some large and long	Sometimes carved		Sydney/Nth NSW	Barrington:26
sagay	3-3½ ft, shaft slender, thickens towards end	Hardwood	Fighting/bludgeon	Sydney, 1814	Rossiysky:23
		Wood	Close combat/nullah nullah	Sydney, 1821	Leigh:336
			Fighting/waddy	Sydney, 1821	ibid:336
kōt-tir-rir	Sort of cudgel		Warfare	Lake Macquarie, 1820s	Threlkeld:71
			Close combat	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1825	Cunningham 1827:10
	Formed like a large kitchen poker, and nearly as heavy, only shorter	Ironbark	Warfare/waddy	Port Stephens, 1830	Dawson:66
	No small solidity		Combat	Hunter, 1830	Breton:239
malga	Pickaxe with one half broken off, thickest at the angle		Warfare/pickaxe	Victoria, NSW, 1830s	Mitchell:269
	Different sizes and solidity			Sydney/Nth NSW, 1830s	Maclehose:162
	Vary in shape, handle upright stem	Root of a tree	Nullah nullah	Coastal NSW	Mann:12
		Standing tree	Held in hand, or thrown at animals	Coastal NSW	ibid:12
	Ending in a large ball bigger than a man's fist, handle to prevent passing out of hand		War	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	Henderson:148
	No abrupt knob, but sloping gradually to a moderate thickness, then a point			Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	ibid:149
	2 ft, 1 in. or less in diameter		Knocking down pademelons	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	ibid:129
copeng	Flat right angle beak, broad at angle, pointed at shorter end	Bend in tree root	Warfare/battle-axe	Sydney/Nth NSW, 1850	ibid:148
	3-3½ ft, neatly fashioned and perfectly balanced, tapering end	Carved designs	Fighting/wattie	Port Stephens, 1860	Scott:31
	Head of some description, hammer or ball	Ironbark	Fighting/nullah nullah	Port Stephens, 1860	ibid:31
boon-dhee, goothera	26 in., larger 35 in.	Ironbark, myrtle	War, throwing at animals	Port Stephens, late 19th C.	Enright:117
koo-pin		Black oak	Warding off spears and attacking/pickaxe	Port Stephens, late 19th C.	ibid:117

Table 1 (cont'd). Canoes

Name	Description	Raw material	Reported use	Place and date of observation	Source
	Worst I ever saw, 12-14 feet, one piece of bark, tied up at each end, middle open by thwarts			Botany Bay, 1771	Cook in Beaglehole 1955:305
	The worst I ever heard, piece of bark, gathered up and lashed at both ends, thwarts, 10-20 feet, paddle			Sydney, 1788	Bradley:130
	Large piece of bark, tied up at both ends with vines			Sydney, 1788	Tench:48
	Small and rudely put together			Hunter, 1801	Grant, in Hist. Rec. Aust. 1915:173
	Commonly 11 feet, single strip of bark, ends sewn up with stringy bark, stretchers	Beefwood		Sydney, 1814	Rossiysky:62
	Most simple in the known world, 10-12 feet, ends tied up with vines, spread open with stretchers			Sydney, 1821	Leigh:336
	12-14 feet x 3-4 feet, pliable by fire, ends folded like a fan, tied with vines and a stick, stretchers			Lake Macquarie, 1820s	Threlkeld:54
	Made of bark, managed with a paddle			Port Stephens, 1830	Dawson:79
	8-12 feet, pliable by fire, ends gathered, secured by ties of bark and skewers, stretchers, paddle with a wammerali	Stringybark		Coastal NSW	Mann:5
	Sheet of bark, pliable by fire, ends bent upwards and plaited, sticks keep them together, stretchers, cracks filled with clay	Stringybark		Sydney/Nth NSW	Henderson:153
cooeying	Bark, pliable by fire, ends turned up tied with vines, gaps between ties plugged with clay, stretchers, 15 feet, paddles of hardwood in shape of a large spoon	Stringybark		Port Stephens, 1860	Scott:32
buba				Hunter, mid. 19th C.	Miller:354

* Enright notes that by 1900 the bark canoe was never used by the Aborigines of Port Stephens, who by then preferred a European conventional boat for fishing (p.115).

large number of weapons intended to be exchanged for other articles with members of one of the neighbouring tribes [Scott 1929:14].

As well as diffusion through the cultural exchange of items, ideas and presentation would become more standardised under the enforced tribal reorganisation into centralised camps like the St Clair Mission.

The ethnohistorical literature when considered as a whole does suggest possible trends within the Hunter Valley. Discussion of these traits will illustrate a corpus of Hunter Valley wooden artefacts and will enable a regional description of the collection itself in the next chapter. The basic wooden tool types did include spears, spearthrowers, boomerangs, clubs and shields, and discussion will be based on these broad categories, that also are present in the collection.

SPEARS

Two kinds of spears are recorded as used in the Hunter Valley, the fishing and hunting/war spear. The fishing spear consisted of an 8 feet shaft (243 cm) approx., often made out of the stem of the grass-tree, *Xanthorrhoea arborea*, or in the lower Hunter out of the gigantic lily, *Doryanthes excelsa* (Sokoloff 1974:35). Inserted into the shaft are a number of prongs, usually between three and four up to about 2 feet (61 cm) in length. A small piece of wood was often placed between the prongs to hold them in place, bound to the shaft with animal sinew or kurrajong fibre. The prongs were often made out of fire-hardened iron-bark, and were either a sharpened point or barbed with shell, stone or bone. The shaft of the hunting/war spear was about the same length as the fishing spear, and also often made out of the stem of the grass-tree. Barralier's estimate of 18-22 feet would appear to be a little extreme. The head consisted of a single sharpened piece of hardwood, often ironbark, *Eucalyptus crebra*, *E. siderophloia* or *E. loucoxylon* (ibid:35). The head was usually about 2 feet (61 cm), inserted into a split in the shaft and bound in the same fashion as the fishing spear.

SPEARTHROWER

The spearthrower of the Hunter Valley is similar to the general description of the spearthrower of central coastal New South Wales (Davidson 1936:480). It is about 2-3 feet (61-91 cm) in length, made out

of hardwood. It is often shaped like a spoon, wider at one end, about 3 inches (7.5 cm) and tapered to a point at the other. The hook or peg is either a separate piece of wood attached to the thin end or carved out of the solid. The spearthrower which has a shell affixed to the hand end is not found in the Hunter, being restricted to the Sydney region.

BOOMERANGS

The boomerangs were of various lengths and shapes, as Threlkeld illustrates:

Just as the curve of all scymitars though made of the best Damascus steel, are not alike; so likewise, the curve of the Australian Boomerang... [Gunson 1974:68].

The larger ones which were used mainly for hunting and warfare, usually had a slight curve and were about 2-3 feet (61-91 cm) in length and 2-3 inches (5-7.5 cm) broad. The smaller variety were sharply curved, often designed to return to the thrower, if it did not come in contact with anything in flight. The boomerangs of the Hunter Valley were usually wide in the middle, tapering to the ends, although the larger ones sometimes had one end larger than the other and used in close combat. They were often made out of ironbark or myrtle, *Trochocarpus laurina* or *Syzygium australia* (Sokoloff 1974:35). They were not carved with any elaborate design, being commonly plain and greased with animal or plant oils to retain the shape (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.).

CLUBS

There are a large variety of clubs within the Hunter Valley, and as with the boomerangs, it is hard to distinguish different types. The larger ones were up to about 3½ feet (106 cm) in length and usually had a marked head or knoll. These were seldom thrown but used in close combat. The smaller ones were about 2-3 feet (61-91 cm) with either a slight or no increase in diameter along the shaft. These were often pointed at both ends and unlike the larger clubs were usually thrown. Some of them would have incised designs, as Scott notes:

Some of them were notched at intervals along their whole length, or else carved in fantastic patterns [Scott 1929:31].



Plate 13 Weapons collected during wanderings amongst the aboriginals upon the shores of Port Stephens by W.J. Enright

The studding with hob-nails was common in eastern Australia in the 19th century (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.), but the elaborately carved heads were not present in the Hunter Valley. The beaked club, which is shaped like a modern pick-axe also is recorded. In Victoria it is known as a Leonile or Leangle and in the Clarence region of New South Wales the Coupon (Etheridge 1894:319). Enright describes a similar weapon that was used to ward off spears as a koo-pin (Enright 1900:117), however, Breton probably best illustrates its main advantage:

that the warrior may be enabled to strike round the shield, or eleman, of his adversary [Breton 1833:238].

SHIELDS

The main type of shield was oval or lozenge in shape, between 2-3 feet (61-91 cm) in length and up to 18 inches (46 cm) at the centre, tapering to pointed ends. At the centre two holes were bored and a hand grip of vine was inserted. The upper surface was convex, with a general thickness of about an inch (2.5 cm), and often decorated with a painted design. It was made out of the bark of the ironbark and the mangrove, *Avicennia marina* (Sokoloff 1974:35). A second type was present, which was triangular in section, up to two feet in length and about 3 inches (7.5 cm) broad. It was carved out of a piece of hardwood with the handle cut out of the solid. This type was known as a 'parry shield' and was mainly used in close combat while the larger one was used against spears (see Plate 13).

Two canoes and a message stick are also present in the collection. Message sticks were used by the Aborigines of the Hunter, but there is no detailed description as Scott notes:

These passports had gone out of use by the time I was able to note their customs [Scott 1929:33].

The canoe used in the Hunter Valley was the southeastern coastal/estuarine tied bark canoe. It was about 12 feet (365 cm) in length and up to 3-4 feet (91-121 cm) at its greatest width. It consisted of a single sheet of bark cut from the stringybark, *Eucalyptus obliqua/eugenioides* and *E. capitellata* (Sokoloff 1974:36). The ends were made pliable by fire and folded like a fan (see Plates 14 and 15), these were sometimes turned up and made secure

Plate 14 An Aborigine peeling a cylinder of bark to make
a canoe



Plate 15 Aborigines preparing to fold and tie the ends after heating the bark



with a peg and ties of vine, *Flagellaria indica* (ibid:36). Stretchers were often placed to maintain the outward and upward turn of the sides, and clay used to plug any cracks or holes.

The above descriptions do not represent the Hunter Valley material culture in totality. The Hunter Valley in terms of economic potential was very rich. The ease of available resources enabling more time for other activities, such as the manufacture of weapons (McCarthy 1957:92). Digging sticks, stone hatchets and scrapers, bark and fibre containers, fishing equipment, bark dwellings, fur cloaks and other personal ornamentation are all part of a Hunter Valley material culture corpus which illustrates the richness of the environment. These artefacts are described in Brayshaw (1966) and will not be further discussed here as they are not relevant to the artefacts in the collection. However the wider material culture context in to which the artefacts in the collection can be placed should be remembered.

CHAPTER 3

THE COLLECTION

After much preliminary research, the artefacts within the Morrison collection can now be considered. One of the main purposes of this essay was to recognise in more detail the emphasis and standard of wooden artefacts within the range of Hunter Valley material culture. The ethno-historical literature has enabled a suggestion, and it is hoped the artefacts represented in the collection will provide a more complete corpus for further identification. For this reason the artefacts will be discussed under two broad distinctions, of those items in the collection that are most likely of Hunter Valley origin and those that probably have a wider provenance.

The Morrison collection consists of one hundred and ninety two wooden artefacts. There is also a set of thirty-seven postcards, one string bag, one whip handle and one bullroarer that have not been recorded and will not be discussed. Of the wooden artefacts only one hundred and seventy seven have been recorded, the outstanding fifteen items were on loan from the Australian Museum at the time of recording and will not be included in this essay. The National Ethnographic Collection has a total of fifty-three artefacts and the Australian Museum has one hundred and twenty four. An indication of the range and number of items present in each collection is listed in Table 2, and illustrates the bias towards boomerangs and clubs which make up 86% of the total collection.

Table 2 Number of Morrison items registered in the museum collections

	NEC	%	AM	%	Total	%
Spears	2	3.8	3	2.4	5	2.8
Spearthrowers	6	11.3	1	0.8	7	3.9
Shields	3	5.6	6	4.8	9	5.1
Boomerangs	20	37.8	63	50.8	83	46.9
Clubs	21	39.6	49	39.5	70	39.5
Message sticks	1	1.9	-	-	1	0.6
Canoes	-	-	2	1.6	2	1.1

The collection will be treated as a whole, with discussion within the broad categories as defined in Table 2. It is important to note that not all the items in the collection need have necessarily belonged to Alex Morrison. With most of the sales, particularly to the National Ethnographic Collection, J. Magers did include a certain number of objects from his personal collection (J. Magers pers. comm.). Without documentation it is hard to determine which artefacts were originally his, but are most likely provenanced outside the Hunter Valley. Some of the items which were most probably his will be mentioned in the text and noted in Appendix 3. In both the National Ethnographic Collection and the Australian Museum the artefacts are identified as the 'Magers Collection'. As his contribution is only within the region of about 5% (J. Magers pers. comm.) of the total collection, this essay will continue to regard the artefacts as the 'Morrison collection'.

Because of the eclectic nature of the collection and the lack of documentation it is difficult to accurately provenance each item. Such analysis has been dependent on the available literature and comparisons with artefacts that are adequately provenanced. There is a common tendency within the literature to regard the many aspects of Aboriginal culture on very general terms. While some authors do provide information specific to certain localities, many viewed the Aborigines as a whole:

One of the most remarkable facts connected with [the Aborigines] is that over the entire continent, from Swan River to Sydney, from Melbourne to the Gulf of Carpentaria, they are so similar in appearance, complexion, customs and language, in their weapons and manner of fighting and hunting, that it would appear as if they were all descended from one canoe-load of people [Lang 1865:4].

The definition of regional diversity is further clouded, not only by the wide variation displayed in Aboriginal material culture, but also by the medium of wood which encourages diversity in form:

In form, in length, and in weight, the boomerangs which return vary a good deal. The men who are most skilful in shaping these instruments rarely make two of the same pattern [Smyth 1876:311].

While being aware of this diversity, a regional identification of wooden artefact types within the geographical boundary of the Hunter Valley will be attempted. Also certain distinct attributes will be discussed to add to the already existing literature on form and distribution

of these items within Australia. In the following text, not every single object will be considered. For a more specific description on any individual artefact and a pencil drawing to scale see Appendix 3. Due to variable features, the artefacts will be discussed within the parameters of the standard categories, as set out in Table 2.

Wood lends itself readily to the development of varieties of the one object, as the carver would obviously follow the grain or peculiarities of his medium in the fashioning of any one article [Massola 1965:175].

Lastly it is worth noting that for much of the identification of the following artefacts the work of D.S. Davidson has proved invaluable. The last of his papers were published in 1936 and are still applicable in 1983 as they remain today the only comprehensive attempt at regional distribution and typological analysis of Aboriginal wooden artefacts. This can only illustrate the worth in the study of ethnographic collections, which can provide a much neglected research base in an equally neglected aspect of Aboriginal culture.

HUNTER VALLEY MATERIAL CULTURE AS REPRESENTED IN THE COLLECTION

Spears

M173-M175 are composite spears, made in two sections. The shafts are long and thin, with a head inserted bound with string and cemented with resin. The heads are sharply pointed single lengths of worked hardwood. Only two of the spears have the head intact, each with about 50 cm of blackened resin from the tip.

Spearthrowers

The two examples M45 and M163 have a wide flat handle with the hook carved out of the solid. The pointed ends and the spoon-like shape of the artefacts suggest they could have been used as a digging stick or paddle as is reported in the literature (see Table 1).

Shields

The four shields are the parrying type and are triangular in section. The wide broad shield reported in the Hunter Valley is not represented in

Plate 16 Aborigines practising traditional life with traditional implements



the collection, although one is illustrated being held by an Aborigine on the 'Budget arch' (see Plate 5). The design on the upper surface of M49 suggests that it might not be of local provenance, however its basic shape, like the other three, is similar to the parrying shield collected by Enright (see Plate 13). The other examples are distinct in their lack of any apparent function. M169, which has a post-contact branch/leaf incised design on all sides, is extremely light and would prove very ineffective in parrying the blows of a club. M167 and M170 both made at the St Clair Mission are very small. M167, the larger of the two, has been stored within the section of children's toys for the intended Aboriginal Gallery in the Australian Museum.

Boomerangs

There are a large number of boomerangs making up nearly half of the total number of artefacts within the collection. They exhibit a wide range of type and variation, however, any further distinction is not attempted, as Davidson comments:

Any present attempt to classify boomerangs into types and varieties meets so many difficulties that the attempt is futile [Davidson 1936:81].

Discussion of distinction as returning and non-returning is also very misleading, as the shape need not necessarily determine its flight (Roth 1897:129; Davidson 1936:93). The boomerang will not retain its original shape if it is not properly maintained, even when it is stored on a humidity controlled museum shelf the boomerang can twist or warp (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.). M115 which is 74.5 x 5.7 cm with a curve at 4° and M121 which is 31.5 x 4.9 cm with a curve at 37° illustrate the degree of variation. The provenance of many of the boomerangs is a little uncertain, however those listed in Appendix 3 all fit within the parameters set by the relevant literature for the Hunter Valley. The only exception could be M9-M11 which closely resemble those described by McBryde for the Richmond River area (McBryde 1978:157). M112 is distinct in that it has one end wider than the other, giving it a club-like appearance. Its shape is somewhere between the classic features of the Lil lil (Breton 1833:234) and the Quirriang-an-wun (Smyth 1876:315). The boomerang appearance would suggest it would have been thrown rather than held. It is probably of local provenance, although Cooper describes a similar weapon from northern Victoria (Cooper 1975:31).



Plate 17 King Boomerang. Chief of Dungog, NSW

Clubs

Like the boomerangs, there are a large number of clubs in the collection also displaying a wide range of variation. A loose classification exhibited between the clubs is determined by the shape of the club head which ranges from a straight stick to a distinct knoll. The distinctions in the text are very tentative as the clubs exhibit more a progression of shape variation than separate design categories. There are seven throwing sticks of which M34-M36 have a modern varnish which could suggest they might have belonged to J. Magers and need not necessarily have come from the Hunter Valley. M36, pyriform in cross-section, has one side blade-like and could have been held in the hand. There are a further twenty-three clubs each of different head shape ranging from the slight bulb of M134 to the knob-like head of M54. M24 and M25 are decorated with elaborate incised designs. These, although found in other parts of southeast Australia (Aboriginal Australia 1981:90) are reported in the area (Scott 1929:31) and are similar to those on a club once owned by the noted Bungaree (I. McBryde pers. comm.), now held in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford from the Hardy collection. M28 is shaped like a policeman's truncheon and may have belonged to Magers. M123, M122, M168 and M171 are from the St Clair Mission and like the shields are very small and light and do not give the appearance of a threatening weapon.

There also are four hob-nail studded clubs and five beaked clubs. M40 is very small, which suggests a doubtful function as a weapon, it and M39 which has a slight bulb at the handle may not be of Hunter Valley origin. It is worth noting that none of the clubs in the collection possess the elaborately carved butts common to those found in Victoria (see Aboriginal Australia 1981:96). There are three more clubs which have a blade-like head. M58 is identical to the weapon drawn by Collins in 1788 in the Sydney area (see Gunson 1974:152). M72 is a curious weapon in that it is shaped like a European sword. Such a weapon was present in the Sydney area (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.), but provenance is doubtful as the only close comparison is of an artefact from Rockingham Bay (Smyth 1876:303).

Canoe

There is one tied bark canoe, M177, in the collection. This type of canoe was restricted to coastal southeast Australia. The dimensions of this example closely resemble those described in the ethnohistorical literature for the Hunter Valley. It is in fairly poor condition, with a number of large cracks, particularly at the folded ends, where the ties are missing. The canoe illustrates the potential of wood as a raw material and the range of cultural property that relies on that medium. It also suggests a craftsmanship well beyond the perception of many of the early observers such as Leigh:

Their canoes are the most simple in the known world yet answer all the purposes of their no less simple owners [Gunson 1974:336].

NON-HUNTER VALLEY MATERIAL CULTURE AS REPRESENTED IN THE COLLECTION

Spears

There are two spears, M52 and M53, which have a long thin shaft, tipped with a quartzite head which is bound to the shaft by twine and resin. This type is restricted to the northern part of the Northern Territory (Davidson 1934:151). The stone points are in very good condition which suggest that they have been used very little.

Spearthrowers

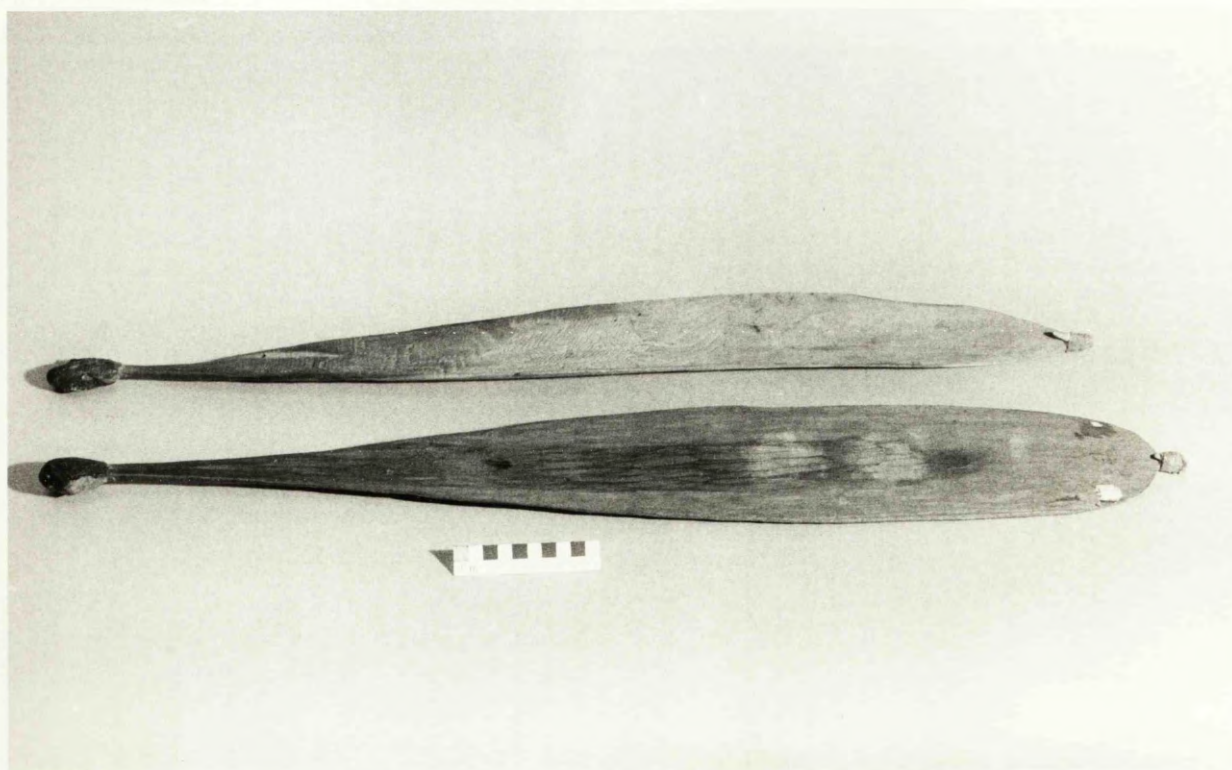
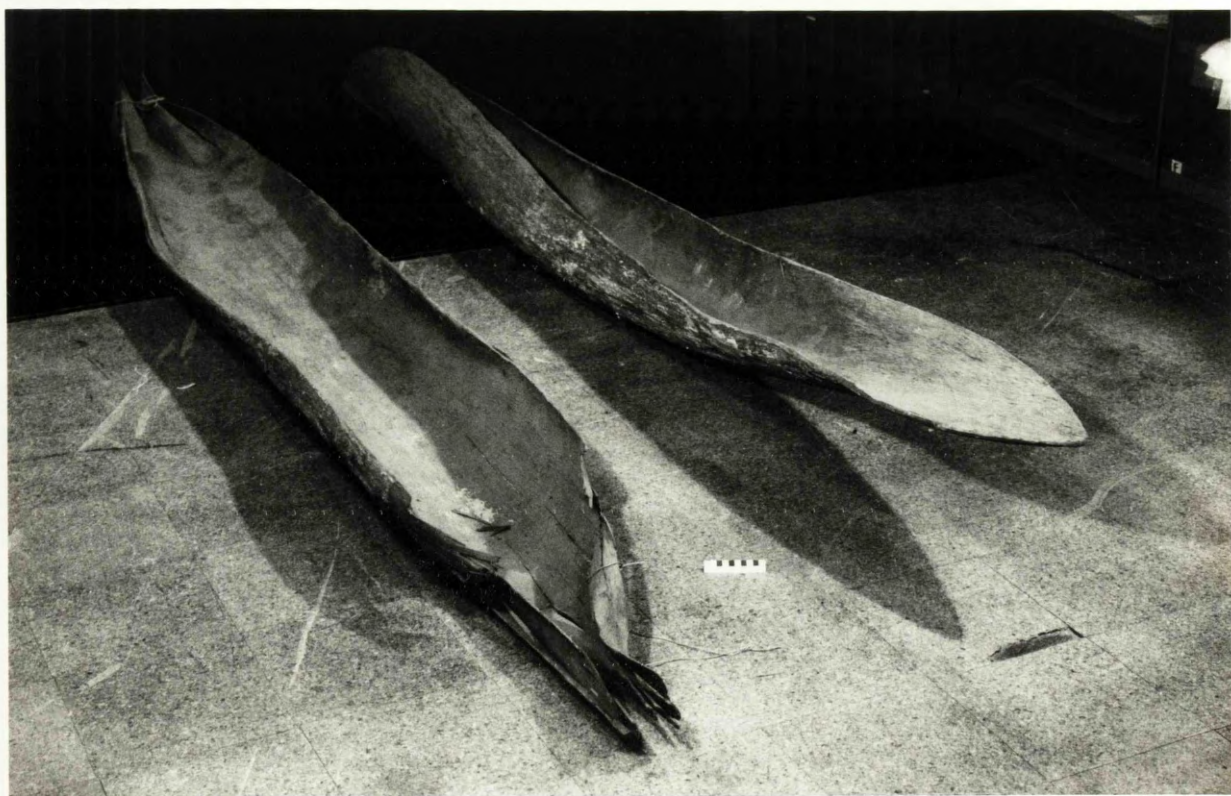
The five spearthrowers exhibit two distinct varieties. M46 and M47 are broad, with the peg attached and a round ball of resin at the hard end. Both have convex-concave surfaces and could have been used as containers. This type is commonly found in the Central Desert and eastern Western Australia (Davidson 1936:465; Aboriginal Australia 1981:126). M42-M44 are made of very light wood, long and thin with notches cut out at one end to form a handle, and are common to northwest Australia (Spencer 1922:43; Davidson 1936:473). All three are decorated with a red ochre, M44 having yellow/brown dots at the handle and hook ends. They have a new appearance, which suggests they may have been purchased by J. Magers relatively recently.



Plate 18 Tied bark canoes in use at Port Jackson, NSW, in 1802

Plate 19 Southeast coastal-estuarine bark canoe, M177, and an
inland-riverine bark canoe, M176

Plate 20 Spearthrowers, M46 and M47



Shields

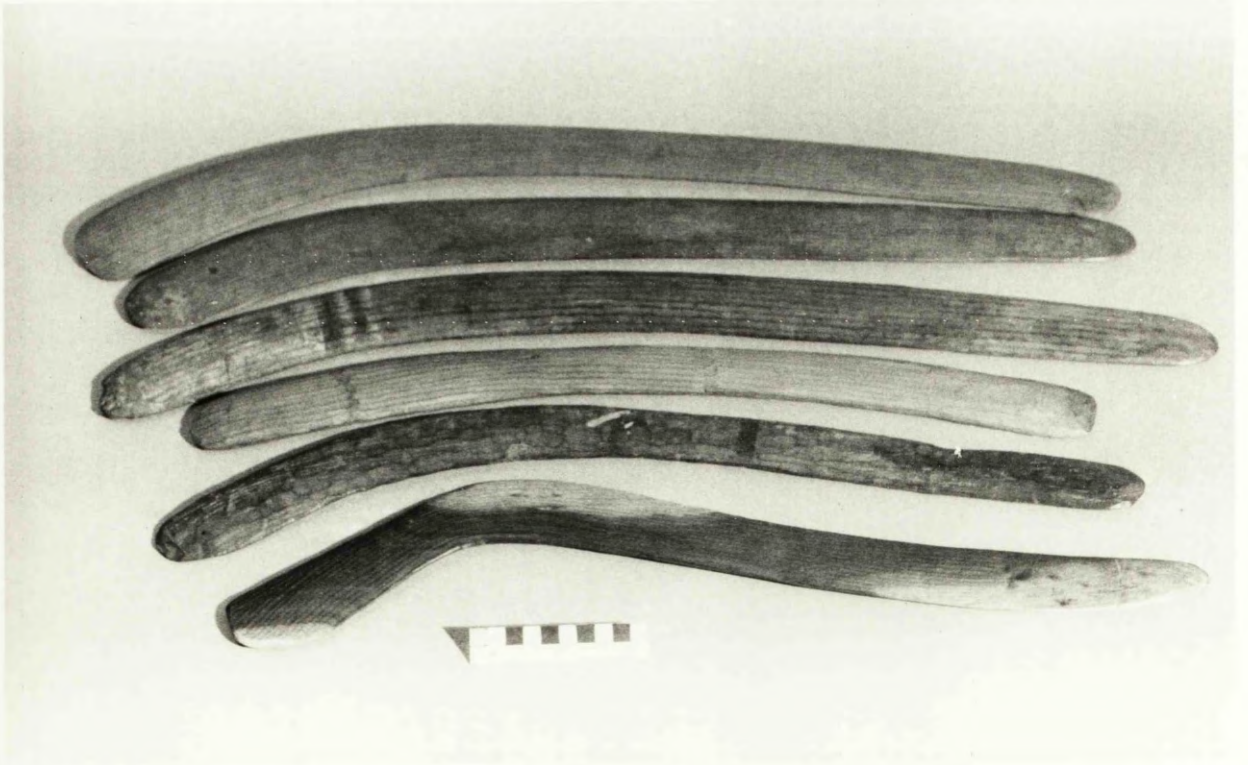
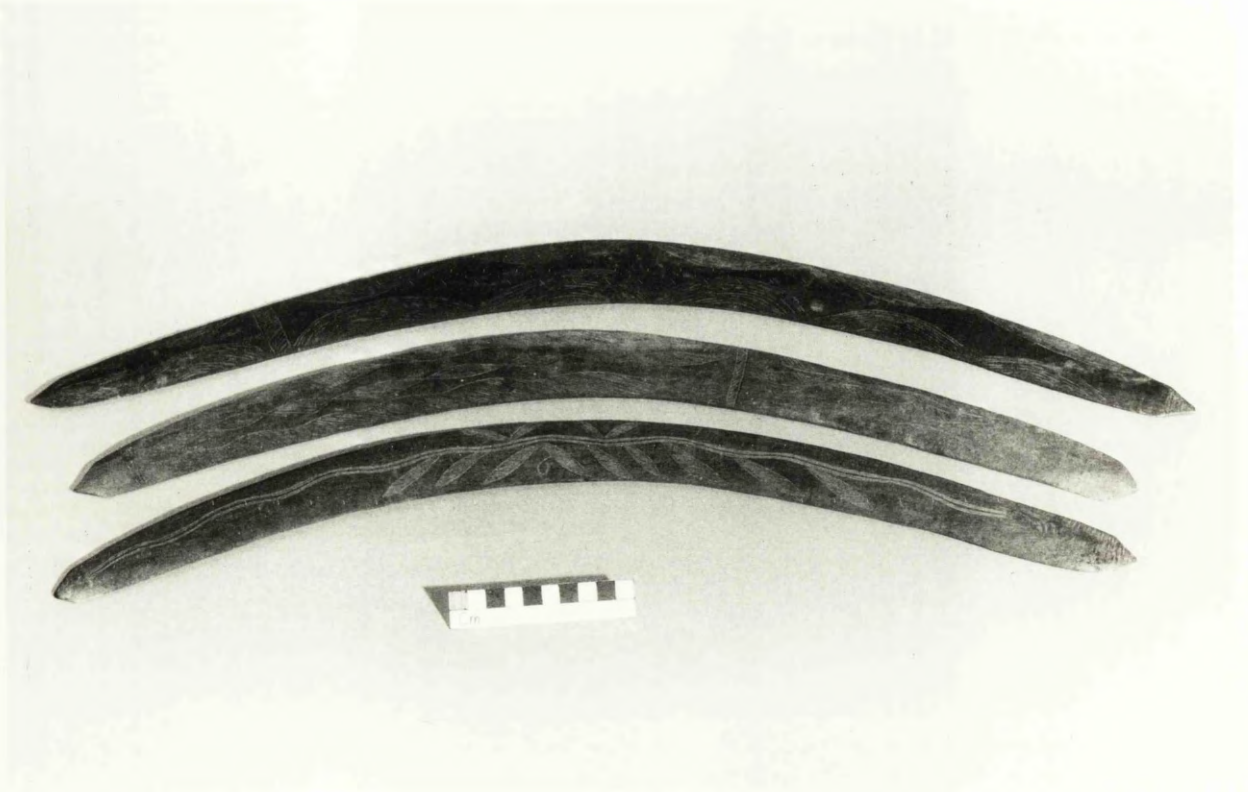
M164 and M165 are broad oval shields with the handle cut into the solid. M164 has an incised design on the upper surface, while M165 has fluting and an ochre painted design on both surfaces. It is identical to the broad shield described by Roth for western Queensland, but the general shape is also found in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales (Roth 1897:150; McBryde 1978:146; Aboriginal Australia 1981:122). M50 is a broad, thin shield with distinct knob-like ends. The upper surface is decorated with an incised herring bone pattern, with an incised figurative human face on both ends. The handle which is fastened by two nails is a sawn piece of wood different from the face and might not be the original attachment. It and M166 have no distinct provenance, except probably within the general area of southeast Australia (Aboriginal Australia 1981:87). M166 has a similar incised geometric design and wood type with M71 a club, and could have been purchased as a set, probably by J. Magers. The last shield, M48, is triangular in cross-section with an incised geometric design on the upper surface. It strongly resembles the parrying shield from northern Victoria and the Murray-Darling Basin (Spencer 1922:19; Aboriginal Australia 1981:84).

Boomerangs

There are ten large plain boomerangs, which although reported by Mitchell (Mitchell 1839:20), are probably of central and western New South Wales provenance (Enright 1900:117). There also are five crescent shaped boomerangs, with hatching at one end that could be of Hunter provenance as a similar weapon from Newcastle was drawn by Browne in 1813 (see Plate 12). M153 is also of similar shape, but has a track motif on the convex surface which could relate a story or message. Provenance is unknown, except there are five more boomerangs which also have incised designs that are common in west-central Queensland and northwest New South Wales (Roth 1897:143; Aboriginal Australia 1981:125). Of particular significance is M172 which was carried by a local Aborigine in the procession to mark the centenary of the Illawarra district in 1896. There are eight more boomerangs, two M12 and M157 are a small fluted variety found in northwestern Australia (Davidson 1936:90), and the other six have no distinct curve but one end is slightly at an angle from the main arm,

Plate 21 Incised boomerangs, M1-M3

Plate 22 Fluted boomerangs, M15-M20



common in Central Australia (ibid:90). This type of boomerang was used as a general purpose tool, having a wider range of uses than any other type (McCarthy 1961:348). M15 is distinct from the others in that it has a more prominent beak appearance. The last two, M13 and M14, have a boomerang appearance but have a marked bulb at one end. This could have meant the weapon was either held in the hand in close combat or thrown as a missile. They are very similar to the Quirriang-an-wun from northern Victoria (Smyth 1876:315; Spencer 1922:25), and are of four boomerangs identified on the 'Budget arch' despite being considered rare:

It is now very difficult indeed to obtain weapons of this kind in Victoria. I have been able to find only two specimens amongst the tribes of the southern part of the continent [Smyth 1876:315].

Clubs

There are a large variety of clubs, with varying degrees of head shape. There are three thin fluted throwing sticks common to Western Australia (Davidson 1936:76) and a number of fluted throwing clubs that have pointed ends and a slight bulb, which are found in southwestern Queensland and northern New South Wales (Roth 1897:150; Davidson 1936:82). M63 and M67 have distinct heads which are studded with nails. There are a further seventeen clubs with distinct heads carved out of the solid. Ten of these resemble what is commonly known as the Pineapple-headed club, due to the series of carved wooded spikes. This type is restricted to central and southern Queensland (Spencer 1922:32; Davidson 1936:83; Aboriginal Australia 1981:174). The other seven have various forms of carved heads. M30, which has a new appearance, probably belonged to J. Magers. It has a bifurcated head and is reported from the Mackay and Rockhampton areas (Roth 1898:56; Spencer 1922:31). M71 has a head which is triangular in section and elaborately incised. It is also distinct in that it has a carved butt and could have been sold with the shield M166 as a pair. Lastly M41 has a blade-like head and resembles a Lil-lil, but is more of a club than boomerang.

M51, a small cigar-shaped stick, decorated with twelve incised concentric circles with interconnecting parallel lines, is probably a message stick. Roth notes that in northern Queensland these were more guarantees of good faith for the carrier who passed on the message through

word of mouth (Roth 1897:137). This example has a new appearance and probably belonged to Magers. The provenance of this object is unknown, except that the design is similar to an acrylic painting on hardboard in the Aboriginal Australia exhibition from the Northern Territory (Aboriginal Australia 1981:147). Message sticks were in use in the Hunter Valley during early contact (Scott 1929:33), however there is no detailed account in the relevant literature to suggest a description.

Lastly, there is another single bark canoe, M176, this type being restricted to the inland waters of southeast Australia. It is probably made out of the thicker bark of the River Red Gum, as reported is the most favoured raw material for this type of canoe (Mitchell 1839:223; Dunbar 1944:174; Edwards 1972:67). There are no ties or folds like the more pliable stringybark of M177, the ends and sides being forced to curl upwards by stretching and firing the bark as Dunbar explains, once the bark was cut down from the tree:

It was immediately inverted and placed over a small fire. This fire dried out the sap, hardened the bark, and caused it to curl. As soon as it curled, stretchers previously prepared were inserted, and it was again lowered over the fire, this time to force the ends to contract and curl inwards in the same fashion as the sides, thus forming a dish-shaped sheet [Dunbar 1944:174].

It also like M177 is in a poor condition with a series of long splits, which J. Magers has attempted to conserve by attaching metal braces. Examples of this type and the coastal-estuarine canoe were extremely rare by the end of the 19th century (Edwards 1972:65; Enright 1900:115), and must have been difficult for Alex Morrison to acquire.

Not every artefact in the collection was discussed as Appendix 3 consists of a more detailed description of each item. The previous summary of the certain artefacts mentioned does in fact illustrate the range and emphasis of the items within the collection. Discussion of the artefacts was divided in an attempt to distinguish what in the collection could be representative of Hunter Valley material culture. This is important as the interpretation of Aboriginal life and culture on the east coast of New South Wales has often been neglected as research has tended to favour the more direct anthropological potential of Central and Northern Australia. McBryde notes for the Richmond River region:

It is for those areas of Australia most densely populated in protohistoric times, where Aboriginal culture and economy were adapted to a rich environment and to the exploitation of diverse resources, that our anthropological records and ethnographic collections of items of material culture are least satisfactory [McBryde 1978:137].

The collection provides the opportunity to discuss certain aspects of pre-contact and historical Aboriginal adaptation to the Hunter Valley environment.

The Hunter Valley during pre-contact time would have supplied a very adequate and varied resource base. The coast and well watered valleys, the stands of temperate rainforest and the thinly wooded well grassed sections (Mitchell 1839:14), offering a variety of exploitable ecological niches. The collection, and the ethnohistorical accounts, display the dependence on wood and bark fibres for much of the Hunter Valley material culture. Unfortunately it was the very richness of the valley that attracted the very early and rapid attention of European exploitation. The plentiful resource environment would suggest that there would have been greater opportunity for expression in cultural activities, as McCarthy explains:

Here we see the cultural benefit to be derived from a fertile habitat, where food is plentiful and does not require long trips nor so much time to obtain an ample supply [McCarthy 1957:92].

The artefacts within the collection tie in with a general pattern of emphasis towards an eastern Australian technology, which was heavily dependent on wood as a raw material. However within this wide range a distinct Hunter Valley expression can be recognised. The Hunter Valley tribes bear a similar resemblance in material culture with neighbouring tribes, and much of the provenance of items in the collection could well be beyond the physical boundary of the valley itself. There are a number of reports of cultural interaction within the tribes of the Hunter Valley (Dawson 1830:135; Scott 1929:14; Gunson 1974:42), as well as with tribes from neighbouring districts, as McCarthy was informed:

That natives from the Singleton area visited Gosford on Brisbane Water; and the neighbouring shores, for marine foods...the Gosford natives probably returned the visits [McCarthy 1939:407].

and a Mr O'Sullivan White recollects at Singleton in 1848:

I have a distinct remembrance of a large corroboree taking place on the banks of the Hunter in one of Mr How's paddocks somewhere near where the bridge now stands on the Westbrook road. There must have been close upon 400, if not more present; they were not all Hunter blacks, the Macleay and Manning tribes helped to make up the number [O'Sullivan White 1934:223].

Not only were items traded, but methods and ideas, and it is reasonable to assume that in certain instances it would help create a certain normality amongst their cultural property, within the range of this interaction.

It is important to note that certain cultural items of the Hunter Valley are distinct, from similar items of other tribes of coastal New South Wales. The ethnohistorical literature suggests there is a certain similarity between the Hunter and Sydney tribes. The main distinction between the two with regards to wooden artefacts is in the spearthrower of the Sydney district which had a shell cemented to the hand end (Bradley 1792:127; White 1790:200), while the Hunter tribes preferred the spoon-shaped end (M45 and M163). There is also variation to the north where the spearthrower was not in use by the Clarence or Richmond River tribes (McBryde pers. comm.). The multi-pronged fishing spear although not represented in the collection but reported in the literature (Gunson 1974:67; Scott 1929:18; Enright 1900:115) was also not present in those areas, but found in the Macleay (McBryde 1977:664, 1978:188). There is also a variation in shield form, the Hunter possessing the broad, thin shield with the handle inserted (Gunson 1974:68; Scott 1929:31), while the tribes further north possess the thick, oval shield with the handle cut out of the solid (M164 and M165). A general lack of decoration, either painted or incised is insufficient in the collection to suggest any standard style or design. Most of the artefacts within the collection and the ethnohistorical literature, indicate that much of the equipment would have been fairly plain, with fluting and incised designs an aspect of northern and western tribes (see Appendix 3). The artefacts, by comparison within the collection, with other provenanced ethnographic material and the ethnohistorical literature do illustrate a standard of Hunter Valley wooden artefacts as distinct from the similar cultural property of other regions in southeastern Australia.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSIONS

An identification of part of the Hunter Valley material culture has been possible through the interpretation of many of the artefacts within the collection. However it does not represent a complete inventory of the pre-contact material assemblage of the area, but rather a late 19th century expression of these. This question will be examined to determine some of the possible influences that are illustrated in the composition and emphasis of the collection.

As discussed in Chapter 2, the disruption of Aboriginal culture was fairly complete by the time Alex Morrison was acquiring his collection. Their cultural property must also have been continually modified or replaced. Cooper notes:

The most significant changes to occur in the art system of southeastern Australia after European settlement were a consequence of the removal of people to government reserves and mission stations...Traditional ties of identity and allegiance were thrown into chaos, and the art system connected with these notions suffered disorientation and change [Cooper 1981:37].

Such conditions could have prevailed at the St Clair Mission, influencing the whole spectrum of Aboriginal philosophy and activity. In terms of art expression the collection might illustrate change and modification within a more generalised standard that in pre-contact times might have exhibited a more individual and tribal diversity. Unlike the Aborigines themselves, examples of their cultural property were much sought after, throughout the 19th century, particularly as mementoes of a visit to the wild colony. Collins notes:

the people of the transports...were procuring spears, shields, swords, fishing lines, and other articles from the natives, to carry to Europe [Collins 1798:17].

This exodus culminated in the late 19th century when large museum collections were officially sent to the international exhibitions of the

day, many never to return (Cooper 1975:13). To meet this demand the Aboriginal craftsmen would have had to supplement their existing weapons with those expressly desired by the fervent curio collectors, like Alex Morrison. This demand may have influenced the detail and design of many of the objects. Some of the carved headed clubs in the collection have notches and snicks which in pre-contact time would have been sanded back to a smooth finish (F.D. McCarthy pers. comm.).

The Aborigines from the St Clair Mission could well have been making weapons for a consumer market, a practice which is encouraged in many reserves today. Smyth notes as early as the 1870s at the Coranderrk Aboriginal station:

It is not easy now to get baskets of the pattern which prevailed before the introduction of Europeans arts. Those made by the women at Coranderrk are of all shapes and sizes, invariably with handles, and made for sale, and with a view to meet the wants of the whites who purchase them [Smyth 1876: 346].

A parallel with what could have happened at the St Clair Mission could be seen at the Aboriginal mission on Fraser Island which at the turn of the century had attracted Aborigines from 25 different localities representing 19 different dialects (Evans and Walker 1977:80). Here, the realised demand influenced Meston, who was in charge of the mission to organise a cottage industry:

In the future all boomerangs, spears, shields and nullahs will be sold at the rate of a shilling each and every maker will be credited with his own work. This money will be expended in whatever useful articles of clothing the creditor requires and carefull account of all transactions will be kept regularly [ibid:80].

Many artefacts in the collection may be the result of a similar policy. The range of small and light artefacts from the St Clair Mission could well be tourist items rather than authentic children's toys. Scott notes in the Port Stephens district the children usually used a piece of wood or bark (Scott 1929:31), rather than a facsimile of adults weapons, and it is more likely many of them were deliberately made as curio items.

Both the collection and the relevant ethnohistorical literature exhibit a bias towards men's equipment mainly concerned with hunting and fighting. While the stated intention of Table 1 was to outline the relevant ethnohistorical accounts with reference to the collection, many sources only briefly mentioned certain other aspects of Aboriginal material

culture. For example Dawson who was perceptive enough to realise that women do play an important role in the Aboriginal economy, only in passing mentions that the nets were made by women, with which they carry the many utensils like prepared shell, gum and strong to repair their weapons.

These poor creatures are made to do all the drudgery, as is always the case amongst a rude and savage people [Dawson 1831:67].

The bias can be explained in that many of the observers would be influenced by warfare and battle as it was an aspect of Aboriginal culture they could readily identify with, Rossiysky notes at Port Jackson in 1814:

The clash of shields, flying fragments of spear, the wild cries of the victors, the pitiable wail of the wounded, bloodied faces, broken limbs; I confess that only the English could admire all this [Barratt 1981:24].

Similarly the observers were often met by Aboriginal men carrying, if not brandishing, their weapons, and did not often stumble into the camps with a view towards documenting domestic utensils. Without labouring the point, not only 19th century observers can be blamed for expressing this bias. Of the collection itself only one string bag remains of nearly two hundred artefacts. This bias is further strengthened in the photograph of the 'Budget arch' (see Plate 5). McBryde notes a similar preference to men's equipment concerned with fighting and hunting in her study of the Richmond River collections (see McBryde 1978:185). It would seem that as trophies, men's weapons exude a more savage taste. The bias in the collection could be a response to this demand, which could also illustrate a late 19th century Aboriginal adaption to the changed environment:

Boomerangs have many uses: in peace two clicked together as a musical instrument, as a war weapon, and as a weapon in the chase. Its last and rapidly approaching use will be as a curio for collectors [Parker 1905:123].

The type of weapons in the collection also tends to reflect a European preference than an Aboriginal dependence. In my view the range of spears within the Hunter region, from the single pointed to the multi-pronged barbed spear, illustrates its importance as a hunting weapon, particularly for exploiting a rich marine environment. Only five spears, a total of 3%, are represented in the collection, this may be a factor of preservation, as Montague notes:

Australian spears in a complete state do not often come to this country, probably on account of their great length, which makes them troublesome to bring home [Montague 1921: 12].

Even on the 'Budget arch' they only amounted to about 8% of the total exhibition (see Plate 5). From the very beginning of cultural contact it has been the boomerang which has achieved the greatest notoriety:

How they worked out the mathematics of the curve and balance was ever a puzzle to me, as it has been to anthropologists all over the world [Scott 1929:30].

This European infatuation is evident in the collection of which nearly half of the total number of artefacts present are boomerangs. The most celebrated variety, the returning boomerang, was in use during pre-contact times in the Hunter Valley, but of little consequence. It has been suggested that this type of boomerang was mainly used as a toy, yet it was probably not until the amusement seeking European audience that this potential was fully realised. This bias is exhibited by Alex Morrison, who as an accomplished boomerang thrower himself, had arranged for the local Aborigines to perform for the State Governor:

The vice-regal party then proceeded to the parade ring in the Showground and witnessed some very clever boomerang throwing by aboriginals, the peculiar flight of the boomerang in the air, and its graceful curving in circles much admired. The boomerang throwers were presented to his Excellency, and something with an agreeable chink fell into the dusky palms, while the smiling faces of the recipients gave token that their efforts to please and amuse had not been 'Loves Labour Lost' [*Singleton Argus* 30.4.1904].

By comparison with the earlier acquired Beechworth (Cooper 1975:87) and the Richmond River collections (McBryde 1978:182) the proportion of boomerangs, 14% and 20% respectively, is less significant than in the Morrison collection. While the proportion of boomerangs in the Morrison collection could be a factor of individual preference or preservation, it also, like the boomerang throwing displays, could suggest an increased interest in the boomerang by the end of the 19th century. In a sense the boomerang had become as much a tourist item then, as it is a recognised emblem of Australian identity today.

While appreciating^{that} the collection tends to illustrate what was of interest to the curio collector, such as the carved pineapple headed clubs,

Plate 23 Pineapple-headed clubs, M70, M66, M65, M64, M128
and M69

Plate 24 Aboriginal Gallery exhibition store, children's
toys, M121, M167, M168 and M171

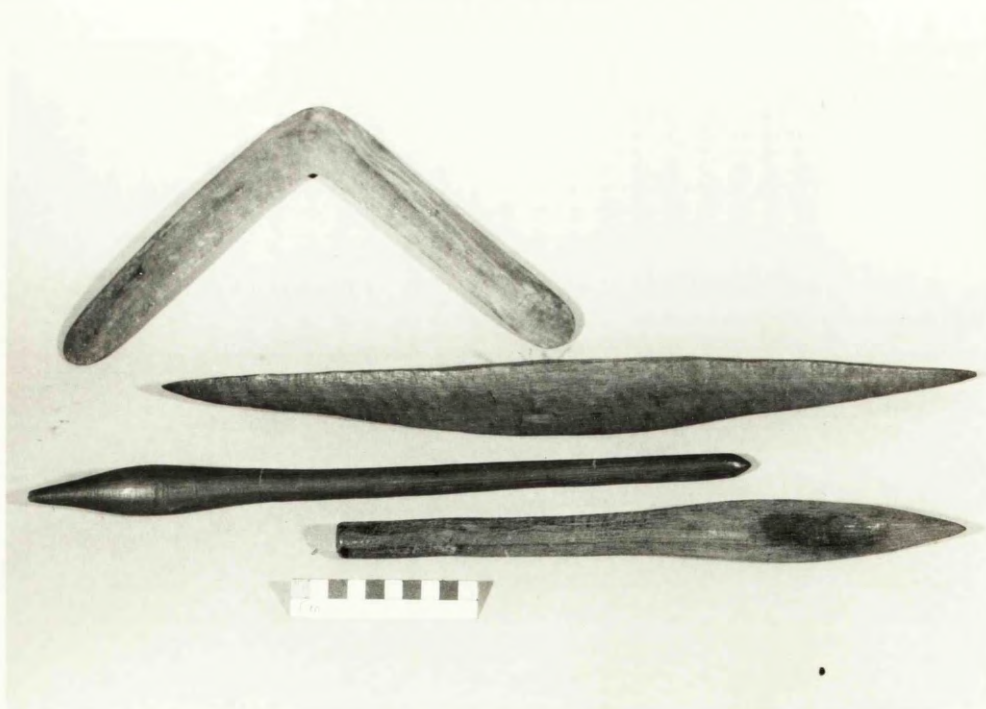
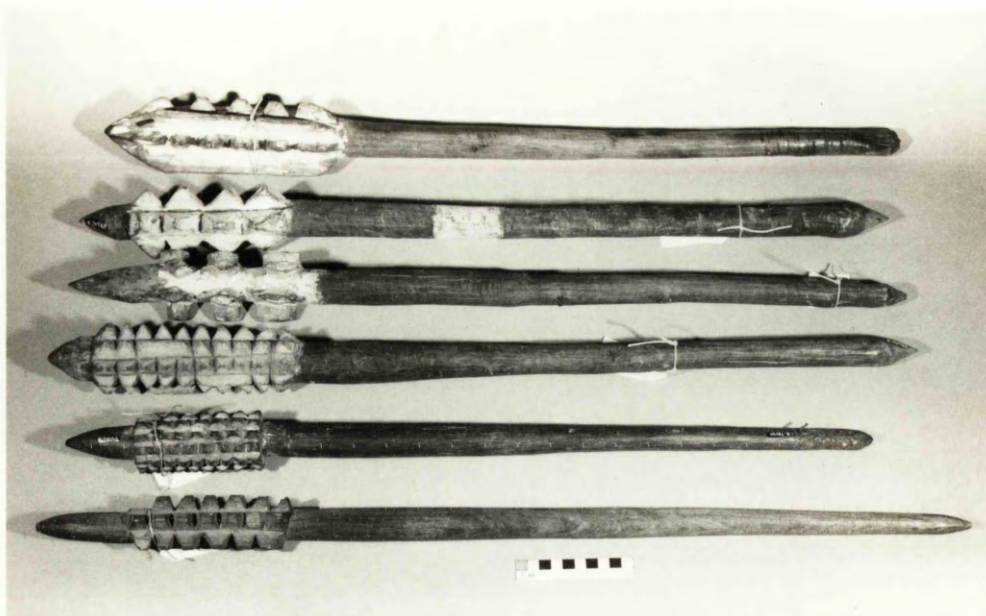
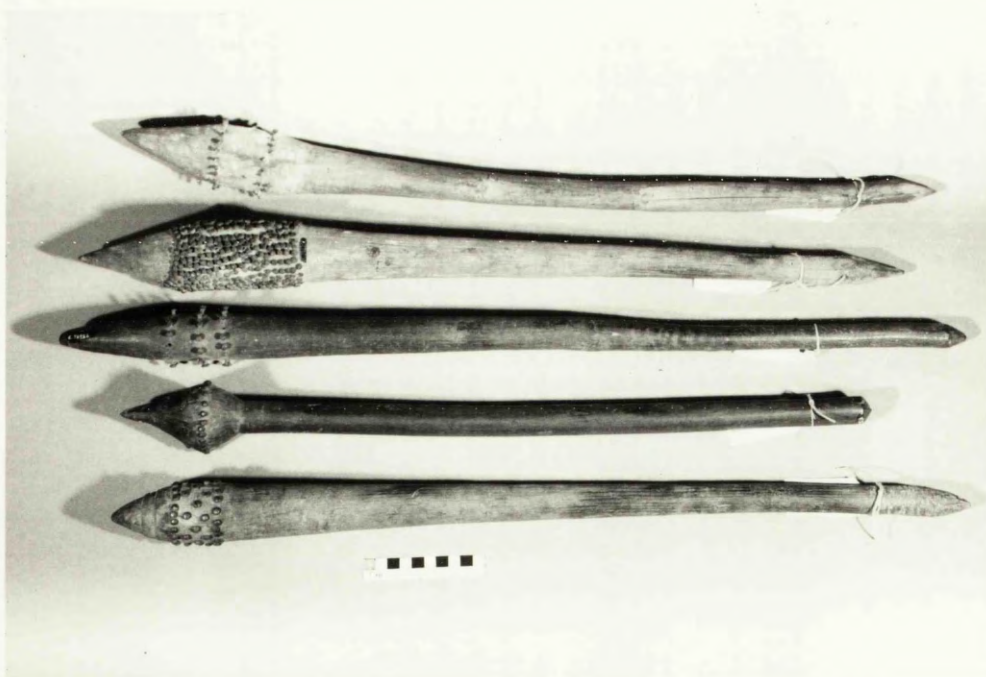
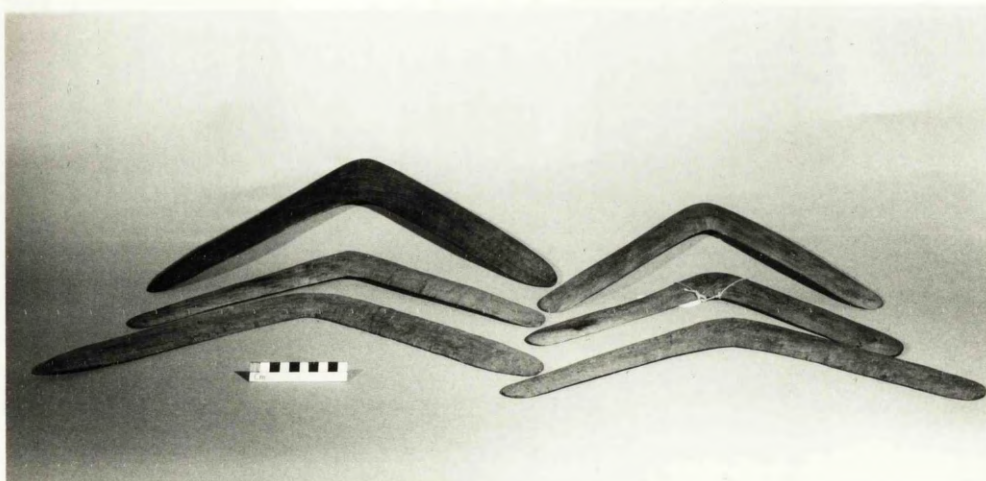


Plate 25 'Returning boomerangs', M81-M83, M117, M147 and M149

Plate 26 Nail studded clubs, M55, M56, M59, M63 and M67



the emphasis of such items could be an indication of the functional response to the cultural contact of the late 19th century. The value of the collection is that it does exhibit cultural change and adaptation. While pre and early contact collections are of obvious interest, an understanding of Aboriginal expression and interpretation of the immense cultural change of the 19th century is also as important. In a sense the ethnographic collections, like the Morrison collection, can be considered as cultural markers of the recent past, as the much vaunted stone toolkits are of the more distant times.

The emphasis on stone and bone material which has long been recognised through archaeological research is hardly surprising as organic materials will only survive under certain favourable conditions. This archaeological invisibility has created a gap in the reconstruction of Aboriginal material culture, the ethnohistorical evidence often being pounced on to suggest the cultural analogies. The ethnographic collections provide the opportunity for a more realistic approach. It is of particular importance to the understanding of Aboriginal adaptation of the east coast of Australia where the technology relied heavily on wood and bark fibres. The archaeological evidence for the Hunter Valley which has been mainly investigated by D. Moore, supports a wood-oriented technology. His excavations at Sandy Hollow, Milbrodale, Bobadeen and an analysis of the site excavated by McCarthy and D.A. Davidson at Singleton in 1943, suggest a small blade tradition was practised at the time of European contact. That the stone technology was comprised of mainly general purpose hafted cutting and boring implements would suggest an orientation towards wood working. These also include a number of eloueras in which the characteristic orange segment shape is only distinguishable from other scrapers on the New South Wales east coast. These were probably hafted on a straight handle to be used for adzing light wood and bark (White and O'Connell 1982: 116). The possibility that there was less emphasis on stone in the Hunter Valley is illustrated in the quick adoption of European iron and glass:

I understood from our natives that exchanges of articles sometimes took place between the coast-natives and those residing in the interior. Iron tomahawks, sea-shells, with which they scrape and sharpen their spears, and pieces of glass, which they use for that purpose whenever they get them, were thus frequently exchanged for opossum skins [Dawson 1831:135].

The collection while providing an important research base also provides an identifiable visual record. It, like many other ethnographic collections, can illustrate the very richness of Aboriginal material culture, and the great range of individual interpretation expressed through this medium. Some of the items in the collection are extremely rare and the general display of such items will only enhance the better understanding of the Aborigines of southeast Australia, particularly as many ethnographic collections consist of items from central and northern Australia.

R. Lampert of the Australian Museum specifically recommended the last purchase in 1982 based on the rarity of some of the items:

Only a handful of riverine canoes exist anywhere, and this Museum does not have a single example. The N.S.W. coastal canoe is even rarer, the specimen on offer being the only one from a date as early as the late 19th century known to exist anywhere [Lampert 1982:1].

The instructive potential of the collection is that the direct visual expression provides a more lasting and realistic record, than the interpretation through drawing and literary sources.

It is worth noting that the whole notion of ethnographic collection illustrates a European bias, as discussed by D.J. Mulvaney in the recent symposium 'Who owns the past' held in Canberra, May 1983:

It is relevant, also, that museums are a Western institution. Aboriginal society held different values and rather than collecting and storing artefacts, these often involved the destruction of creative works immediately following their use in ceremonies or upon the deaths of their owners [Mulvaney 1983:3].

Despite the European tradition of record and display, it is the very ethnographic collections that are cited by the Aboriginal people today as expressions of their identity. The Australian Museum considers part of their role to:

act as 'agent' for Aboriginal communities in N.S.W. in assembling collections of their cultural heritage for their own displays [D. Griffin 1979:13].

The fact that some of the collection forms part of the exhibitions at the Woolitji Cultural Centre in Maclean and the New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs, further illustrates a greater appreciation and real value of such collections, well beyond what initially influenced Alex Morrison to assemble the original display.

The purpose of this essay was to record and interpret a collection of Aboriginal wooden artefacts. The point of the exercise and perhaps its greatest value is that it is hoped such analysis will provide additional reference material for a better understanding of the Aboriginal people and their cultural property, with particular reference to a recognition of a Hunter Valley material culture. The analysis of this collection, while possible biases are evident, has enabled some regional definition of Aboriginal artefacts as well as illustrating certain aspects of Aboriginal and European relations since contact. Lastly, while the archaeological material excavated to date continues to stress a bias towards an inorganic based material culture, we are indebted to many of the 19th century curio collectors, like Alex Morrison, for providing the evidence for the possible

research into the real description of Aboriginal adaptation to the environment of southeast Australia, pre- and post-contact.

APPENDIX 1

Catalogue of a collection of Australiana and collectors books, journals, Aboriginal weapons and artefacts, Lithos and Pictures, for Public Auction at the 1st Floor Gallery Rooms, 121A King St, Newcastle in the evening on the 26-27th Feb. 1974.

Aboriginal Artefacts

Black stone horseshoe scraper - NT

Flaked scraper or axe

Small phallic stone

Nando plate, Norma Downes, NSW

1 pr grinding stones - Klondyke

Hammer - head only

Double sided mortar stone

Double grinding stone - Karmona - Cooper River, Qld

Nado grinding stone - Klondyke - W. Darling, NSW

Grinding stone - Strezlecki River, SA

Ceremonial conical stone

Hunting boomerang - length 24", width 2"

"	"	"	27"	"	2½"
---	---	---	-----	---	-----

"	"	"	27"	"	2-3"
---	---	---	-----	---	------

"	"	"	23"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	17"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	19"	"	1½"
---	---	---	-----	---	-----

"	"	"	16"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	12½"	"	1-2"
---	---	---	------	---	------

"	"	"	16"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	19"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

Killing boomerang	"	27"	"	1-3"
-------------------	---	-----	---	------

"	"	"	28"	"	1-2½"
---	---	---	-----	---	-------

"	"	"	20½"	"	2"
---	---	---	------	---	----

"	"	"	25"	"	2-2½"
---	---	---	-----	---	-------

"	"	"	26½"	"	2"
---	---	---	------	---	----

"	"	"	36"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	36"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	32"	"	2"
---	---	---	-----	---	----

"	"	"	28½"	"	2½"
---	---	---	------	---	-----

"	"	"	29½"	"	2½"
---	---	---	------	---	-----

Bow shaped parry shield 20" in length with Totemic patterned carvings
- Worimi

Bow shaped parry shield 15" long

Bow shaped parry shield with Totemic patterned carvings 23½" long
- Worimi

3 Aboriginal axe heads

- Aboriginal eating stick
" sanitation stick
" Nulla Nulla deeply carved - Awabakal
" waddy carved end - probably Awabakal
1 Aboriginal killing spear - hardwood head
2 " " " with dark felsite heads
1 Aboriginal spear, felsite head
1 " " with small shell - ornamentation on shaft

APPENDIX 2
RECORD SHEET

49

ARTEFACT NO. M 141.

COLLECTION. Australian Museum

REGISTERED NO. E 78205

ARTEFACT CLASS. Club

ARTEFACT TYPE. Leangle

PROVENANCE.
Hunter River region

COLLECTOR. Alex Morrison circa.1900 MUSEUM PURCHASE. 1982
John Magers 1980

DOCUMENTATION.

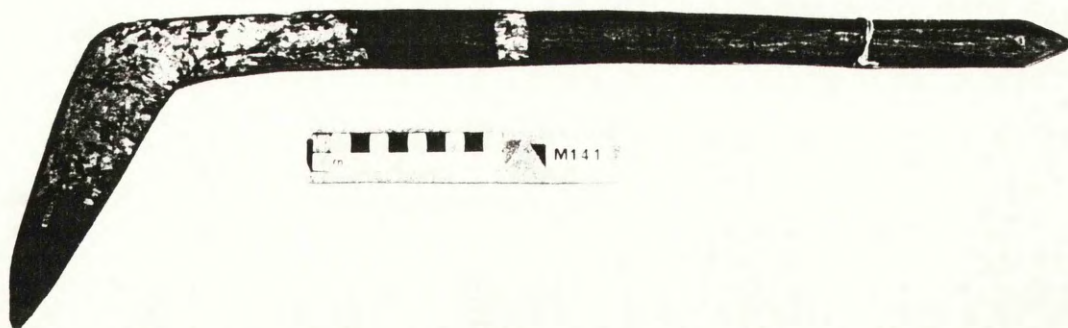
PRESENT CONDITION. Excellent - pigment decoration flaking

RECORDED BY. R. Mulvaney

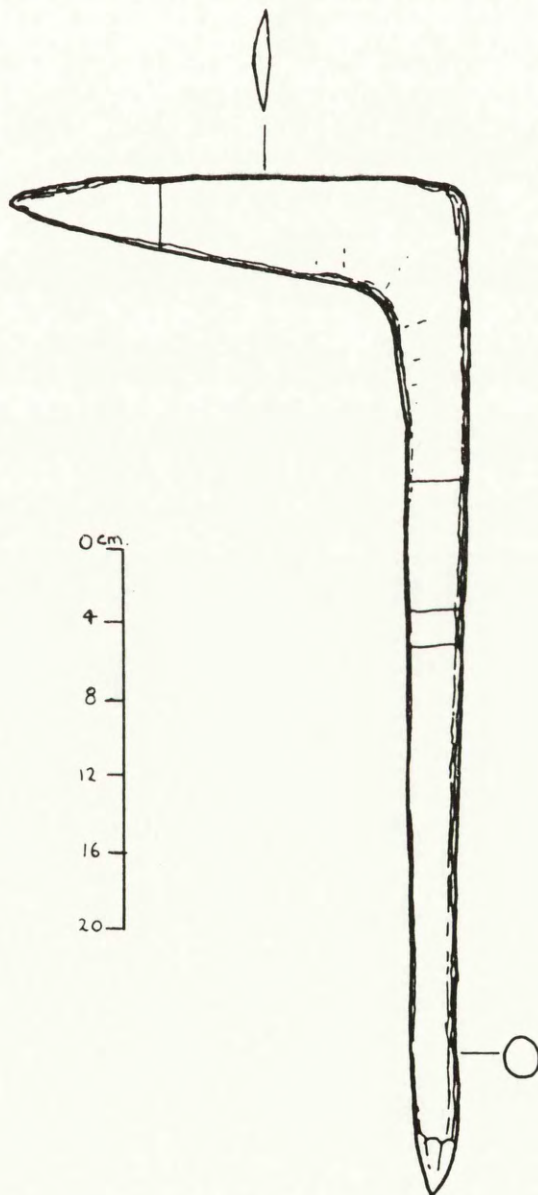
DATE. 7/4/1983

Dept. Prehistory and Anthropology,
Australian National University.

PHOTOGRAPH.



DRAWING.



DESCRIPTIVE ATTRIBUTES.

ARTEFACT

CLASS. CLUB

TYPE. Leangle

NO. M 141.

MEASUREMENTS. Cms.

LENGTH.

LENGTH SHAFT. 55

LENGTH HEAD. 24.5

57 (across chord)

DIAMETER SHAFT MIN. 8

DIA. HEAD MAX. 17.2

DIA. BUTT MAX. 8.4

BUTT.

No distinct handle

No distinct bulb- slight tapering, chiselled end to a point

Shaft cylindrical for 28cm. then gradually forms into rhombical shape towards

HEAD.

Beaked, 65 right angle from shaft

Edges sharp, end pointed

RAW MATERIAL. Wood

COLOUR. (MUNSELL) 7.5YR 4/2

White pigment

Light yellow/brown

No stain

FUNCTION.

Strike opponent while held in the hand, beaked

head enables attacker to reach around defenders shield. (Breton:1833:238)

EUROPEAN INFLUENCE.

USE WEAR.

DECORATION.

One white pigment band 2cm.wide,29.5cm.from butt,

One large white pigment cover on shaft and head -38.8cm.from butt to
8cm.from head point.

IDENTIFICATION ON ARCH. - 27/4/1904.

Left column,top section in the centre at the base of the spear shafts.

REMARKS.

APPENDIX 3
CATALOGUE OF ARTEFACTS IN THE MORRISON COLLECTION

Notes and Abbreviations

For identification each item was given my own serial number, the museum registered number is indicated after it.

NEC - National Ethnographic Collection.

AM - Australian Museum.

* denotes may have belonged to J. Magers.

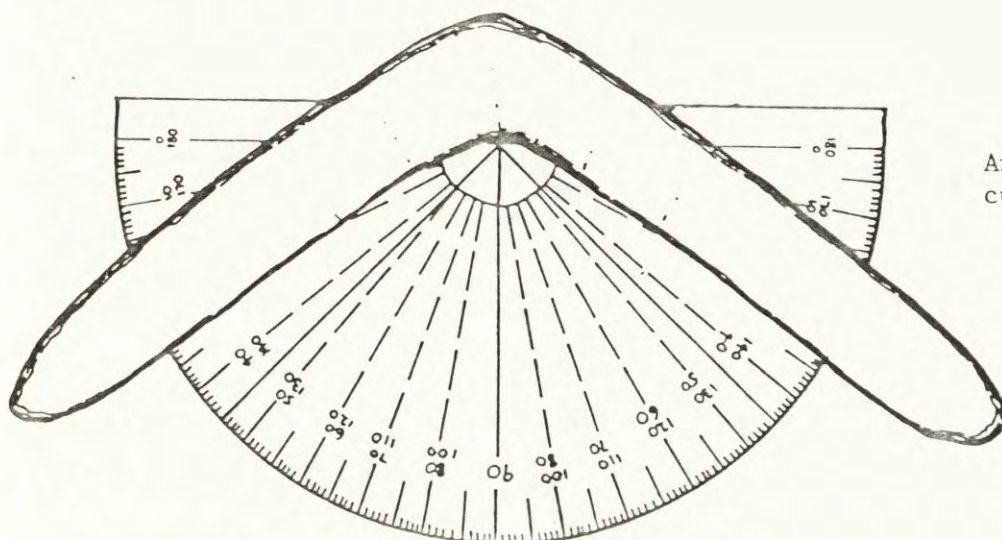
For identification on Budget arch (1904), see Plate 5.

A Munsell colour chart was used for identification of wood and paint hue. While realising that this method is open to varying degrees of individual interpretation, it does provide a standard reference.

The identification of wood type was not attempted, as it would have involved cutting a clear section of the object to examine it under a microscope with authenticated reference samples to obtain a probably wood source (Dr W. Heather, Department of Forestry, ANU, pers. comm.).

Many of the items exhibit a blackish brown stain which has been noted. It was a standard practise by many 19th century curio collectors to preserve their artefacts, they may even have been put on by the Aborigines themselves. The close similarity of the stain suggests it might have been done by the same person.

Where the measurements were taken are indicated, except for the angle of curve of the boomerangs. For this, the item was placed on a protractor with the apex positioned on the centre of the instrument. The angle measurement was obtained when the inside edge of the two arms registered the same reading (see below):



Angle of
curve = 37°

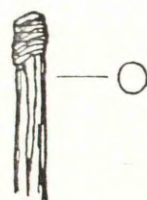
cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M174



M175



M173

SPEARS

M174: AM-E78214

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Single straight shaft of light wood, reed, end flat with a hole. Head unbarbed single shaft of hard wood, tapered to a sharp point. Tip covered with blackened resin 50 cm down head. Head inserted in split shaft, bound with string and cemented with resin.

Condition: Good, cracks along shaft. Provenance: Hunter District (Threlkeld 1826, in Gunson, 1974:61; Scott 1860, in Bennett, 1929:18). Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 250 cm; Length Visible Head: 72.5 cm; Max. Diam. Shaft: 4.8 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 4.4 cm.

M175: AM-E78215.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Single straight shaft of light wood, reed, end flat with a hole. Head unbarbed single shaft of hard wood, tapered to a sharp point. Tip covered with blackened resin 51 cm down head. Head inserted in split shaft, bound with string and cemented with resin.

Condition: Good, cracks along shaft. Provenance: Hunter District. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 249 cm; Length Visible Head: 70 cm; Max. Diam. Shaft: 4.9 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 4.5 cm.

M173: AM-E78215.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Single straight shaft of light wood, reed, end flat with a hole. Head missing but similar shaft to M174 and M175, probably similar hard wood tip. Shaft split, bound with string and cemented with resin.

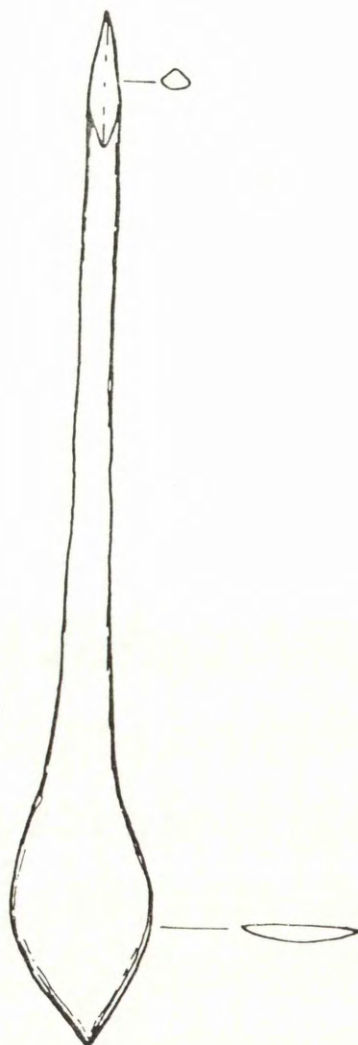
Condition: Poor, head missing, cracks along shaft. Provenance: Hunter District. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 185 cm; Max. Diam. Shaft: 5.2 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M45



M163

SPEARTHROWERS

M45: NEC-AWT 388.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section at the handle. The handle and hook ends form a continuous shaft, increase in width towards hand end. Handle end spoon-shaped tapering to a point, edges semi-rounded. Hook carved out of shaft, pointed. Plain and smooth.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Coastal New South Wales (Davidson, 1936:480).

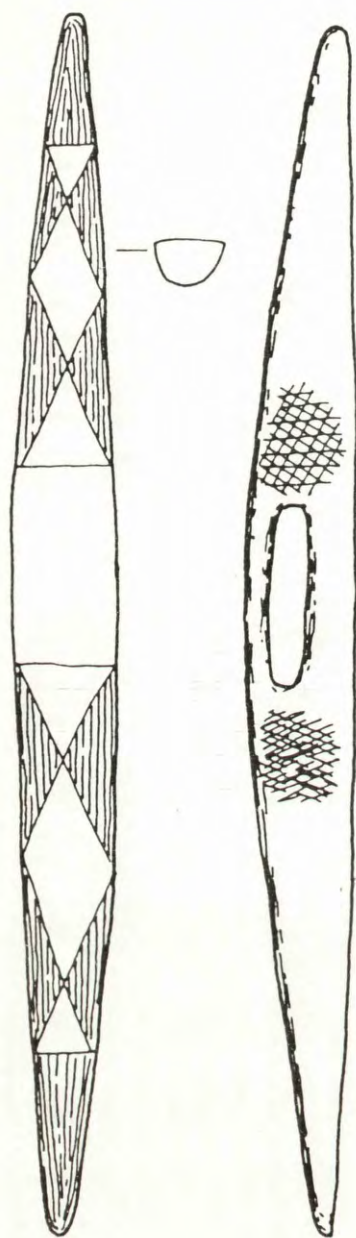
Length: 68.5 cm; Max. Width: 5.2 cm (handle); Min. Width: 1.7 cm (hook end); Max. Thickness: 1.7 cm (handle); Max. Height Hook: 1.5 cm.

M163: NEC-AWC 78185.

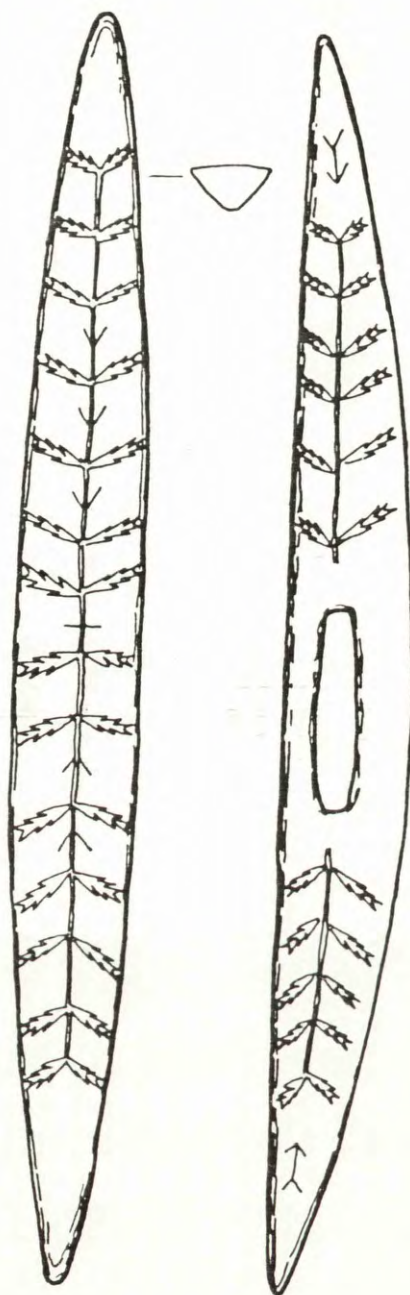
Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section at the handle. The handle and hook ends form a continuous shaft, sharp increase in width at hand end. Handle end spoon-shaped tapering to a point, edges semi-rounded. Hook carved out of shaft, pointed. Plain and smooth.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Coastal New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 56 cm; Max. Width: 7.3 cm (handle); Min. Width: 1.9 cm (hook end); Max. Thickness: 2.0 cm (handle); Max. Height Hook: 2.0 cm.



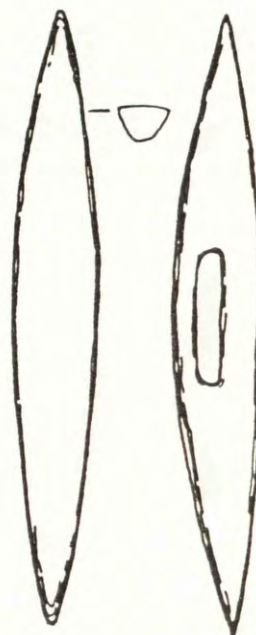
M49



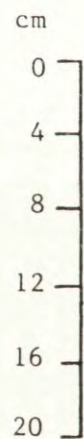
M169



M167



M170



M159: AM-E78177.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, reddish brown. Condition: Excellent. Length: 41.5 cm (across chord); Width: 8 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 33°.

M146: AM-E78210.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, very pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Slightly asymmetrical, one end longer and curving outwards. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Excellent. Length: 41 cm (across chord); Width: 6.7 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 26°.

M149: AM-E78167.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, very rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Artefact very light. Twist, edges sharp, light yellow brown, clear varnish. Condition: Good, one split near one end and varnish bubbling. Length: 38 cm (across chord); Width: 5.7 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 0.6 cm; Angle of Curve: 33°.

M147: AM-E78211.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, very rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Artefact very light. Twist, edges sharp, light yellow brown, clear varnish. Condition: Good, slight cracking. Length: 36.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.7 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 0.8 cm; Angle of Curve: 35°.

M121: AM-E77643.

Purchased 1981. Plano-convex in cross-section, very rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Artefact extremely light. No twist, edges sharp, light brown. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton. Length: 31.5 cm (across chord); Width: 4.9 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 0.8 cm; Angle of Curve: 37°.

M112: AM-E77011.

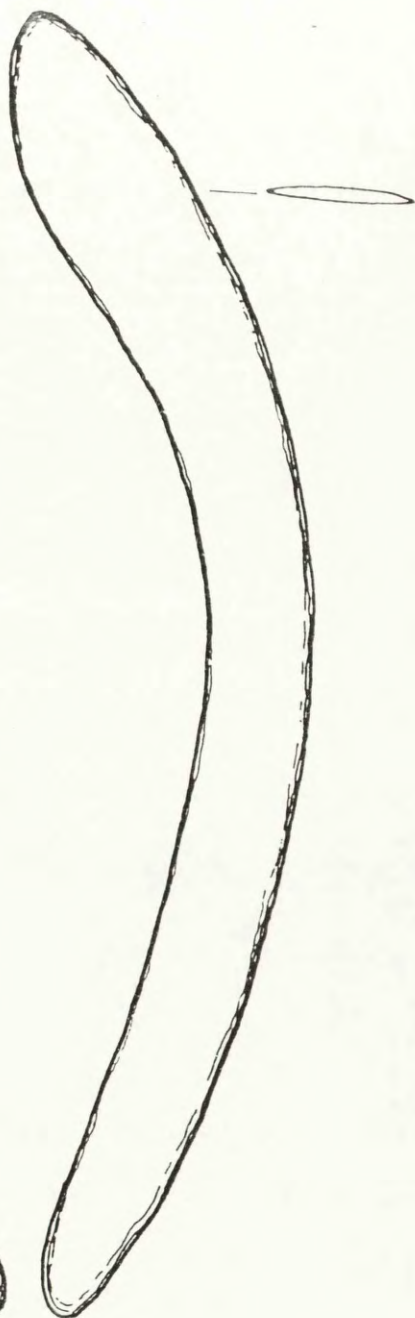
Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Slightly wider at one end, fairly thin. Both surfaces plain, faint tooling marks. No twist, edges sharp. Blackish brown, stain. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: North-eastern Australia (see Cooper, 1975:31). Identification on arch, 1904. Length: 69.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.6 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.



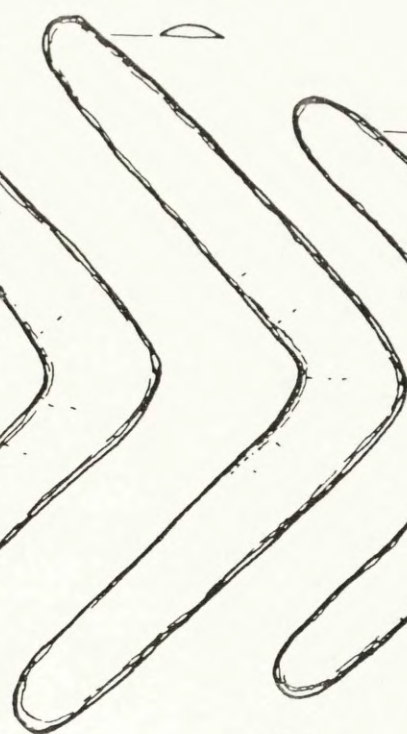
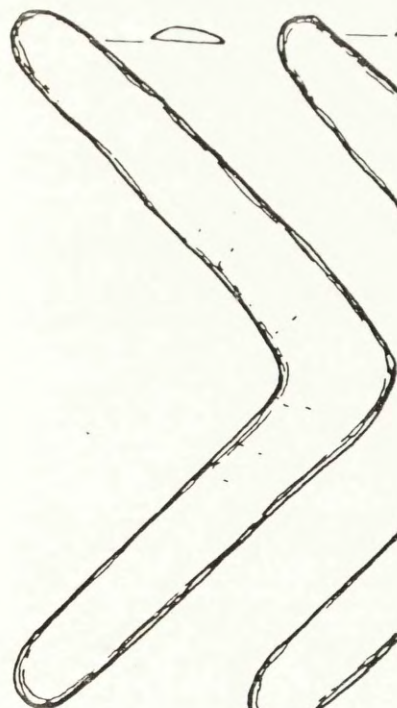
cm
0
4
8
12
16
20

M159

M146



M112



M149

M147

M121

M152: AM-E78170.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Very slight twist, edges sharp, darkish brown.

Condition: Very good, slight chip near centre.

Length: 49 cm (across chord); Width: 7.4 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 18°.

M81: AM-E76969.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Artefact new look about it.

Twist, edges very sharp, brown.

Condition: Excellent.

Length: 48 cm (across chord); Width: 7 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.7 cm; Angle of Curve: 25°.

M117: AM-E77639.

Purchased 1981. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Artefact very light. Slight twist, edges very sharp, light brown.

Condition: Very good, slight chips on edges. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 52 cm (across chord); Width: 6.2 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 25°.

M82: AM-E76970.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Twist, edges sharp, light brown.

Condition: Excellent.

Length: 46 cm (across chord); Width: 6.5 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 23°.

M83: AM-E76971.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, very rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Twist, edges sharp, light brown.

Condition: Excellent.

Length: 45 cm (across chord); Width: 6.6 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 25°.

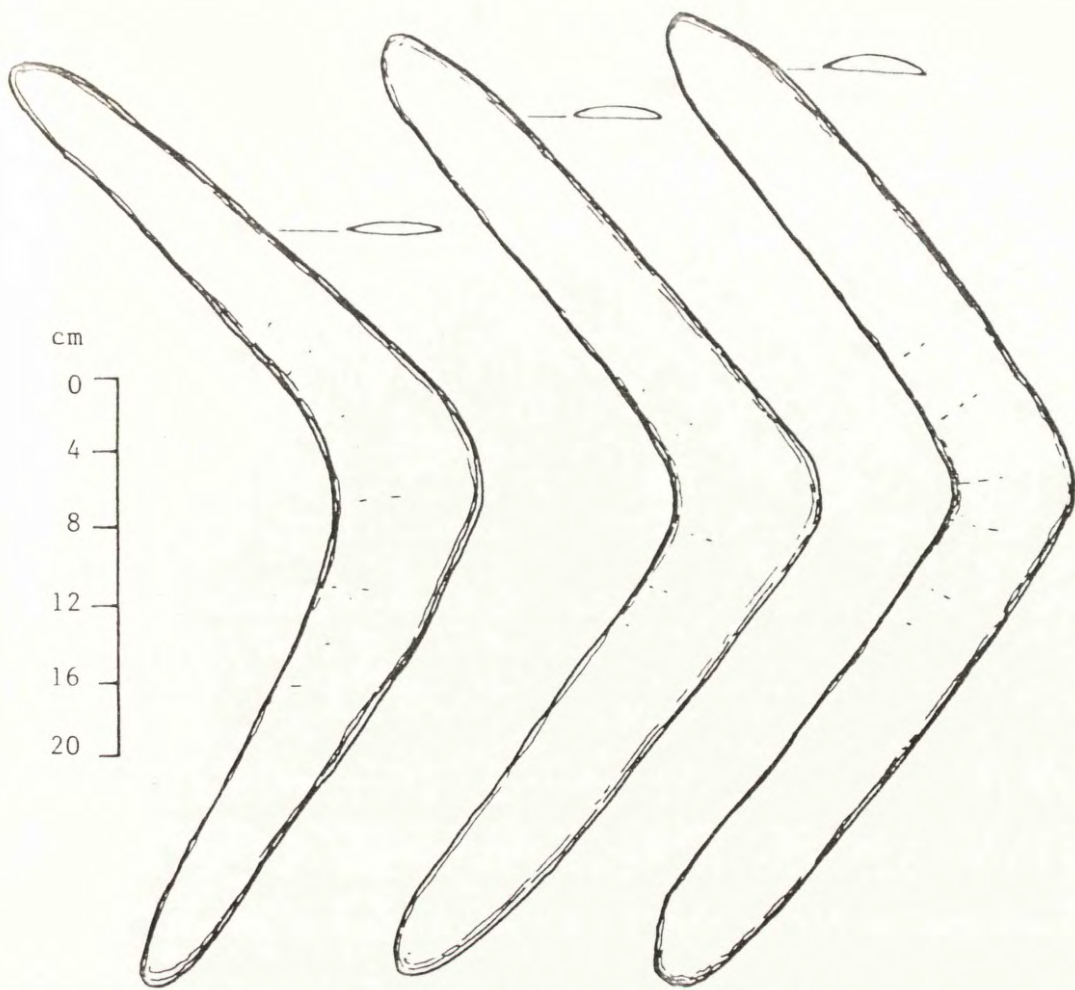
M150: AM-E78168.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and rough, tooling marks. Twist, edges semi-rounded, light brown.

Condition: Poor, series of cracks, one 28 cm long from one end to the centre and very dry look. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 41 cm (across chord); Width: 7.2 cm (off centre);

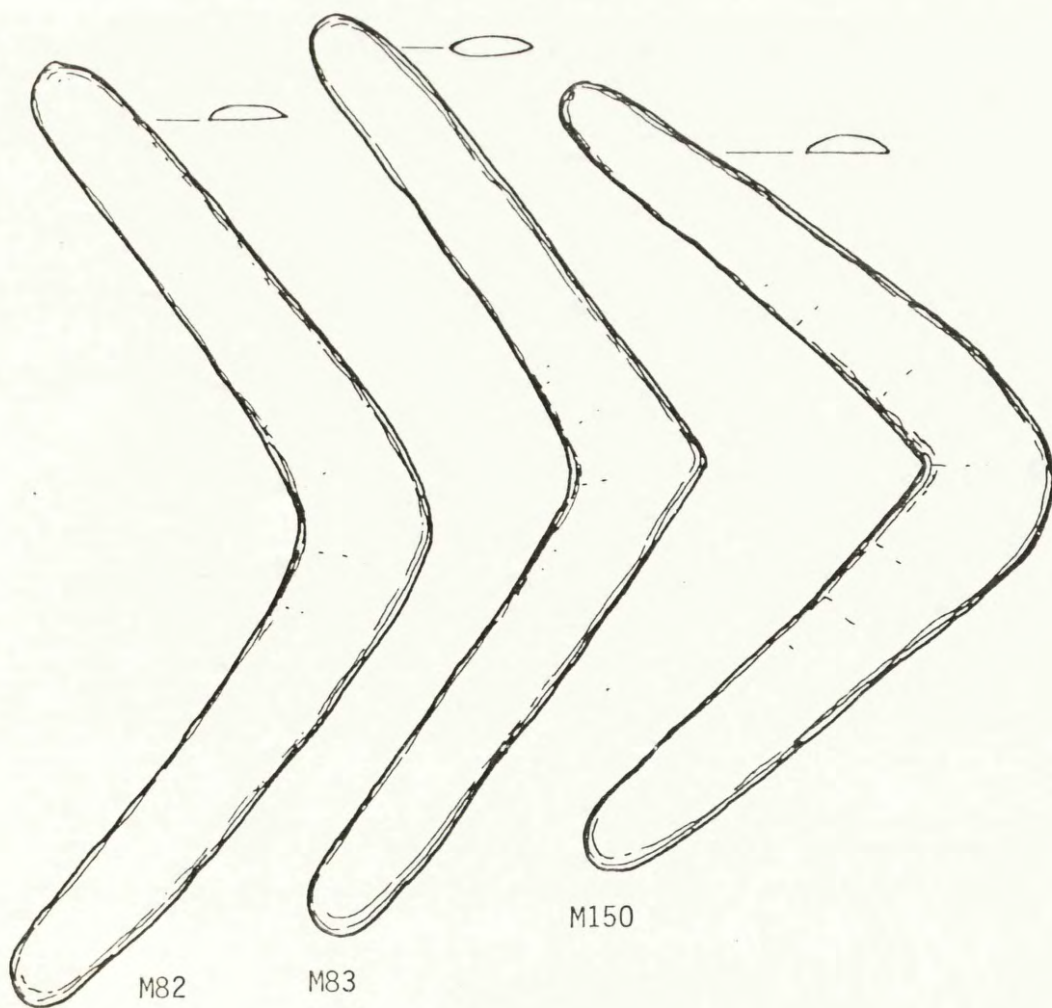
Max. Thickness: 1.8 cm; Angle of Curve: 38°.



M152

M81

M117



M82

M83

M150

M120: AM-E77642.

Purchased 1981. Plano-convex in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Slightly asymmetrical, with one end curving outwards. No twist, edges sharp, two-tone, dark reddish brown and brown.

Condition: Good, splitting near centre. Provenance: Hunter District (Enright, 1900:Plates III and IV).

Length: 44 cm (across chord); Width: 5.5 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

M154: AM-E78172.

Purchased 1981. Plano-convex in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and rough, tooling marks. Very slight twist, edges sharp, two-tone, dark brown and brown.

Condition: Good, two small cracks. Provenance: Hunter District. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 51 cm (across chord); Width: 6 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.6 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M118: AM-E77640.

Purchased 1981. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and rough, tooling marks. Slightly asymmetrical, with one end curving outwards. No twist, edges sharp, light brown. Artefact very light.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 42 cm (across chord); Width: 4.5 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 17°.

M119: AM-E77641.

Purchased 1981. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and rough, tooling marks. No twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 47 cm (across chord); Width: 6.8 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

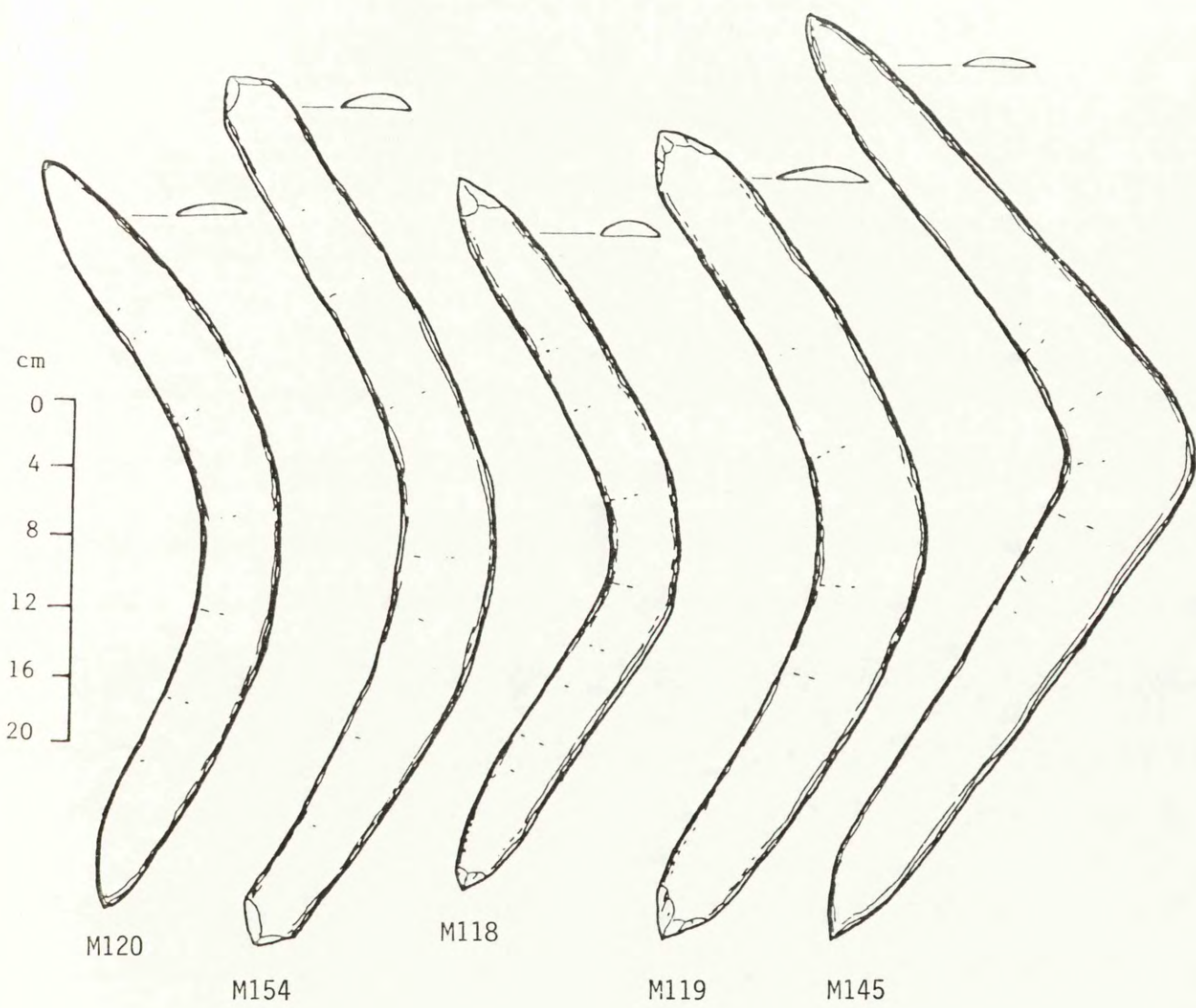
M145: AM-E78209.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and rough, tooling marks. Slight twist, edges sharp, two-tone, reddish brown and light brown.

Condition: Fair, one bad split 5 cm, at one end and dry look.

Length: 55.5 cm (across chord); Width: 8 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.6 cm; Angle of Curve: 20°.



M84: AM-E76972.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Very good.

Length: 57 cm (across chord); Width: 5.8 cm (off centre);
Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M94: AM-E76991.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, one semi-rounded end and one pointed. One incised arrow, 1 cm length, at pointed end on convex surface. Other surface plain. No twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Poor, large crack, 4 mm wide at one end and water marks. Provenance: Hunter District (Enright, 1900:Plate IV: No. 6).

Length: 58.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.7 cm (off centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 6°.

M11: NEC-AWB 930.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Faint red ochre stain (Munsell 2.5YR4/4) on both surfaces. Both surfaces and edges rough, tooling marks. No twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Fair, slight cracking and ochre stain wearing off. Provenance: Northern New South Wales (McBryde, 1978:157).

Length: 60 cm (across chord); Width: 7 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 9°.

M9: NEC-AWB 920.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth, polished. Artefact roughly cut. Twist, edges sharp, dusky red.

Condition: Good, edges jagged and adhesive tape marks. Provenance: Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

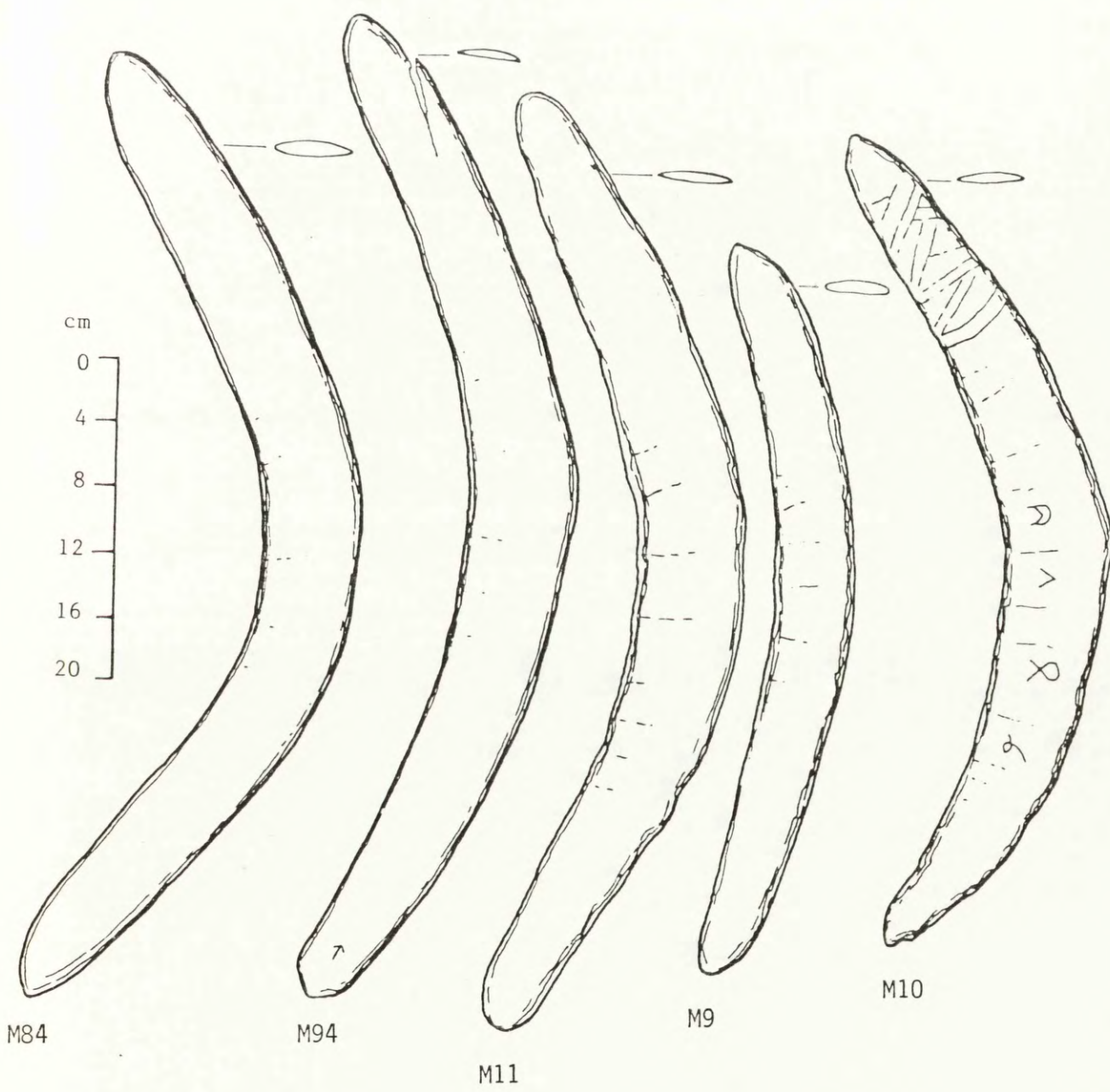
Length: 47.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M10: NEC-AWB 926.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Red ochre stain (Munsell 10R4/6) and white pigment design on both surfaces. Four incised marks along middle of one surface. Slightly asymmetrical. Both surfaces rough, tooling marks. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Poor, series of cracks and chips, edges jagged, red ochre wearing off, and white design almost faded. Provenance: Northern New South Wales (McBryde, 1978:167).

Length: 52 cm (across chord); Width: 6.6 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 9°.



M155: AM-E78173.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, bad split near one end, other chipped.

Length: 64.5 cm (across chord); Width: 4.9 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M142: AM-E78206.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, slight shipped, water marks.

Length: 58.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.5 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 11°.

M101: AM-E76992.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends.

Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, brown.

Condition: Fair, slight cracks and water marks. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 53 cm (across chord); Width: 5.3 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 12°.

M160: AM-E76992.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends.

Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges sharp, dark brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 52 cm (across chord); Width: 5.3 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M90: AM-E76981.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Fair, one split near centre at one end and water marks. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 51 cm (across chord); Width: 5.8 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

M161: AM-E78179.

Purchased 1981. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends.

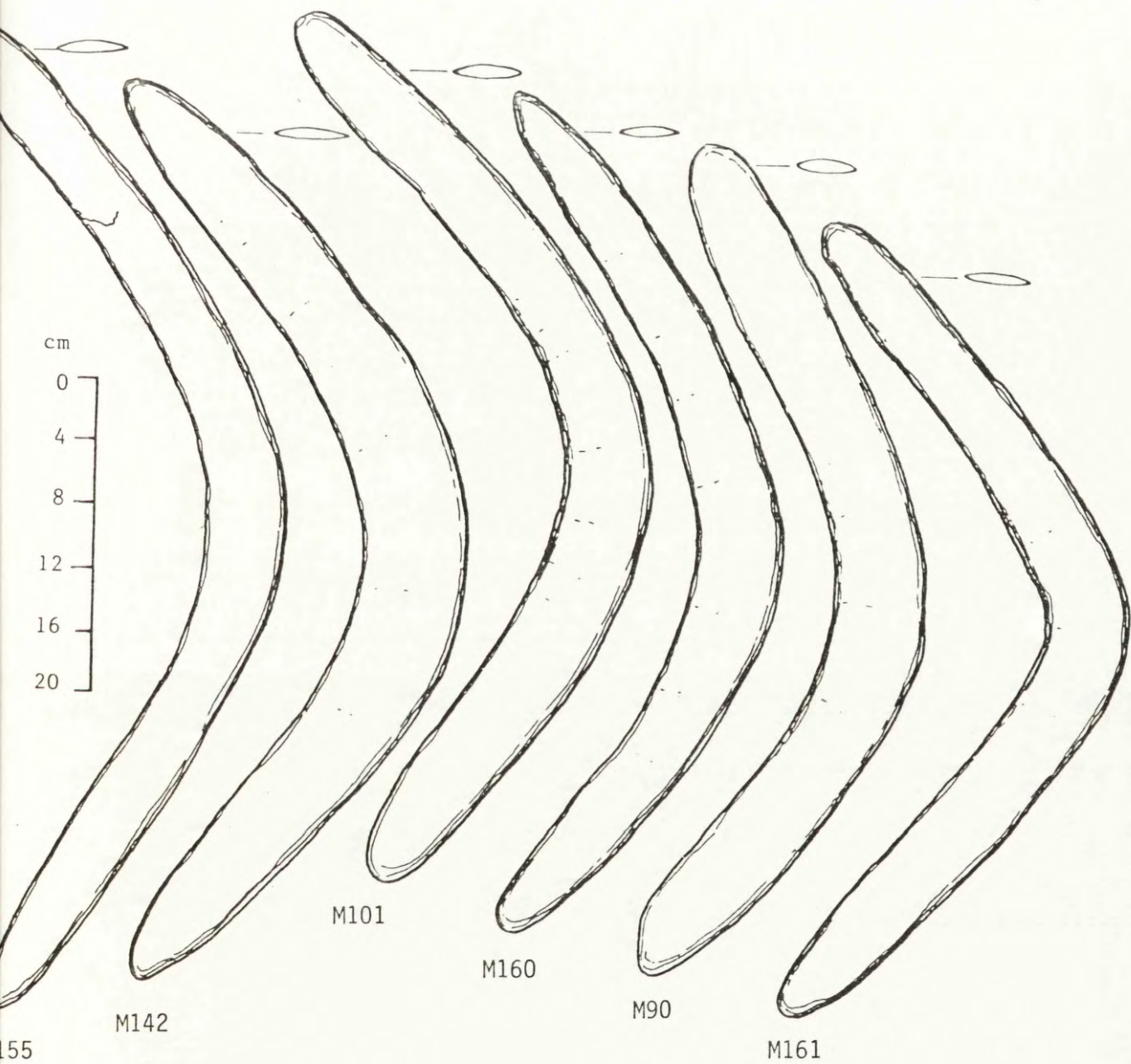
Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, dark brown.

Condition: Good, slight crack and chip at either end.

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 51 cm (across chord); Width: 5.2 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 18°.



M144: AM-E78208.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Very slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, bad split one end bound tight with string and glue. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 59 cm (across chord); Width: 4.7 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 6°.

M96: AM-E76982.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Slightly asymmetrical. Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 62 cm (across chord); Width: 5.8 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

M88: AM-E86977.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, bad warp, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, split near centre and warp.

Length: 63 cm (across chord); Width: 5.8 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 9°.

M105: AM-E77002.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Very good, slightly chipped edges. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 61 cm (across chord); Width: 5.9 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M143: AM-E78207.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. No twist, edges sharp, two-tone reddish brown and light brown.

Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 59 cm (across chord); Width: 6.8 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 5°.

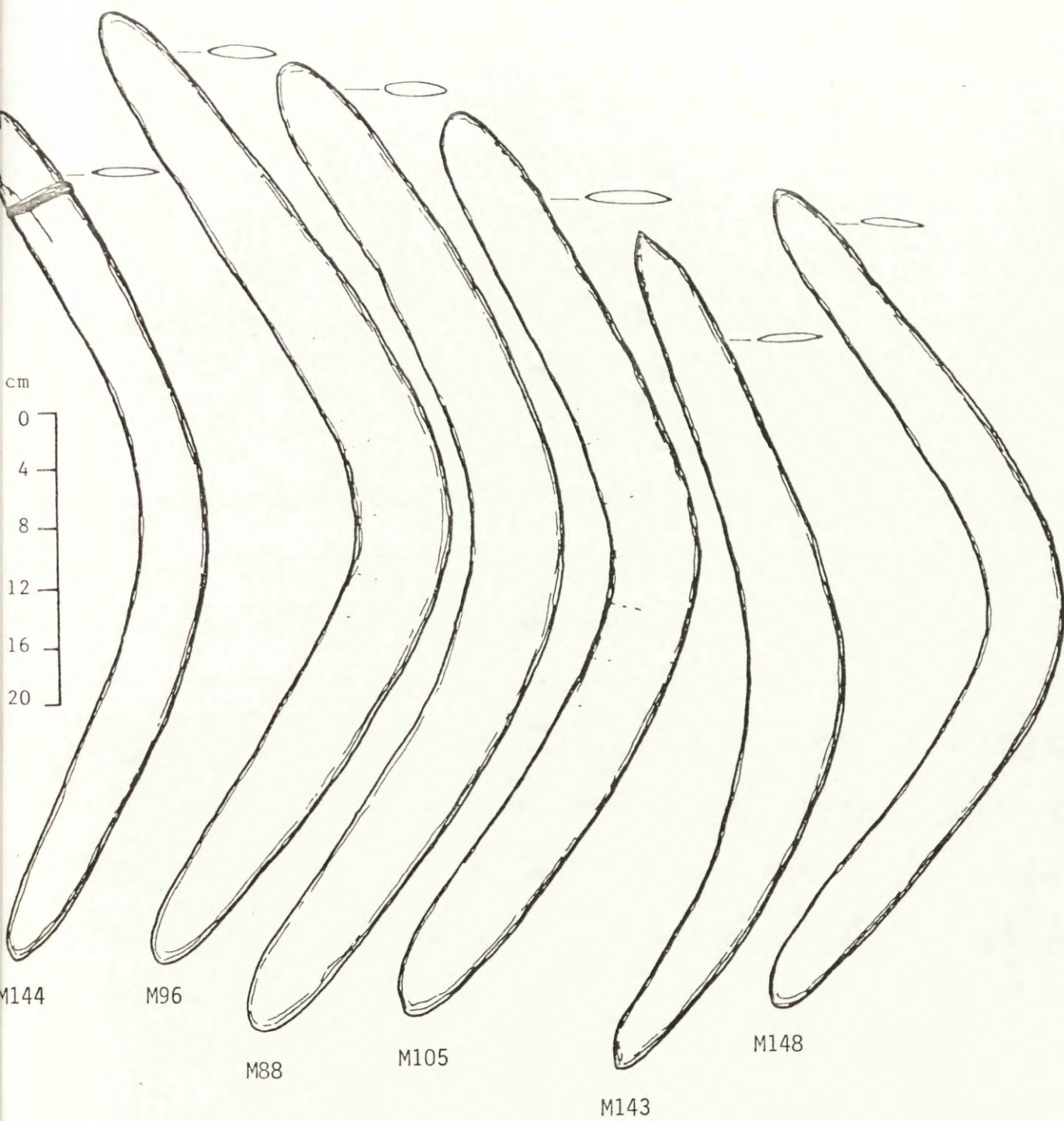
M148: AM-E78212.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Twist, edges sharp, two-tone, grey brown and brown.

Condition: Fair, bad splits at each end.

Length: 57 cm (across chord); Width: 5.4 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 13°.



M92: AM-E76985.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, edges chipped. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 68 cm (across chord); Width: 6.3 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

M158: AM-E78176.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, crack one end bound tight with wire, bad chip at other end, borer damage and water marks.

Length: 64 cm (across chord); Width: 5.3 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M156: AM-E78174.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, brown, lightly fire blackened stain.

Condition: Good, edges jagged and water marks.

Length: 61.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.2 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 5°.

M89: AM-E76980.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends.

Both surfaces plain, faint vertical ridge marks. Very slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, slight crack near centre. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 65 cm (across chord); Width: 6.1 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M95: AM-E76979.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends.

Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, small split at one end. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 64 cm (across chord); Width: 5.7 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

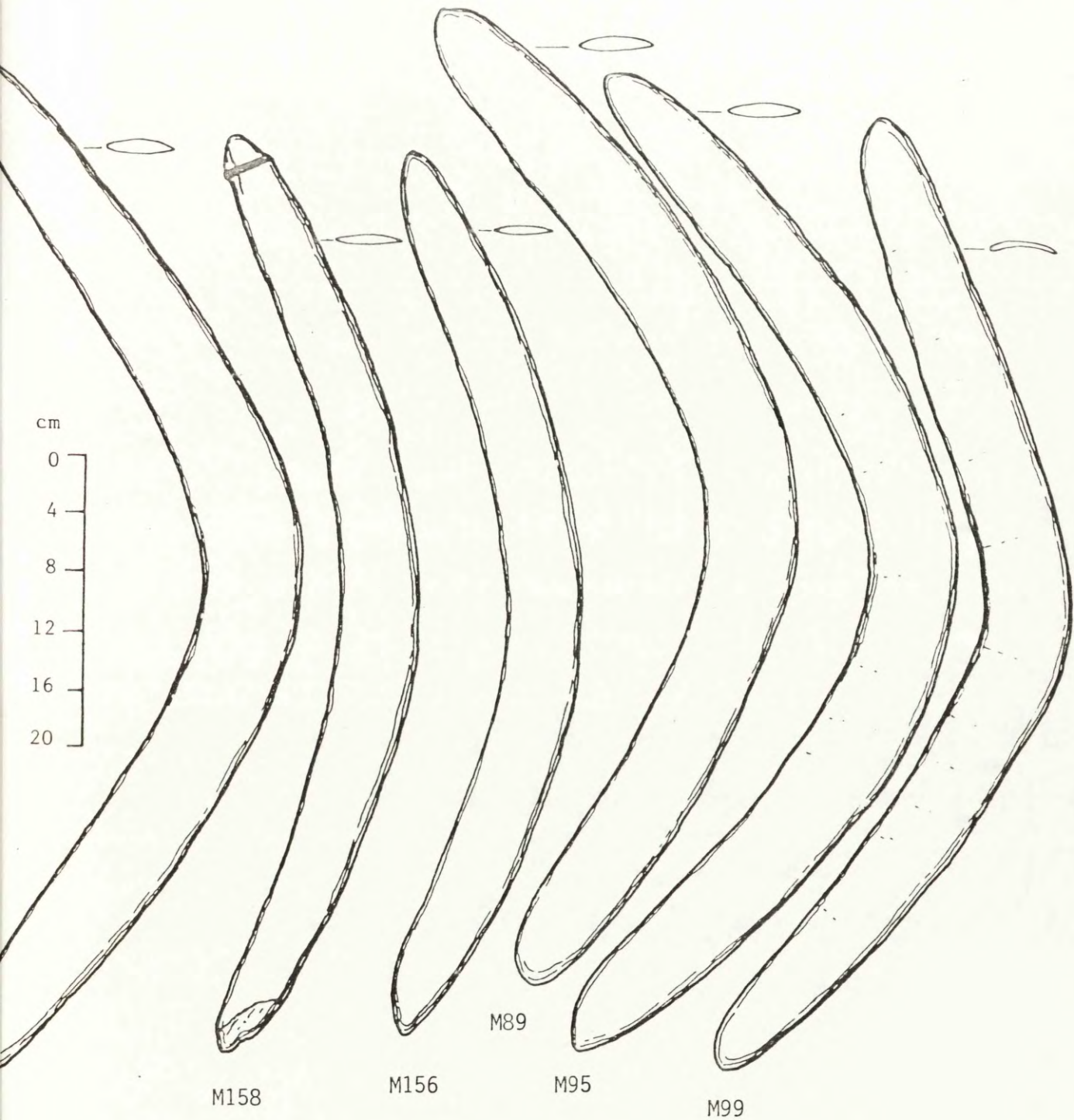
M99: AM-E76989.

Purchased 1979. Convex-concave in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, bad warp, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, very bad warp, small cracks and water marks.

Length: 63 cm (across chord); Width: 6 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 13°.



M98: AM-E76986.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Slightly asymmetrical, one end curved slightly outwards. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Good, one crack near centre. Length: 69.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.1 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 11°.

M104: AM-E77001.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain, fairly rough. Slight twist, edges sharp, light brown. Condition: Poor, bad splits, edges chipped and jagged, borer damage. Length: 71.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.2 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 12°.

M102: AM-E76999.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Good, slight chips along edges. Identification on arch, 1904. Length: 72 cm (across chord); Width: 6.2 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 13°.

M103: AM-E77000.

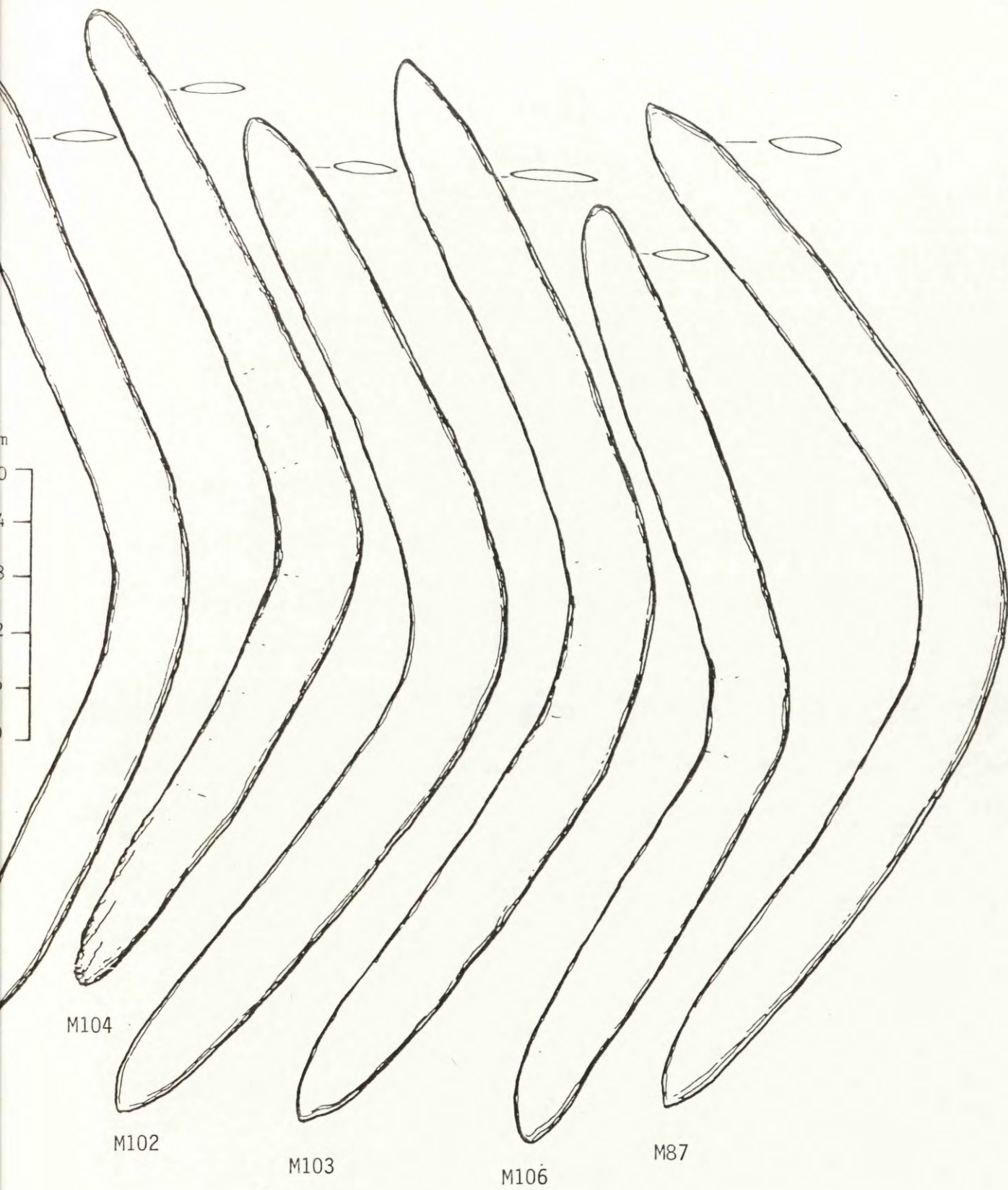
Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain, very slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Excellent, stain blotchy. Identification on arch, 1904. Length: 77.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.2 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 9°.

M106: AM-E77003.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904. Length: 68.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.6 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

M87: AM-E76975.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain. Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904. Length: 72 cm (across chord); Width: 6 cm (off centre); Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 11°.



BOOMERANGS

Provenance: unless otherwise stated any of these boomerangs could have been made in the Hunter District, except for some of the larger ones that might have come from western New South Wales (Breton, 1833:239; Threlkeld 1826 in Gunson, 1974:68; McKiernan, 1911:892; and Enright, 1900:117).

M110: AM-E77009.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges semi-rounded, dark brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, crack near centre, water marks.

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 71.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.0 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M115: AM-E77014.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Very similar to crescent-shaped boomerangs, except no vertical hatching. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded. Black brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent, faint water marks. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 74.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.7 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.8 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M100: AM-E76990.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent.

Length: 72 cm (across chord); Width: 5.2 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 7°.

M109: AM-E77008.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends.

Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges sharp, black brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 69 cm (across chord); Width: 5.3 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M80: AM-E76968.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends.

Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges very sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 73.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.5 cm (off centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 13°.



M115

M100

M109

M80

SHIELDS

M49: NEC-AWSH 248

Purchased 1975. Triangular in cross-section. The inside surface has one incised diamond shape and four arrow incisions on one side, and two random cross-diagonal incised patches on the other. The handle cut into the solid wood. The upper surface has one plain diamond and two triangular shapes on either side of plain rectangle shape in the centre. The remaining part of the surface finely fluted. Widest in the centre tapering to rounded ends. Dark brown, smooth finish. Condition: Excellent, slight cracking. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.

Length: 64.7 cm; Max. Width: 4.9 cm (centre); Thickness: 6.1 cm (centre); Handle: 9.0 x 1.5 cm; Inset Hand Grip: 9.2 x 2.9 x 4.2 cm.

M169: NEC-E77648.

Purchased 1981. Triangular in cross-section. The two curved inside surfaces decorated with untraditional incised branch/leaf shape design with two arrows at either end. The handle cut into the solid wood. The upper surface decorated with same design. Widest at the centre and tapering to semi-rounded ends.

Artefact extremely light. Brown, varnish/stain.

Condition: Fair, edges chipped, three long cracks along one surface and varnish bubbling. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 69.5 cm; Max. Width: 6.8 cm (centre); Thickness: 7.3 cm (centre); Handle: 11.2 x 1.0 cm; Inset Hand Grip: 11.5 x 4.6 x 1.4 cm.

M167: NEC-E78183.

Purchased 1981. Triangular in cross-section. Plain and faint tooling marks on all surfaces. The handle cut into the solid wood. Widest at the centre and tapering to very pointed ends. Artefact small and thin. Brown, smooth.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 49.5 cm; Max. Width: 4.6 cm (centre); Thickness: 5.0 cm (centre); Handle: 9.0 x 1.0 cm; Inset Hand Grip: 9.5 x 3.3 x 1.3 cm.

M170: NEC-E77644.

Purchased 1981. Triangular in cross-section. Plain and very faint tooling marks on all surfaces. The handle cut into the solid wood. Widest at the centre and tapering to pointed ends. Artefact very small and light. Brown, smooth.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 34 cm; Max. Width: 4.4 cm (centre); Thickness: 5.3 cm (centre); Handle: 7.7 x 2.0 cm; Inset Hand Grip: 8.0 x 3.4 x 1.9 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M79



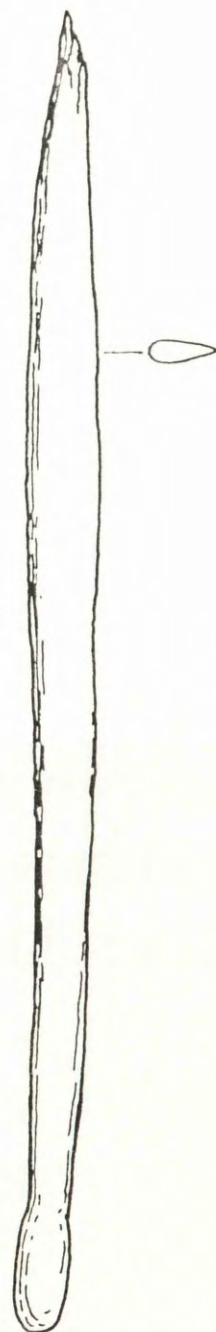
M162



M34



M35



M36

CLUBS

M79: AM-E77028.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. No butt or head end, greatest width in the centre tapering to sharp points. Dark brown, varnish. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: South-east Australia (Spencer, 1922:Plate 5; Smyth, 1879:302; Davidson, 1936:76). Length: 56.8 cm; Max. Width: 9.5 cm (centre).

M162: AM-E78202.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, 17 cm curved centre section, two bands, hatched, diamond incisions, three plain bands and two sets of two rows of leaf-shapes clutching round balls. Very untraditional design. No butt or head end, greatest width in the centre tapering to sharp points. Reddish brown. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia. Length: 66.0 cm; Max. Width: 10.5 cm (centre).

M34: NEC-AWC 774.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, slight increase in diameter towards head. Both butt and head ends tapering to sharp points. Two-tone, reddish brown and light brown, varnish. Condition: Very good, slight cracking. Provenance: South-east Australia (Spencer, 1922:Plate 5; Smyth, 1879:302; Davidson, 1936:76). Length: 77 cm; Max. Width: 9 cm (near head end).

M35: NEC-AWC 773.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, slight increase in diameter towards head. Butt end has a slight rounded bulb. Head end rounded. Dusky red brown, polished finish. Condition: Very good, one chip near the centre and dry. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.) Length: 73 cm; Max. Width Head: 9.5 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.0 cm (handle); Width butt: 7.7 cm.

M36: NEC-AWC 772.

Purchased 1975. Pyriform in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, which is blade-like. Blade edge very sharp. Butt end has a rounded bulb. Head end tapered to a point. Dark brown, polished finish. Condition: Poor, point badly chipped and splintered. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.) Length: 72 cm; Max. Width Head: 8.9 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 8.0 cm (handle); Width Butt: 8.5 cm.

cm
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4
8
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16
20



M75: AM-E77022.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Both butt and head ends rounded. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 75 cm; Max. Width Head: 9.8 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.5 cm (handle).

M138: AM-E78200.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Very slight curve along shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Butt end has a bulb with a pointed end. Head end tapered to a point. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, slight cracking, water marks and dry.

Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 76.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 13.4 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 8.9 cm (handle); Width Butt: 13.0 cm.

M134: AM-E78196.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a very slight bulb. Both butt and head ends pointed. Reddish brown, clear varnish. Condition: Fair, one long crack 17 cm along head. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 71 cm; Max. Width Head: 11.0 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 3.5 cm (handle).

M132: AM-E78194.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a very slight bulb. Butt end has 5 cm hatched incision forming a grip. Hand end tapered into a point. Blackish brown, varnish.

Condition: Poor, one large 10 cm slice chipped out at head end, butt end chipped right off and badly splintered, many smaller cracks, nail holes and two metal rings inserted in the wood.

Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 65 cm; Max. Width Head: 12.0 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 6.2 cm (handle).

M140: AM-E78204.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, painted design, dark brown band and crossing diagonal bands at head end. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a slight bulb. Butt end pointed. Head tapered to a semi-rounded end. Dark reddish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Fair, four long thin cracks and design almost worn off. Provenance: South-east Australia.

Length: 87 cm; Max. Width Head: 15.3 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7 cm (handle).

cm
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4
8
12
16
20

M127

M61

M168

M122

M171

M127: AM-E78189.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Butt end flat, surface decorated with incised lines. Head end tapered to a point. Artefact very heavy. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent, water marks. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District (Enright, 1900:Plate III).

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 73 cm; Max. Width Head: 13.5 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 9.0 cm (handle); Width Butt: 9.5 cm.

M61: AM-E76958.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, very slight increase in diameter towards head. Butt end flat and head end tapered to a point. Artefact very heavy. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: South-east Australia.

(Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 82 cm; Max. Width Head: 10.8 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 9.0 cm (handle); Width Butt: 9.8 cm.

M168: AM-E77645.

Purchased 1981. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, slight bulb. Butt end chisel marks, flat base, Head end tapered to a point. Artefact very small and light. Light reddish brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 34 cm; Max. Width Head: 11.2 cm;

M122: AM-E77649.

Purchased 1981. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, slight bulb. Butt end chisel marks, flat base. Head end tapered to a point. Artefact very small and light. Light brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 41 cm; Max. Width Head: 13 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.9 cm (handle); Width Butt: 8.4 cm.

M171: AM-E77646.

Purchased 1981. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point. Artefact very small and light. Light reddish brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 41 cm; Max. Width Head: 9.3 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 4.6 cm (butt).

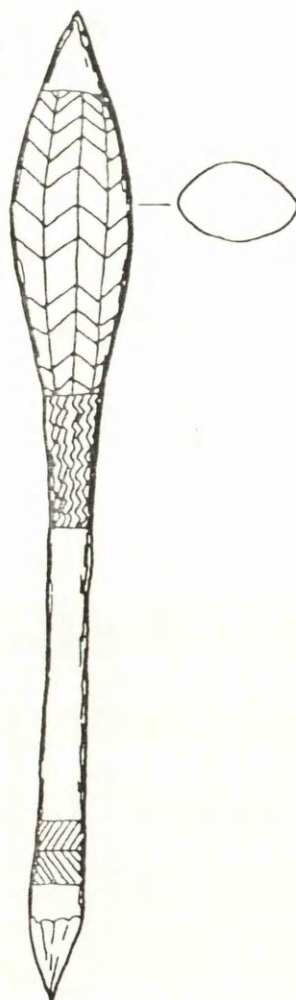
cm
0
4
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12
16
20



M28



M24



M25



M78

M28: NEC-AWC 776.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Curved shaft. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt has a small bulb, and slight chiselled rounded end. Head has a bulb with a very rounded end. Artefact quite heavy and well balanced. Plain and smooth. Reddish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Very good, very slight cracking and one small chip.

Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.

Length: 46.3 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 16.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 6.3 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 10.8 cm.

M24: NEC-AWC 769.

Purchased 1975. Elliptical in cross-section. Straight shaft, incised decoration. Horizontal and vertical zig-zag lines, dispersed with bands made up of small vertical lines. Motif corners most of the artefact. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, slight bulb. Butt end chiselled with flat base. Head tapered to a semi-rounded end. Reddish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Very good, slight cracking, dry. Provenance: South-east Australia (Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1982:90), Hunter District (Scott, 1929:31; Bungaree's club Pitt Rivers Museum).

Length: 55.8 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 16.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.8 cm (butt).

M25: NEC-AWC 768.

Purchased 1975. Elliptical in cross-section. Straight shaft, incised decoration. Horizontal and vertical zig-zag lines over bulb and small band of diagonal lines near handle end. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, tapering in the centre. Butt end chiselled to a point, with slight bulb. Head end marked bulb, tapered to a point. Dark brown, polished finish.

Condition: Fair, bad 12 cm crack down bulb, dry. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District.

Length: 52.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 19.7 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 9.8 cm.

M78: AM-E77027.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point. Artefact light. Brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, long, wide, deep cracks along entire length.

Provenance: South-east Australia (Davidson, 1936:82).

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 70 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 15.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.1 cm (butt).

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M76



M77



M57



M123



M22

M76: AM-E77024.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and roughly finished. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point. Light brown, fire blackened.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: South-east Australia.

(Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 68 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 14.6 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.1 cm (butt).

M77: AM-E77025.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point. Blackish brown, stain. Condition: Poor, long, wide, deep cracks along entire length. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 67 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 14.8 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.8 cm (butt).

M57: AM-E76954.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, bulb painted with white pigment 24 cm from point. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point. Brown.

Condition: Fair, cracks along entire length and white pigment flaking. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 79 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 20.1 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.8 cm (butt).

M123: AM-E77650.

Purchased 1981. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, bulb. Butt end chiselled into edge, slight bulb. Head end rounded and smooth. Artefact extremely light. Light brown. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: St Clair Mission, Singleton.

Length: 51 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 16.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.9 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 9.6 cm.

M22: NEC-AWC 771.

Purchased 1975. Elliptical in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end semi-rounded, bulb. Head end semi-rounded. Reddish brown, varnish.

Condition: Poor, large cracks along shaft, splitting at both ends. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District (Mitchell, 1839:Plate 1).

Length: 68 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 18.2 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.3 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 10.8 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M26



M23



M29



M54

M26: NEC-AWC 775.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, large bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end large bulb tapered to a point. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, two large chips near handle, long thin cracks over most of the object, dry. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District. (Ibid.)

Length: 62.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 23.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 9.3 cm (butt).

M23: NEC-AWC 770.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Bulb slightly off centre, plain and smooth. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, bulb. Butt end chiselled semi-rounded, slight bulb. Head end tapered to a point. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, slight cracking. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 64 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 23.7 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.9 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 8.5 cm.

M29: NEC-AWC 765.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section along shaft, plano-convex at head. Straight shaft, increase in diameter towards spade-like head. Head decorated with band of small horizontal incisions. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 16 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end edges sharp. Artefact made out of a root. Blackish brown.

Condition: Fair, cracks along entire length, chip at handle, dry, one small drilled hole. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.

Length: 70.3 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 28.3 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 6.4 cm (butt).

M54: AM-E76951.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, defined head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end large bulb, covered in white pigment, rounded end. Dark brown, roughly finished.

Condition: Poor, long cracks along entire length, white pigment hardly visible. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District (Henderson, 1851:148; Scott, 1929:31). Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 74.5 cm; Length Head: 8.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 28.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.4 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 8.1 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M62



M131



M56



M59



M62: AM-E76959.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, plain and smooth, defined head. Butt end flat base. Head end, bulb tapered to a point. Dark brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 66.5 cm; Length Head: 11.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 19.6 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.3 cm (butt).

M131: AM-E78193.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, defined head. Butt end chiselled flat base. Head end, bulb tapered to a point. Bulb may have been covered with a white pigment, but now hardly visible. Dark reddish brown, smooth finish.

Condition: Good, crack near handle, pigment. Provenance: South-east Australia, Hunter District. (Ibid.)

Length: 58.5 cm; Length Head: 7.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 22.3 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 9.5 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 10.5 cm.

M56: AM-E76953.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Very slight curve along shaft, defined head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end nail studded bulb, tapered into a sharp point. One row of 29 nails around bulb with 12 nails randomly placed above the row. Dark brown, faint tooling marks.

Condition: Very good, slight cracking around nails.

Provenance: South-east Australia, Northern New South Wales (McBryde, 1978:163).

Length: 65 cm; Length Head: 11 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 18.7 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.9 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 8.3 cm.

M59: AM-E76956.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, nail studded head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Butt end pointed, with 13 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head tapered to a semi-rounded end, with three rows of nails around the bulb, each row consisting of 11, 13 and 12 nails respectively. Dark brown, smooth finish.

Condition: Very good, 11 nails missing. Provenance:

South-east Australia, Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 80.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 13.2 cm (nails 16.5 cm); Min. Diam. Shaft: 6.9 cm (butt).

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M55



M27

M55: AM-E76952.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Marked curve along shaft, nail studded head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point, with three rows of nails around the bulb, each row consisting of 26, 4 and 22 nails respectively. 2 nails randomly placed below bottom row, 1 cm of white pigment covered nail design. Light brown.

Condition: Fair, long cracks along shaft, small cracks around nails, white pigment barely visible. Provenance: South-east Australia, Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

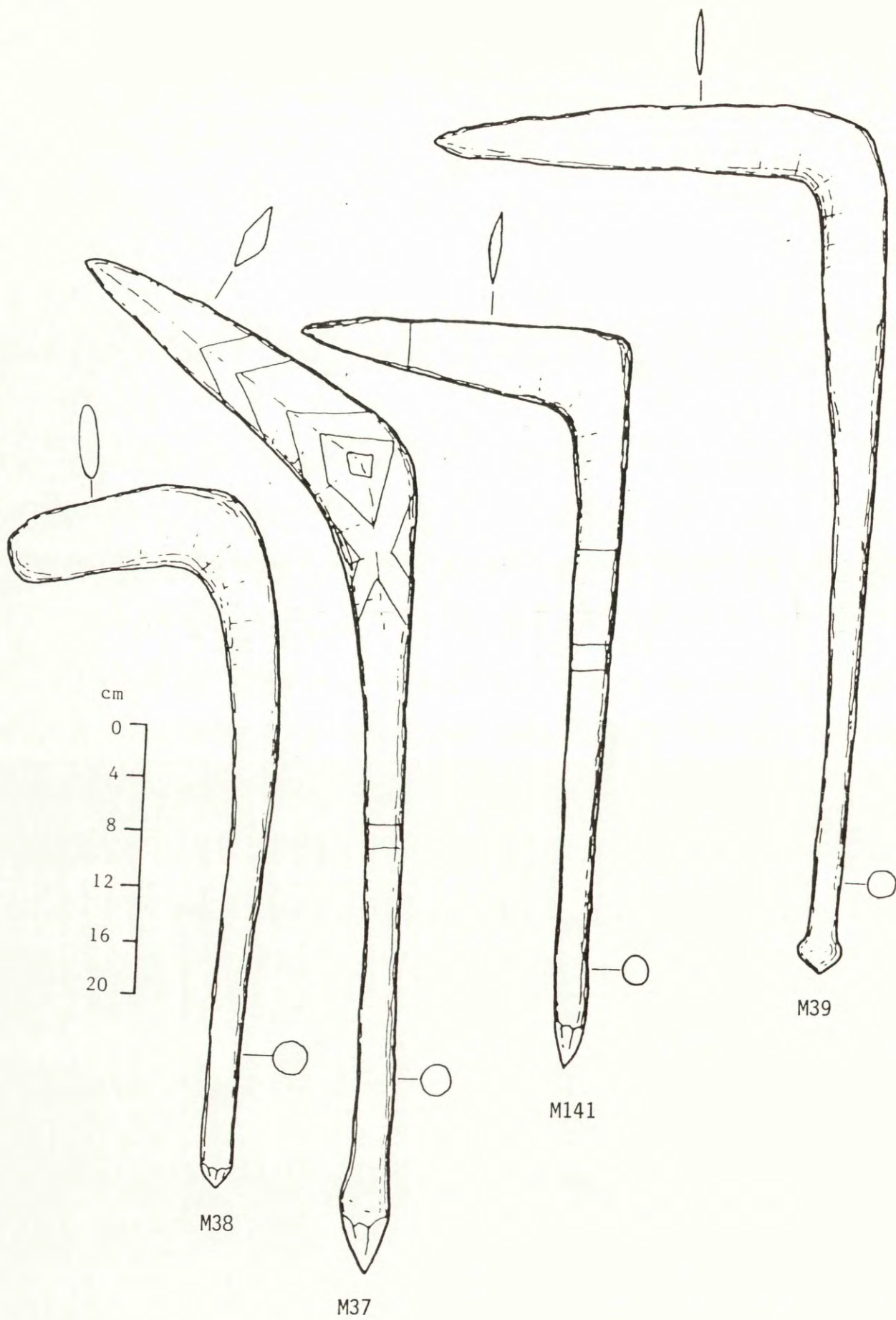
Length: 76 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 18.0 cm (nails 21 cm);
Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.5 cm (butt).

M27: NEC-AWC 767.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Slight curve along shaft, nail studded head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point, two rows of nails around bulb, consisting of 34 and 35 nails respectively. Between main rows there is another row of holes with an 'x' design only 2 nails remaining. White pigment covered nail design. Dark brown.

Condition: Fair, long cracks, pigment barely visible, dry. Provenance: South-east Australia, Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 80.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 18.4 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.7 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 8.8 cm.



M38: NEC-AWC 778.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section at the head and circular along the shaft. Butt end chiselled to a point. Right-angled bend tapering to a sharp edged end. Plain and roughly finished. Dark brown, stain.

Condition: Very good, slight cracking, dry. Provenance:

Hunter District (see Enright, 1900:Plate 3).

Length: 68 cm; Length Head: 17.0 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 18.8 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.5 cm (butt); Angle of Curve: 38°.

M37: NEC-AWC 780.

Purchased 1975. Diamond-shape in cross-section at the head and circular along the shaft. Butt end has a slight bulb chiselled to a point. Right-angled head tapered to a point, edges sharp. White pigment design on both surfaces of head, and one white band around the centre of the shaft. Brown, smooth finish.

Condition: Fair, bad cracks along head, pigment flaking.

Provenance: Hunter District (see Scholoff, 1973:150c).

Length: 86.5 cm; Length Head: 26.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 17.8 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 9.1 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 11.7 cm; Angle of Curve: 9°.

M141: AM-E78205.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section at the head and circular along the shaft. Butt end chiselled to a point. Right-angled head tapered to a point, edges sharp. White pigment on both surfaces of head and top of shaft, and 2 cm white band around the centre of the shaft. Brown, smooth finish.

Condition: Excellent, pigment flaking. Provenance: Hunter District. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

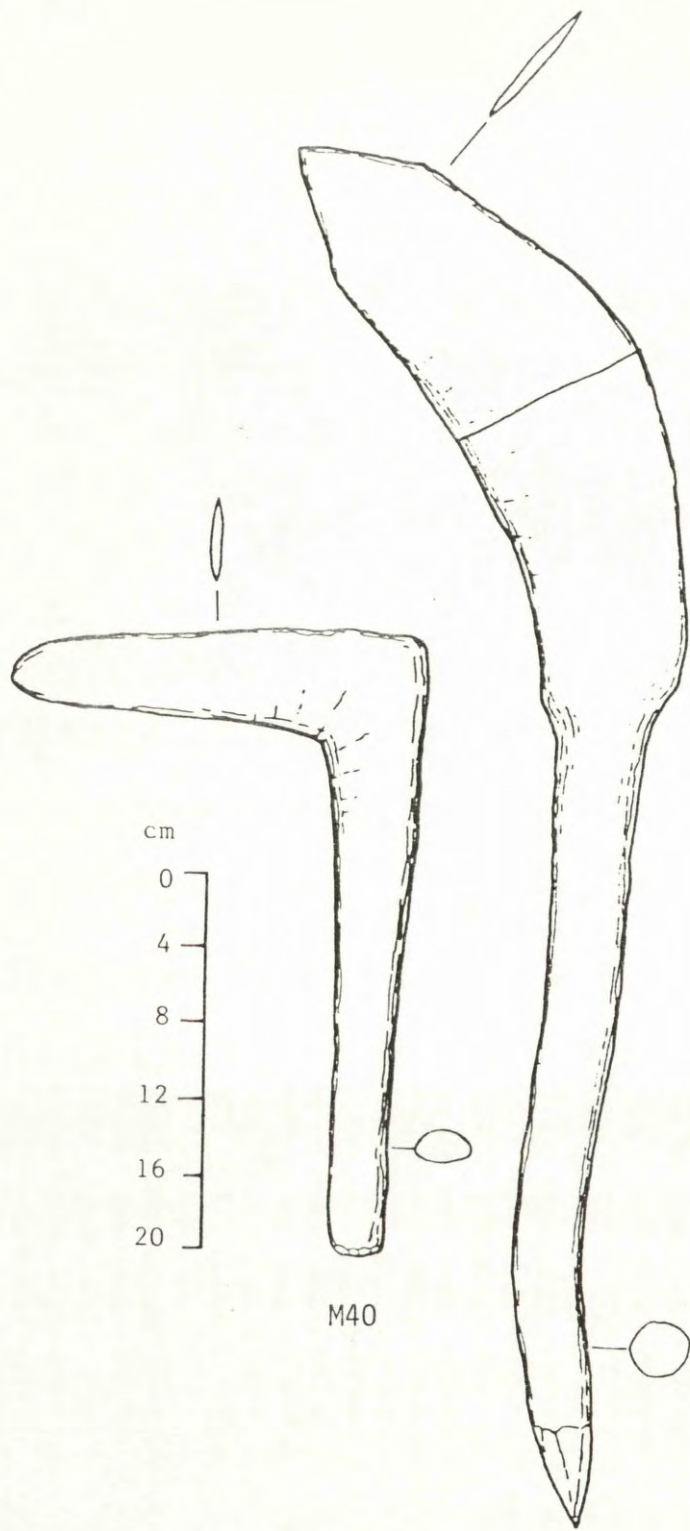
Length: 79.5 cm; Length Head: 24.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 17.2 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.0 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 8.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 35°.

M39: NEC-AWC 780.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section at the head and circular along the shaft. Butt has a bulb and semi-rounded end. Right-angled head tapered to a point, edges sharp. Plain and smooth finish. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, bad crack along head. Provenance: South-east Australia (Etheridge, 1894:318).

Length: 92 cm; Length Head: 30.5 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 12.9 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.0 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 9.5 cm; Angle of Curve: 38°.

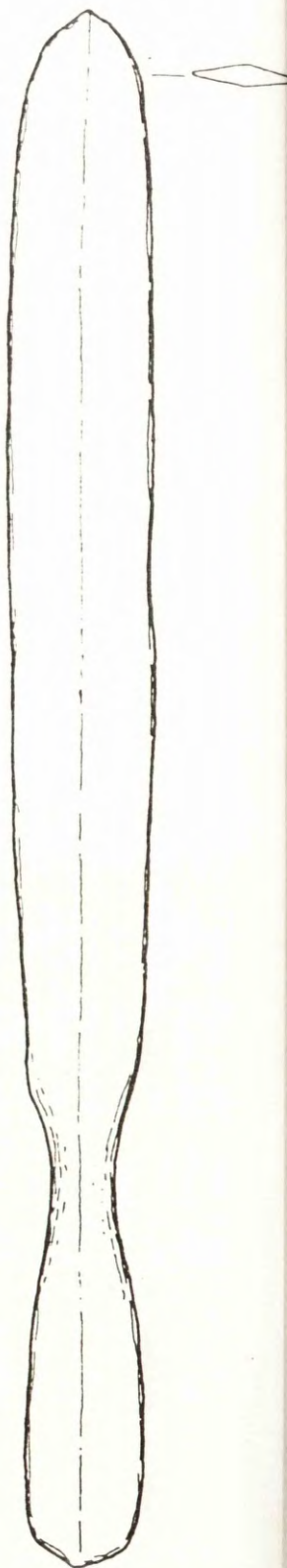


M40

M58



M137



M72

M40: NEC-AWC 777.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section at the head and elliptical along the shaft. Butt chiselled rounded end. Right-angled head tapered to semi-rounded end, edges sharp. Plain, tooling marks. Artefact very small and light. Reddish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: South-east Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 54.2 cm; Length Head: 21.4 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 16.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.5 cm (butt); Angle of Curve: 35°.

M58: AM-E76955.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section at the head and circular along curved shaft. Butt end chiselled to a point. Thin blade-like curved head tapered to a point with sharp edges. White pigment 18 cm along both surfaces of the blade head.

Shaft plain and faint tooling marks. Dark brown, stain.

Condition: Very good, pigment flaking. Provenance: Sydney/Hunter District (Collins, 1798, in Gunson, 1974:152).

Length: 77 cm; Length Head: 34.0 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 21.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 10.4 cm (butt).

M137: AM-E78199.

Purchased 1982. Diamond-shape in cross-section at the head and circular along the shaft. Butt end chiselled to a point. Blade-like head tapered to a point with sharp edges. Possible white pigment on blade. Shaft plain and smooth. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, long deep cracks, pigment barely visible, water marks and dry. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 72 cm; Length Head: 15.0 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 14.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.5 cm (butt).

M72: AM-E77017.

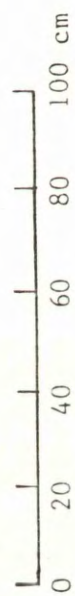
Purchased 1979. Diamond-shape in cross-section. Long sword blade, no shaft. Two notches 24 cm from butt to form a grip. Butt end semi-rounded, head end tapered to a point, edges very sharp. Well balanced, plain and smooth. Brown.

Condition: Excellent, faint cracking, water marks. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia (Smyth, 1879:303).

Length: 82.5 cm; Max. Diam. Blade: 16.3 cm (centre); Min. Diam. Blade: 9.0 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 13.6 cm; Thickness: 2.7 cm.



M177



M177: AM-E78117.

Purchased 1982. Coastal estuarine canoe. Single sheet of bark, possibly stringy bark. Surface smooth inside rough bark on the outside. Sides curved upwards, with a fairly even depth. There may have been stretchers to maintain the shape upwards, but not present. Both ends only slightly turned upwards. Both ends folded and secured by a wooden peg. By the shape of the folds, it is possible that lashings (probably vines) were bound around the folds for added strength, but once again not present.

Condition: Poor, long cracks along the base, folded ends badly splintered, one peg missing, and metal screw and glue.

Provenance: Hunter District (Threlkeld, 1826, in Gunson, 1974:53; Scott, 1929:32). Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 350 cm; Max. Width: 44 cm (centre); Max. Depth: 14 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M52



M53

SPEARS

M52: NEC-AWS 1557.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section along twisted shaft. Single shaft of light wood, pointed end. Head, stone-tipped, quartzite. Sharp point and edges. String bound around shaft and head, then cemented with resin. Light brown, smooth.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Northern Territory (Davidson, 1934:151).

Length: 167.6 cm; Length Visible Head: 8.9 cm; Max. Diam. Shaft: 4.8 cm.

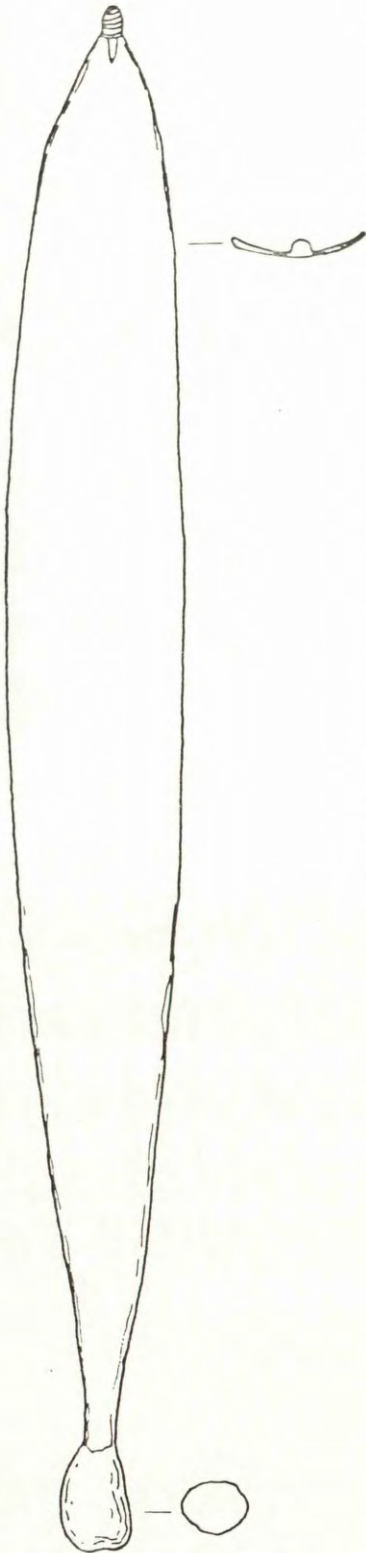
M53: NEC-AWS 1558.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section along twisted shaft. Single shaft of light wood, pointed end. Head, stone-tipped, quartzite. Sharp point and edges. String bound around shaft and head then cemented with resin. Light brown, smooth.

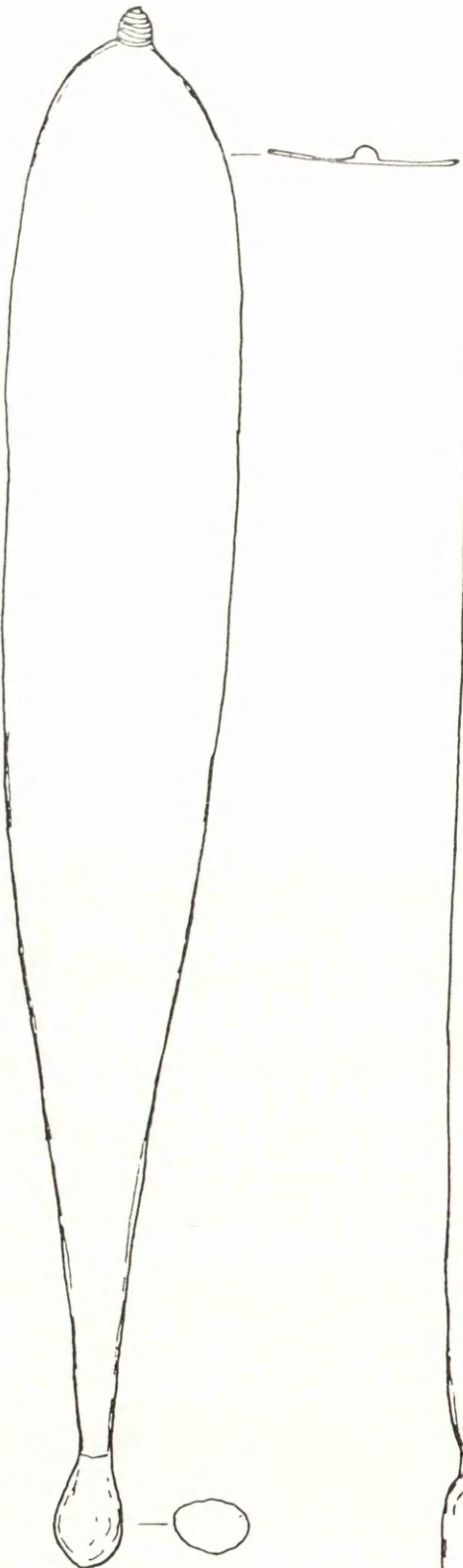
Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Northern Territory. (Ibid.)

Length: 178.5 cm; Length Visible Head: 7.3 cm; Max. Diam. Shaft: 4.2 cm.

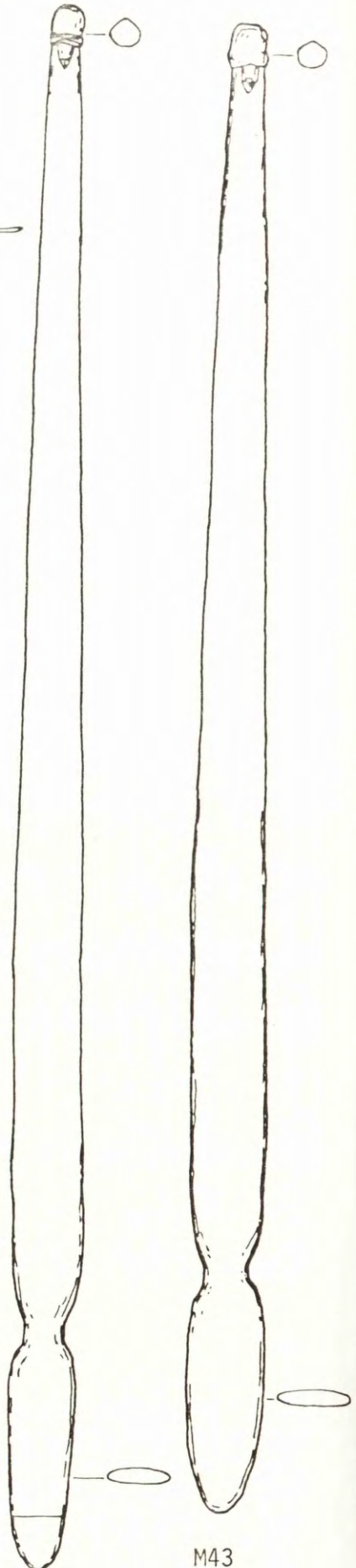
cm
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4
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16
20



M46



M47



M42



M43

SPEARTHROWERS

M46: NEC-AWT 392.

Purchased 1975. Convex-concave in cross-section. Wide thin shaft tapered at both ends. Handle end has a rounded bulb made out of a dark resin. Hook separate piece of wood, bound to shaft by sinew. Shaft has elaborate non-figurative incised patterns on both surfaces.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Central Desert area (Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1982:126).

Length: 82 cm; Max. Width: 9.1 cm; Min. Width: 1.2 cm (hook end); Max. Width Resin Bulb: 3.2 cm; Max. Thickness: 2.3 cm (bulb); Max. Height Hook: 1.6 cm.

M47: NEC-AWT 393.

Purchased 1975. Very slight convex-concave in cross-section. Wide, thin shaft tapered at both ends. Handle end has a rounded bulb made out of a dark resin. Hook separate piece of wood bound to shaft by sinew. Shaft plain, tooling marks on concave surface, fluting on convex.

Condition: Poor, hook broken off, cracks near hook end and resin breaking off. Provenance: Western Australia (Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1982:126 and Spencer, 1922:42).

Length: 84 cm; Max. Width: 11.7 cm (centre); Min. Width: 1.9 cm (hook end); Max. Width Resin Bulb: 3.9 cm; Max. Thickness: 2.5 cm (bulb).

M42: NEC-AWT 390.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section. One continuous shaft, increase in width towards hand end. Hand end and edges rounded. Two deep notches 17 cm from hand end to form a grip. Hook separate piece of wood bound to shaft by string and resin. Red ochre (Munsell 10R4/4) over most of shaft (may be a stain), white pigment over 8 cm of hook end and 3.7 cm of hand end. Artefact very light.

Condition: Very good, pigment fading. Provenance: North-west Australia (Spencer, 1922:43).

Length: 98.5 cm; Max. Width: 4.1 cm (handle); Min. Width: 1.9 cm (hook end); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm (handle); Max. Height of Hook: 2.2 cm.

M43: NEC-AWT 389.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section. One continuous shaft, increase in width towards hand end. Hand end and edges rounded. Two deep notches 13.5 cm from hand end to form a grip. Hook separate piece of wood bound to shaft by string and resin. Red ochre (Munsell 10R4/4) over most of shaft (may be a stain), white pigment over 11.5 cm of hook end and 6.2 cm of hand end. Artefact very light.

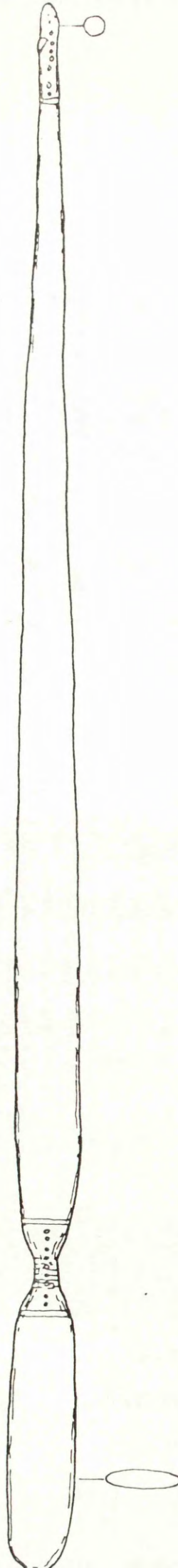
Condition: Very good, resin cracking and pigment fading.

Provenance: North-west Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 93.5 cm; Max. Width: 4.6 cm (handle); Min. Width: 2.2 cm (hook end); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm (handle); Max. Height of Hook: 1.9 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20

M44

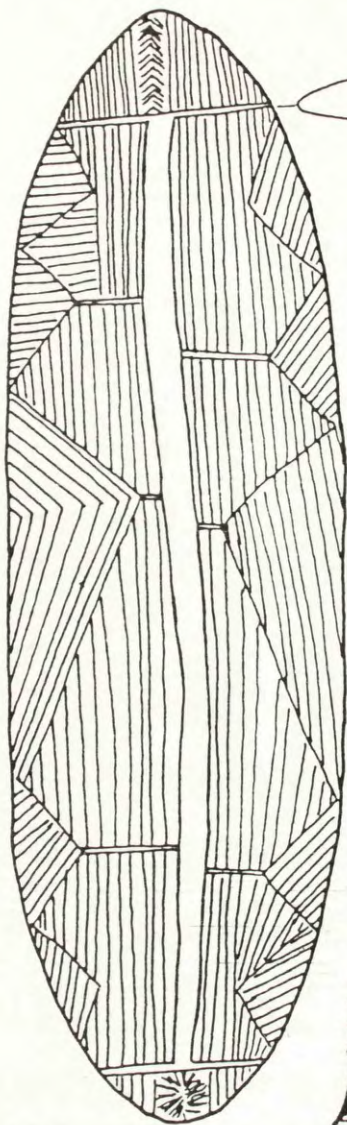


M44: NEC-AWT 392.

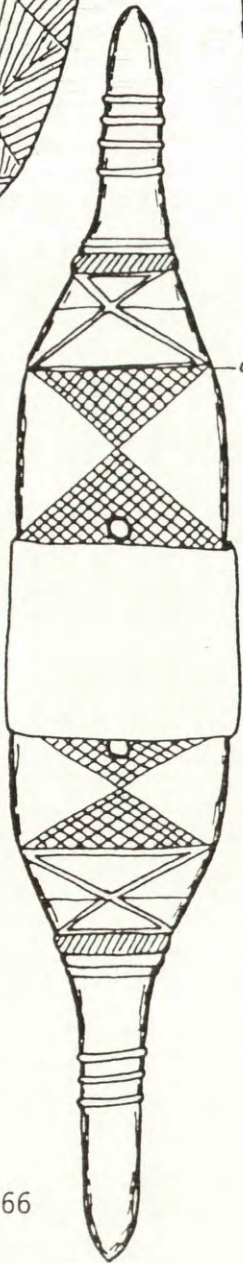
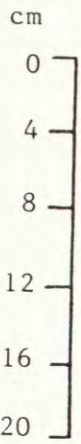
Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section. One continuous shaft, increase in width towards hand end. Hand end and edges rounded. Two deep notches 20 cm from hand end to form a grip. Hook separate piece of wood bound to shaft by string and resin, off centre. Red ochre (Munsell 10R4/6) over most of shaft (may be a stain). White band, then yellow, broken pigment (Munsell 104R6/8), and rows of 9 white dots over 6.3 cm of hook end. Some painted design over 6.5 mm of tapered grip (may be paint). Artefact very light.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: North-west Australia.
(Ibid.)

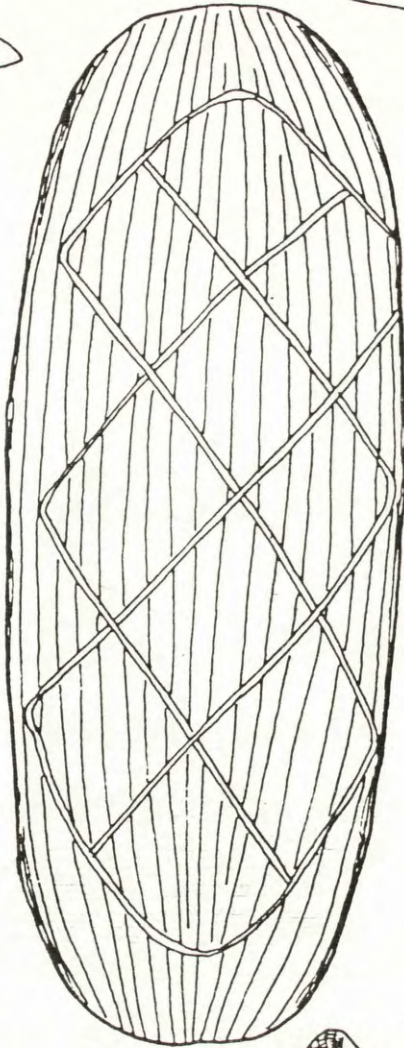
Length: 120.5 cm; Max. Width: 5.1 cm (handle); Min. Width: 1.4 cm (hook end); Max. Thickness: 2.1 cm (handle); Max. Height of Hook: 3.1 cm.



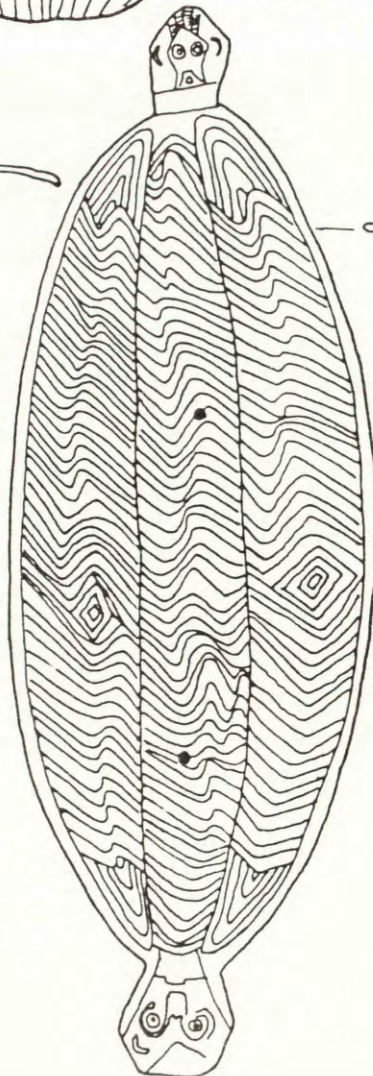
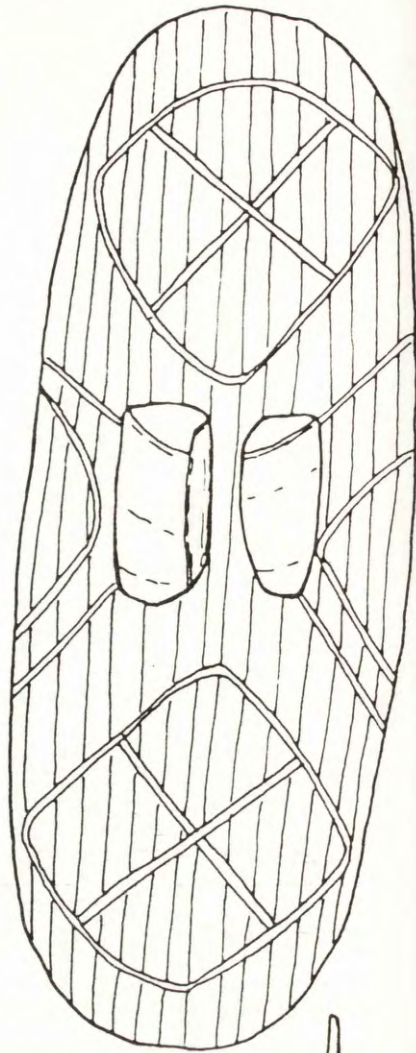
M164



M166



M165



M50



SHIELDS

M164: AM-E78180.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section. Convex upper surface has faint fluted geometric design over entire face. White pigment flecks, but extent unknown. The back surface plain and smooth. The handle cut into the solid wood, with an inset handhole. Widest in the centre not tapering till near rounded ends. Greyish brown.

Condition: Good, pigment and water marks. Provenance: Northern New South Wales and South-west Queensland (McBryde, 1978:143 and Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1982:122).

Length: 60 cm; Max. Width: 18.5 cm (centre); Max. Thickness: 7.5 cm (centre); Handle: 8.6 x 3.0 cm; Inset Handhole: 8.6 x 15.0 x 3.0 cm.

M165: AM-E78182.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section. Both surfaces are fluted and painted with a yellow ochre (Munsell 7.54R6/8), superposed with a red ochre (Munsell 10R4/3) looping diamond shape incised design. The handle cut into the solid wood, with an inset handhole. Widest in the centre not tapering till near rounded ends.

Condition: Fair, borer damage. Provenance: Western Queensland (Roth, 1897:150, identical description).

Length: 56 cm; Max. Width: 20.6 cm (centre); Max. Thickness: 6.3 cm; Handle: 11.0 x 2.4 cm; Inset Handhole: 11.0 x 10.8 x 3.5 cm.

M166: AM-E78181.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section. Convex upper surface decorated with incised geometric design and thin raised bands, smooth polished surface. The other surface plain, with tooling marks. The handle separate item inserted in two bored holes 10 cm apart in the middle of the object. The handle is missing, pig skin 10 cm band secured with a nail covers middle section, purpose unknown. Widest in the centre tapering to two long 3.5 cm wide stick ends, semi-rounded. Reddish brown.

Condition: Fair, handle missing, thin 17 cm crack down the centre, pig skin. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.

Length: 67.5 cm; Max. Width: 11.5 cm; Max. Thickness: 1.9 cm.

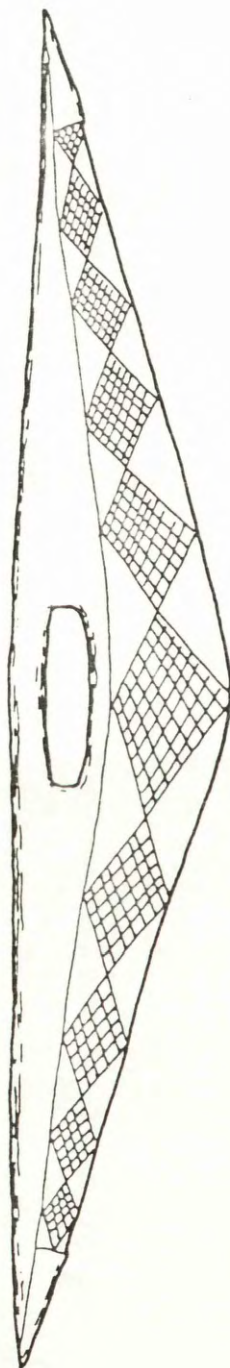
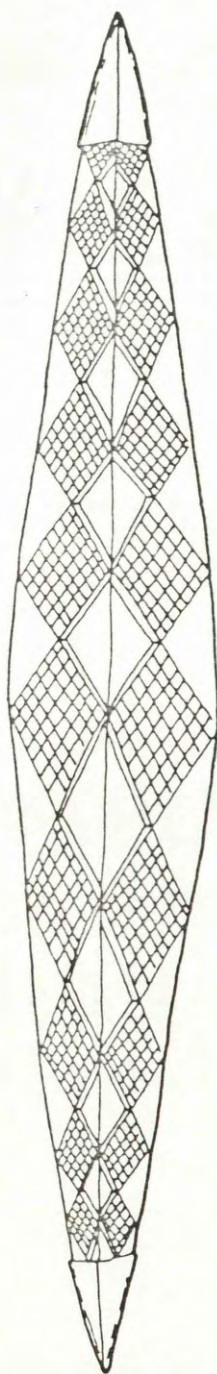
M50: NEC-AWSH 247.

Purchased 1975. Convex-concave in cross-section. Convex upper surface decorated with incised herring bone pattern, with an incised figurative human face at both knob-like ends. The other surface plain, with tooling marks. The handle is a separate item, probably not original handle. Different type of sawn wood attached with two nails. Widest in the centre, not tapering till near knob ends. Light brown.

Condition: Poor, very porous, edges chipped, bad borer damage. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.

Length: 56.5 cm; Max. Width: 20.5 cm (centre); Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M48

M48: NEC-AWSH 249.

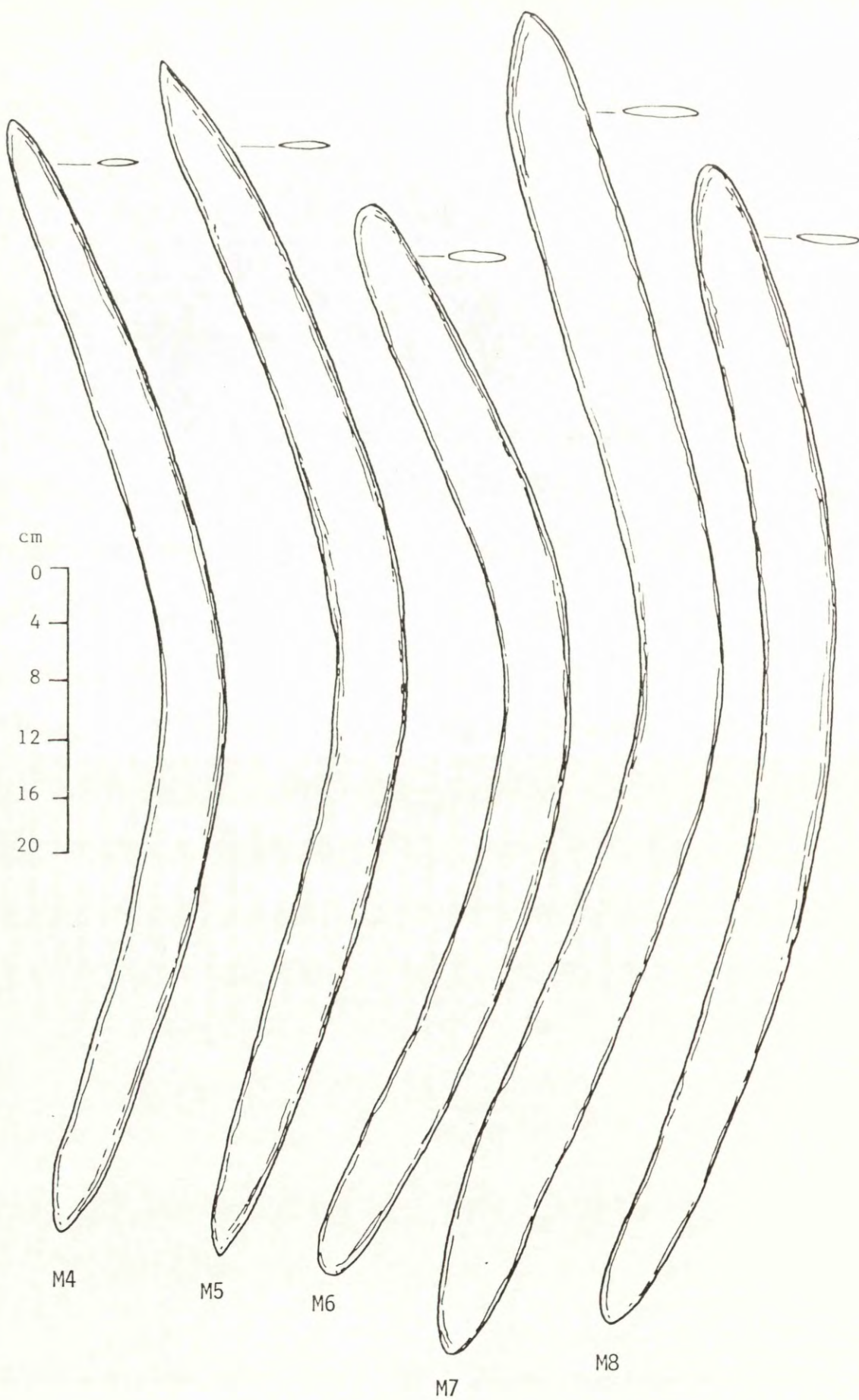
Purchased 1975. Triangular in cross-section. Convex surface plain and smooth, with the handle cut into the solid wood. The other upper surfaces decorated with geometric raised pattern, tightly raised cross-diagonal incised diamond shapes. Widest in the centre tapering to pointed ends. Light brown on decorated surface and blackish brown stain on convex.

Condition: Fair, borer damage. Provenance: Northern Victoria and Murray-Darling Basin (Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1982:84; Smyth, 1876:331; Spencer, 1922:9). Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 71.5 cm; Max. Width: 10.0 cm (centre); Max.

Thickness: 11.4 cm (centre); Handle: 8.0 x 2.6 cm; Inset

Handgrip: 8.2 x 7.6 x 3.4 cm.



BOOMERANGS

Provenance: any of these large boomerangs could well have been made in the Hunter District as there are reports of large 'sword-like, scimitar weapons' (Mitchell, 1839:Plate 1). However these type of boomerang are a general shape and design common to a wide area of South-east Australia and probably come from Western New South Wales (Cooper, 1975:25; Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1981:98).

M4: NEC-AWB 932.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain, slight tooling marks. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown, stain.
Condition: Good, cracking at one end, water marks.
Identification on arch, 1904.
Length: 80.2 cm (across chord); Width: 4.6 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 5°.

M5: NEC-AWB 928.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.
Condition: Fair, slight borer damage, long faint cracks along both surfaces, stain bubbling. Identification on arch, 1904.
Length: 85 cm (across chord); Width: 5.1 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1 cm; Angle of Curve: 5°.

M6: NEC-AWB 927.

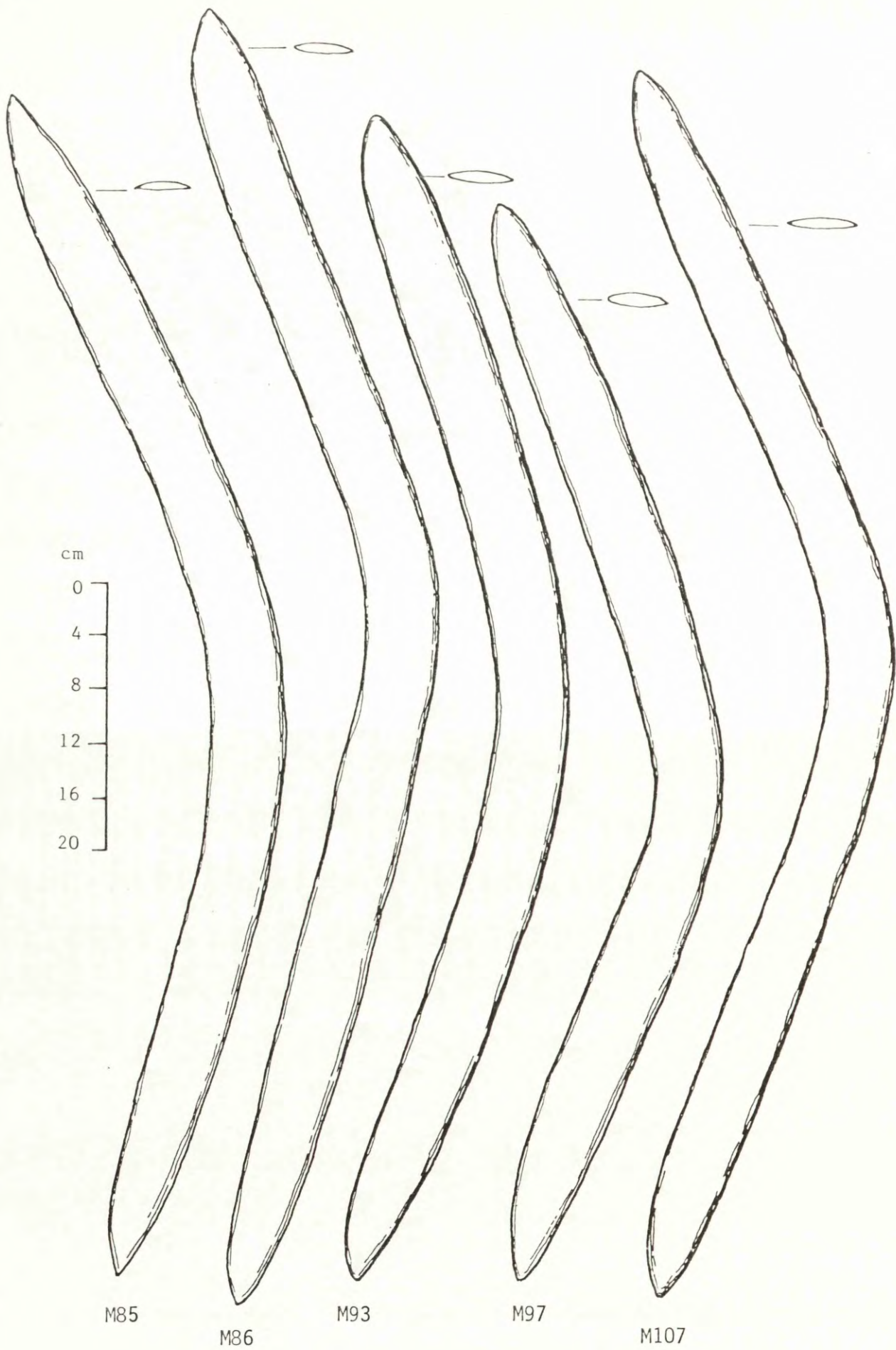
Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain, fairly rough, tooling marks. Marked twist, edges semi-rounded, dark brown, stain.
Condition: Poor, cracks and chips on both surfaces, stain bubbling.
Length: 78 cm (across chord); Width: 5.3 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 7°.

M7: NEC-AWB 936.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces plain and smooth. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown, stain.
Condition: Fair, edges jagged, red paint mark. Identification on arch, 1904.
Length: 96.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.5 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 6°.

M8: NEC-AWB 933.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain, tooling marks. Wider at one end. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown, stain.
Condition: Good, edges jagged.
Length: 83.0 cm (across chord); Width: 5.6 cm (one end);
Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.



M85: AM-E76973.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, thin cracks along the centre of the artefact.

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 84 cm (across chord); Width: 5.7 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M86: AM-E76974.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Very good. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 92.5 cm (across chord); Width: 3.9 cm (one end);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M93: AM-E76988.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, bad split at the centre of the artefact, split at one end. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 82 cm (across chord); Width: 5.3 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M97: AM-E76983.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Slight twist, edges sharp, dark brown, stain.

Condition: Poor, bad cracks along entire artefact and edges chipped. Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 77 cm (across chord); Width: 4.8 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 8°.

M107: AM-E77004.

Purchased 1979. Lenticular in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces plain. Very slight twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent. Identification on arch, 1904.

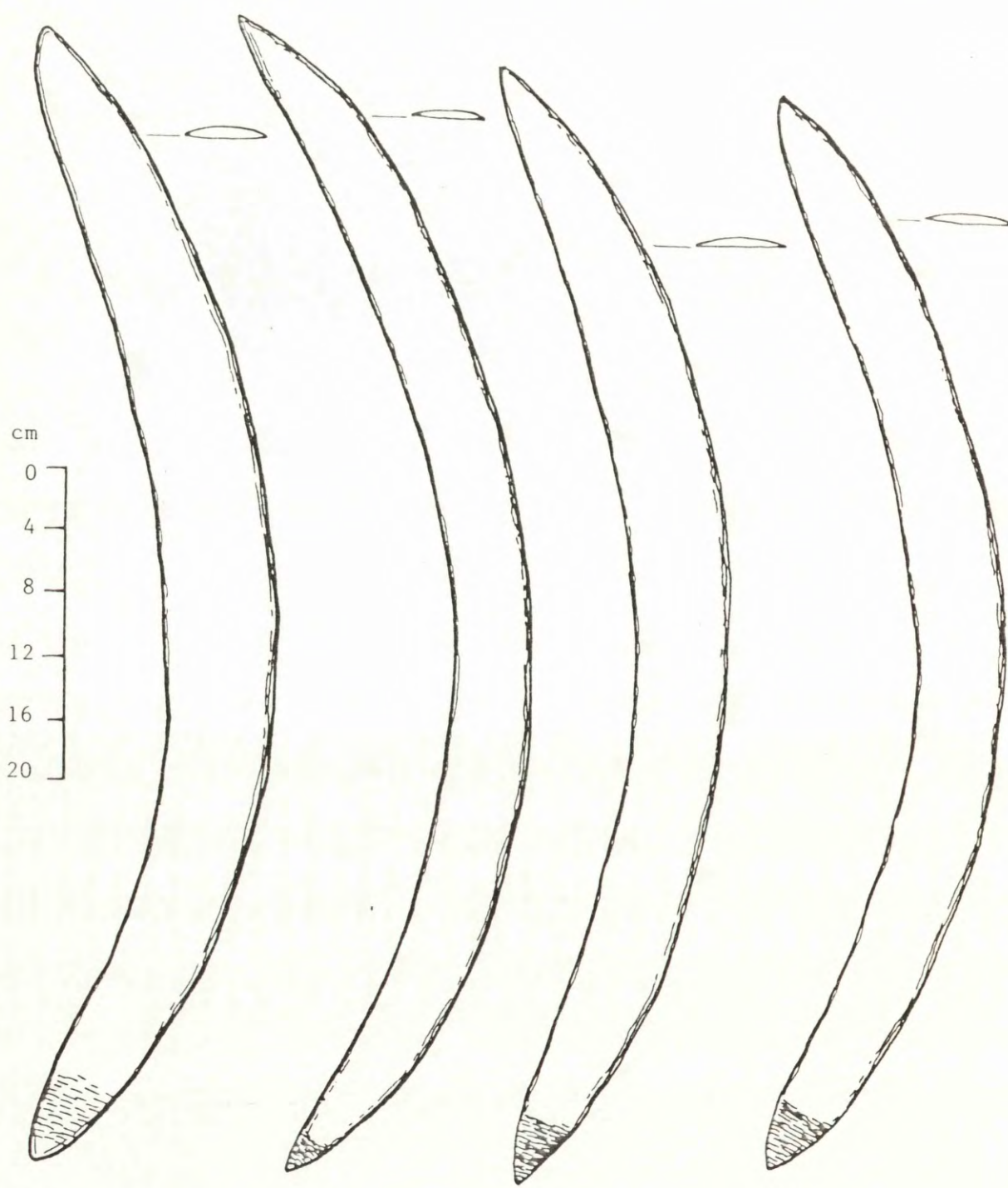
Length: 91.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.1 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 6°.

M172: AM-E76967.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces have English words written in black ink. Convex surface, "King Mickey's Illawarra. Carried with shield = by king, centenary of Illawarra March 1896". Flat surface - "Presented to T. Wearn by King Mickey. Illawarra Wollongong to commemorate the centenary of Illawarra March 1896. This Boomerang and shield was carried by King Mickey in the Procession." Both surfaces smooth. No twist, edges sharp, light brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Illawarra, south coast.
Length: 64.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.1 cm (at centre);
Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.



M91

M113

M114

M116

M91: AM-E76984.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Hatched incisions 3 cm along from right end of convex surface, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. Artefact crescent-shape. No twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, slight cracks and water marks. Provenance: General area of Northern and Western New South Wales (Gardner, 1854:259). Unknown, possibly Hunter District (see Gunson, 1974:81, Native Arms drawn by R. Browne, 1813).

Length: 69.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.3 cm (at centre); Max. Thickness: 0.8 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.

M113: AM-E77012.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Hatched incisions 2.5 cm along from right end of convex surface, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. Artefact crescent-shape. No twist, edges sharp, reddish brown. Condition: Very good, edges jagged and water marks.

Provenance: Unknown, general area of Northern and Western New South Wales.

Length: 72.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.0 cm (at centre); Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.

M114: AM-E77013.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Hatched incisions 3 cm along from right end of convex surface, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. Artefact crescent-shape. No twist, edges rounded, blackish brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Unknown, general area of Northern and Western New South Wales.

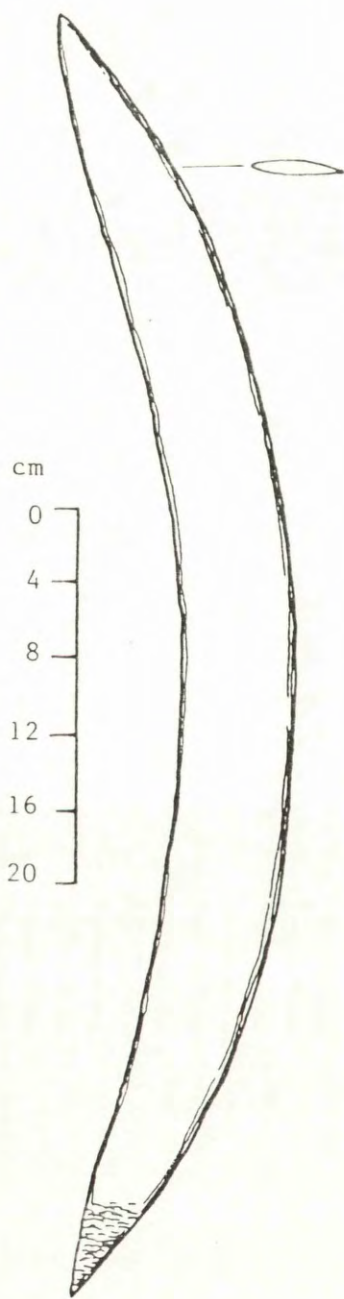
Length: 71.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.3 cm (at centre); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 2°.

M116: AM-E77015.

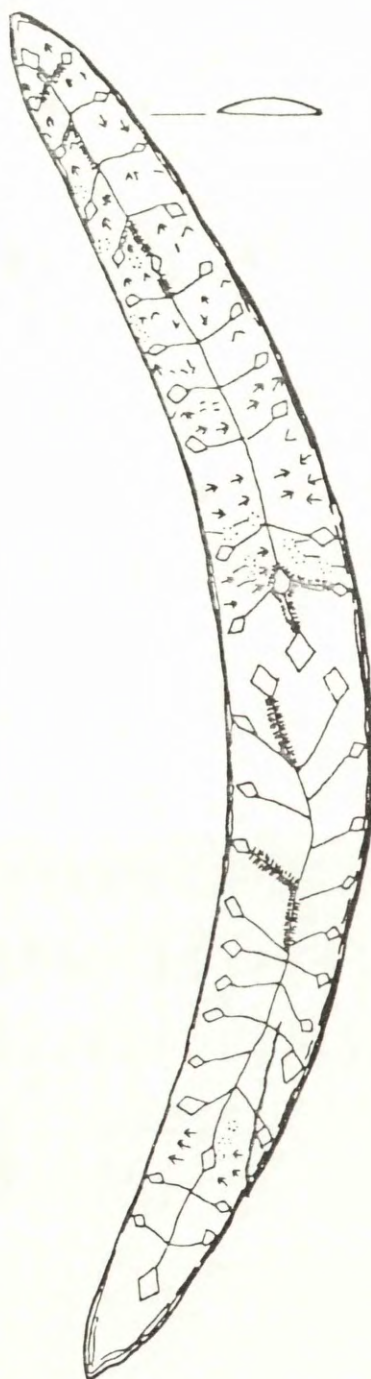
Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Hatched incisions 3 cm along from right end of convex surface, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. Artefact crescent-shape. Slight twist, edges sharp, reddish brown.

Condition: Very good, water marks. Provenance: Unknown, general area of Northern and Western New South Wales.

Length: 69 cm (across chord); Width: 6.0 cm (at centre); Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.



M151



M153

M151: AM-E78169.

Purchased 1982. Lenticular in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Hatched incisions 5 cm along from right end of one surface, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. Artefact crescent-shape. Slight twist, edges semi-rounded, blackish brown stain.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Unknown, general area of Northern and Western New South Wales.

Length: 68.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.0 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.

M153: AM-E78171.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section. Incised decoration along entire length of both surfaces, geometric and track motifs, possibly story or message. Artefact crescent-shape. Slight twist, edges sharp, two tone, light and dark brown.

Condition: Fair, bad split at one end and water marks.

Provenance: Unknown, Western New South Wales (McBryde, 1978:159).

Length: 73.5 cm (across chord); Width: 7.7 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 2°.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M1



M2



M3



M108

M1: NEC-WB 921.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Incised decoration on convex surface, curvilinear with hatched leaf-shape design. Hatched incisions 4.5 cm along from right end, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. No twist, edges sharp, reddish brown.
 Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Western-Central Queensland, North-western New South Wales. (Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1981:125; Roth, 1897:143).
 Length: 60 cm (across chord); Width: 4.7 cm (at centre);
 Max. Thickness: 0.9 cm; Angle of Curve: 5°.

M2: NEC-WB 922.

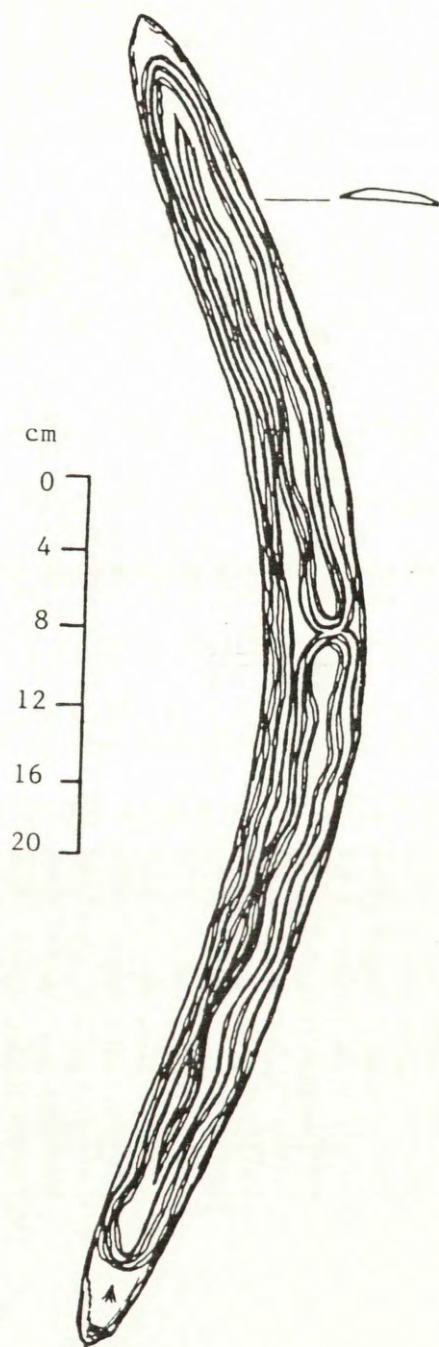
Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Incised decoration on convex surface, hatched curvilinear design, two hatched vertical lines (McBryde, 1978:Plate 26:160). Design incomplete. The other surface plain and smooth. No twist, edges sharp, dark reddish brown.
 Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Western-Central Queensland, North-western New South Wales. (Ibid.)
 Length: 61 cm (across chord); Width: 5.2 cm (at centre);
 Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M3: NEC-WB 923.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Incised decoration on convex surface, half, concentric panels bordering the edges of the artefact, hatched non-figurative design and vertical band at the left end. Hatched incisions 1.2 cm along from right end, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. No twist, edges sharp, dusky red.
 Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Western-Central Queensland, North-western New South Wales. (Ibid.)
 Length: 69 cm (across chord); Width: 5.8 cm (at centre);
 Max. Thickness: 1.0 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M108: AM-E77006.

Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Incised decoration on convex surface, curvilinear, design, with diagonal hatched vertical band and tracks at the centre of the artefact. Hatched incisions 2.5 cm along from right end, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. No twist, edges sharp, dark brown.
 Condition: Excellent, slight water marks. Provenance: Western-Central Queensland, North-western New South Wales. (Ibid.)
 Length: 75.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5.5 cm (at centre);
 Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.



M111

M111: AM-E77010.

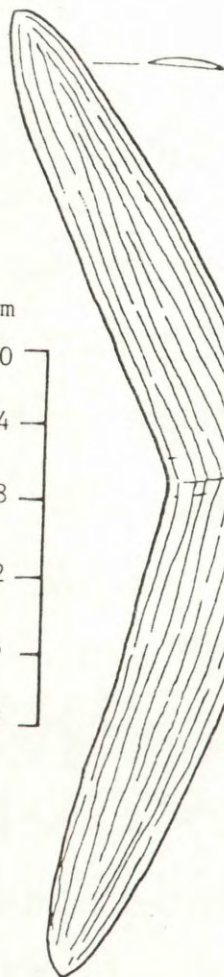
Purchased 1979. Plano-convex in cross-section, sharp pointed ends. Incised decoration on convex surface, curvilinear, serpent-like design. (Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, No. D173, p.125). Hatched incisions 1.5 cm along from right end, forming a grip. The other surface plain and smooth. No twist, edges sharp, black, stain.

Condition: Fair, incised and chipped, edges jagged and water marks. Provenance: Western-Central Queensland, North-western New South Wales. (Ibid.)

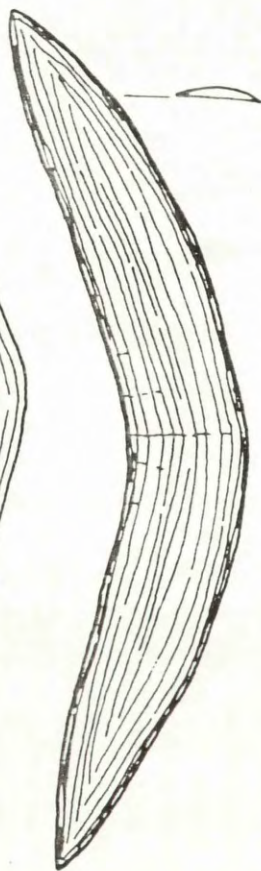
Length: 70 cm (across chord); Width: 5.2 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M12



M157



M17



M18



M19

M12: NEC-AWB 929.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Both surfaces fluted. No twist, edges semi-rounded, dark brown.

Condition: Good, few chips around edges and dry look.

Provenance: North-western Australia (Davidson, 1936:90).

Length: 53 cm (across chord); Width: 6.5 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 18°.

M157: AM-E78175.

Purchased 1982. Plano-convex in cross-section, pointed ends. Both surfaces finely fluted. No twist, edges sharp, blackish brown.

Condition: Good, one spot of white paint. Provenance:

North-western Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 46.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.4 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.1 cm; Angle of Curve: 10°.

M17: NEC-AWB 937.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, very rounded ends. Red stain on both surfaces. One surface fluted interspersed with plain bands. Other surface plain with distinct working works. Curve at head end. No twist, edges rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Central Australia

(Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1981:124; Roth, 1897:145).

Length: 56.8 cm (across chord); Width: 4.7 cm (at centre);

Max. Thickness: 1.4 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.

M18: NEC-AWB 940.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, very rounded ends. Convex surface fluted. Other surface plain and smooth. Curve at head end and slight tapering towards handle end. No twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Fair, series of long cracks, adhesive tape marks and dry look. Provenance: Central Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 71 cm (across chord); Width: 6.4 cm (one end);

Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

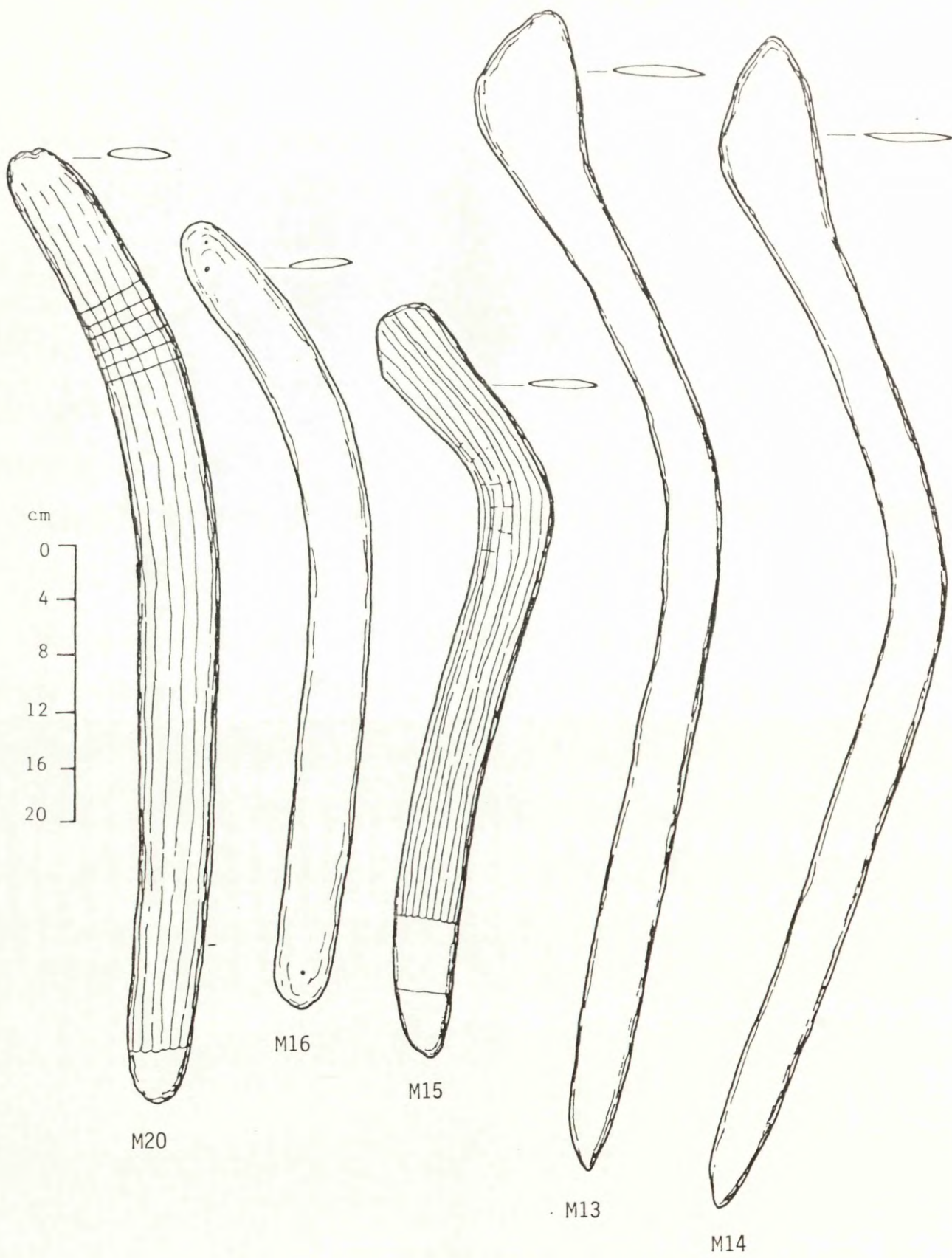
M19: NEC-AWB 938.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. One surface fluted, other plain and smooth. Curve at head end and slight tapering towards handle end. No twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown.

Condition: Good, slight cracking and dry look. Provenance: Central Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 67 cm (across chord); Width: 6.2 cm (one end);

Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.



M20: NEC-AWB 939.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Convex surface-fluted 5 cm from hand end, head end painted white 14 cm, dispersed with two 1 cm vertical black painted bands. Other surface has one incised diamond shape design, same painted head but no fluting. Curve at head end and slight tapering towards handle end. No twist, edges semi-pointed, reddish brown.

Condition: Fair, series of cracks, edges jagged, and paint wearing off. Provenance: Central Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 71.5 cm (across chord); Width: 6.1 cm (one end); Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 3°.

M16: NEC-AWB 931.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. Both surfaces plain, with hewn tooling marks. Curve at head end and slight tapering towards handle end. No twist, edges semi-rounded, reddish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, three small drilled holes, two blotches of white paint and adhesive tape marks. Provenance: Central Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 59.5 cm (across chord); Width: 5 cm (one end); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M15: NEC-AWB 925.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, rounded ends. One surface decorated, one vertical incision near handle end and fluting 12 cm from handle end. Other surface plain and smooth. Artefact has two curves, one main curve denoting a head and one very slight curve down main end towards handle. No twist, edge semi-rounded, two-tone, dark reddish brown and light brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Central Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 57 cm (between head and hand ends); Width: 5.4 cm (head end); Max. Thickness: 1.2 cm; Angle of Curve: 17°.

M13: NEC-AWB 934.

Purchased 1975. Plano-convex in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Curve near one end, with marked bulb. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Good, slight cracking. Provenance: Victoria (Spencer, 1922:Plate 3), Murray River (Smyth, 1876:315). Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 85.5 cm (end to end); Width: 4.2 cm (bulb); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 4°.

M14: NEC-AWB 934.

Purchased 1975. Lenticular in cross-section, semi-rounded ends. Curve off centre, with marked bulb. Both surfaces plain. No twist, edges sharp, blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Very good, two slight cracks. Provenance: Victoria. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 86 cm (end to end); Width: 4.3 cm (bulb); Max. Thickness: 1.3 cm; Angle of Curve: 7°.

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M125



M133



M124



M73

CLUBS

M125: AM-E78187.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Marked curve along shaft, fine fluting along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, slight increase in diameter towards head. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 5 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end semi-rounded. Reddish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Good, four slight cracks near head, and adhesive tape marks. Provenance: Western-Central Australia (Davidson, 1936:76).

Length: 62 cm; Max. Width Head: 7 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 6.6 cm (handle); Width Butt: 5.6 cm.

M133: AM-E78195.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Marked curve along shaft, fluting along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, very slight increase in diameter towards head. Both butt and head ends chiselled to very sharp points. Dark reddish brown.

Condition: Good, slight splits, one small drilled hole and dry. Provenance: Western-Central Australia. (Ibid.)

Length: 62 cm; Max. Width Head: 7.4 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.0 cm (butt).

M124: AM-E78186.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Very slight curve along shaft, fluting along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, very slight increase in diameter towards head. Butt end has a slight rounded bulb, with 4 cm cross-hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end rounded. Dark reddish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Good, slight splits and butt end burnt. Provenance: Western-Central Australia. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904 (see plate 1).

Length: 58.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 8 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.5 cm (handle); Angle of Curve: 8.5 cm.

M73: AM-E77019.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, fluting along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a very slight bulb. Butt end pointed, with 6 cm cross-hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end tapered to a point. Dark brown, polished finish.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales (Roth, 1897:150; Davidson, 1936:82).

Length: 67.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 10.5 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.8 cm (butt).

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M74



M130



M60



M21

M74: AM-E77021.

Purchased 1979-80. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, fluting along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a very slight bulb. Butt end has a chiselled point, with 3 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end tapered to a point. Dark brown.

Condition: Excellent, very faint water-marks. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 66 cm; Max. Width Head: 11.9 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.0 cm (handle); Width Butt: 7.8 cm.

M130: AM-E78192.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, fluted along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a very slight bulb. Butt end painted, with 6.5 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end tapered to a point. Blackish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 68 cm; Max. Width Head: 11.1 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 6.0 cm (butt).

M60: AM-E76957.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, fluted along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a very slight bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 6.5 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end tapered to a sharp point. Blackish brown, polished finish.

Condition: Very good, head end has slight crack. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 68 cm; Max. Width Head: 12.2 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 7.4 cm (butt).

M21: NEC-AWC 764.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, fluted along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a slight bulb. Butt end rounded, with 6 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head end tapered to a point. Blackish brown, polished finish.

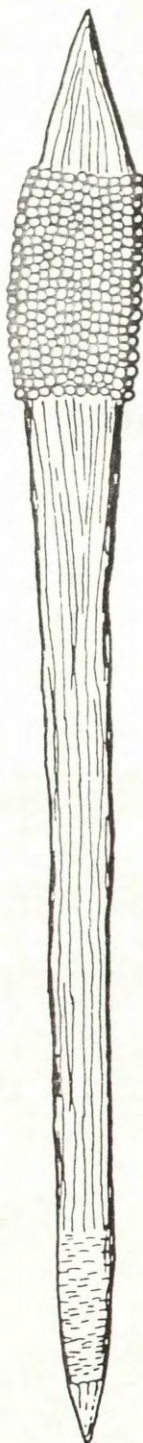
Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 65 cm; Max. Width Head: 13.2 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 6.3 cm (butt).

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M129



M63



M67



M135

M129: AM-E78191.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Slight curve along shaft, fluted along entire length. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head to form a bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 8 cm hatched incision forming a grip. Head end tapered to a point. Blackish brown, stain.

Condition: Excellent, faint water-marks. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 78 cm; Max. Width Head: 16 cm; Min. Width Shaft: 75 cm (butt).

M63: AM-E76960.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, nail studded head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 7.5 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Entire object fluted, with head end tapered to a point. Bulb consists of one 11.5 cm large band made up of 450 nails approx. Tapered point from band covered with red paint (Munsell 7.5R4/8). Light brown.

Condition: Excellent, one nail missing, slight cracking, red paint fading. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 75 cm; Max. Diam. Head: 20.0 cm (nails); Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.0 cm (butt).

M67: AM-E76965.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Marked curve along shaft, nail studded head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 6.5 cm hatched incisions forming a grip, fluted. Head end has two decreasing rings from bulb to a semi-rounded end. Bulb consists of two rows of 21 nails between which are three rows of 9 nails each. Faint incised lines joining nails into rows. Brown, tooling marks.

Condition: Excellent, slight cracks around nails. Provenance: Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales. (Ibid.)

Length: 72 cm; Max. Width Head: 17.9 cm (nails); Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.0 cm (butt).

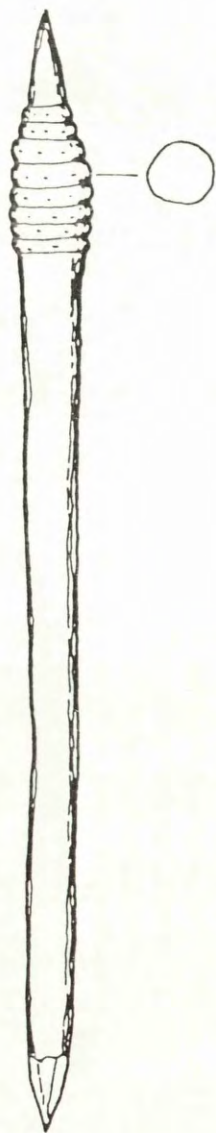
M135: AM-E78197.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section along shaft, four sided at head. Straight shaft. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, with raised curved design at head end. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point. Untraditional design consists of two raised 1.0 cm bands and four 11.0 cm vertical raised leaf-shape motifs with incised internal pattern. Brown, smooth finish.

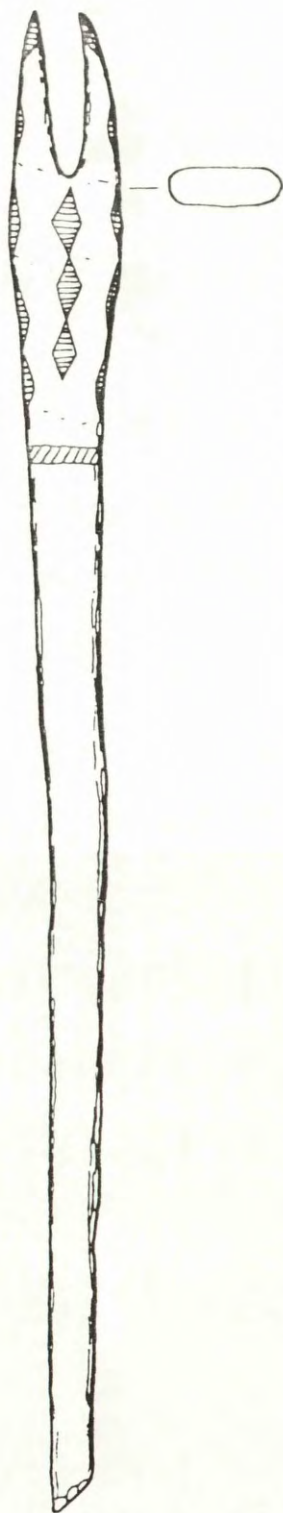
Condition: Poor, long, deep cracks along entire length, dry. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.

Length: 63.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 14.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 9.5 cm (butt).

cm
0
4
8
12
16
20



M139



M30



M71



M68

M139: AM-E78203.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, slight bulb. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head end tapered to a point from bulb, consisting of eight raised bands, with varying diameters according to shape of bulb. Dark reddish brown, smooth finish. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.
Length: 59.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 13.9 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.5 cm (butt).

M30: NEC-AWC 766.

Purchased 1975. Elliptical in cross-section at the head, circular along the shaft. Straight shaft, bifurcated head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end chiselled, sloping base. Bulb two-pronged max. 24 cm apart, edges sharp. Incised design, one 5 cm band with diagonal lines, three diamond shapes on each side and four along each prong. All diamonds filled in with horizontal lines. Half diamonds on the tip of each prong. Reddish brown, polished finish.
Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Coastal Queensland, Mackay, Rockhampton (see Spencer, 1922:31; Roth, 1898:56).
Length: 78.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 18.2 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.7 cm.

M71: AM-E76997.

Purchased 1979. Triangular in cross-section at the head, circular along the shaft. Straight shaft, defined head. Butt end has four raised bands, with a flat base. Head has incised pattern with three rows of ten spikes on each edge. Diamond shape on flat surface under diagonal incisions and six decreasing bands into a rounded end. Untraditional shape and design. Reddish brown, smooth finish.
Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Unknown, South-east Australia.
Length: 51 cm; Length Head: 18.7 cm; Max. Width Head: 18.7 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.0 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 9.5 cm.

M68: AM-E76966.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Very slight curve along shaft. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head, bulb. Butt end had slight bulb tapering to a point. Head end has a 7.5 cm wide raised band, decorated with vertical ribs and white pigment, tapered to a point. Dark brown.
Condition: Excellent, pigment flaking. Provenance: Unknown, Southern Queensland. Identification on arch, 1904.
Length: 75.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 18.3 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.6 cm (handle); Width Butt: 9.6 cm.

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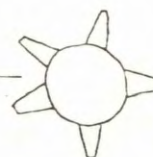
M126



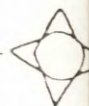
M136



M65



M66



M126: AM-E78188.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, defined carved head. Butt end has slight bulb with chiselled rounded end. Head has one 6.5 cm raised band made up of 22 vertical carved ribs. One decreasing band into a semi-rounded end. Reddish brown, smooth.

Condition: Very good, one long crack along shaft. Provenance: Unknown, Southern Queensland.

Length: 66 cm; Length Head: 11.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 20.2 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 9.4 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 11.2 cm.

M136: AM-E78198.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, defined carved head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head has raised band made up of 23 vertical rows each consisting of 6 separate raised points. One decreasing band, then rounded end. Faint white pigment over end, barely visible. Dark reddish brown, smooth.

Condition: Excellent, pigment. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland (see Spencer, 1922:32; Smyth, 1876:300; Aboriginal Australia, ADGC, 1981:174)

Length: 62 cm; Length Head: 11.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 21.8 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.2 cm (centre); Diam. Butt: 8.8 cm.

M65: AM-E76963.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section. Straight shaft, spiked head. The handle and head form a continuous shaft, increase in diameter towards head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head has 5 vertical rows of three 2 cm long diamond-shaped spikes. Bulb covered for 22 cm in white pigment to tapered point. Dark brown, smooth.

Condition: Fair, cracking along entire length, pigment badly flaking. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland.

(Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 80 cm; Max. Width Head: 11.7 cm (spikes, 21 cm); Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.0 cm (butt).

M66: AM-E76964.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 13.5 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. The centre of the shaft has a 6.7 cm incised band, covered with white pigment. Head has 4 rows of 4 2.5 cm long pyramid-shaped spikes, covered with white pigment. Head end tapered to a point. Dark brown, stain.

Condition: Fair, one long 21 cm crack along head, pigment flaking. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland.

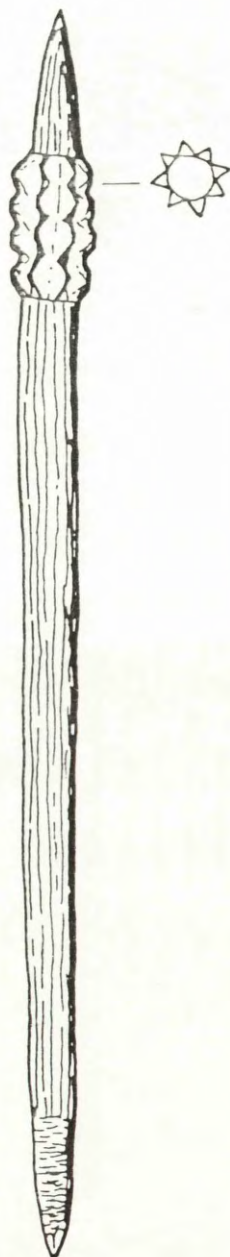
(Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 79.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 21.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 9.5 cm (centre); Diam. Butt: 11.0 cm.

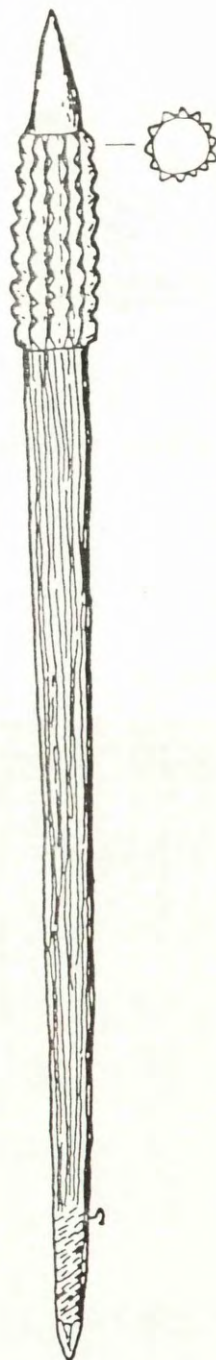
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M69



M33



M128



M32

M69: AM-E76994;

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end smooth point, with 16 cm cross-hatched incisions forming a grip. Head has 3 rows of 7 pyramid-shaped blunt spikes and 2 rows of 6 spikes. Head tapered to a semi-rounded end. Reddish brown, smooth.

Condition: Fair, long thin cracks along shaft, three spikes chipped. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland. (Ibid.)

Length: 80.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 15.1 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 6.0 cm (butt).

M33: NEC-AWC 761.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section along straight fluted shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 6 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head has 8 rows of 4 pyramid-shaped blunt spikes. Head end tapered to a point. Brown.

Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland. (Ibid.)

Length: 68 cm; Max. Width Head: 15.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 4.8 cm (butt).

M128: AM-E78190.

Purchased 1982. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 6 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Shaft fluted up to a head which has 13 rows of between 7-9 pyramid-shaped spikes.

White/pink pigment covered spikes, head end plain and tapered to a point. Dark brown.

Condition: Fair, one nail at handle end for display, ten spikes chipped, pigment badly flaking. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland. (Ibid.)

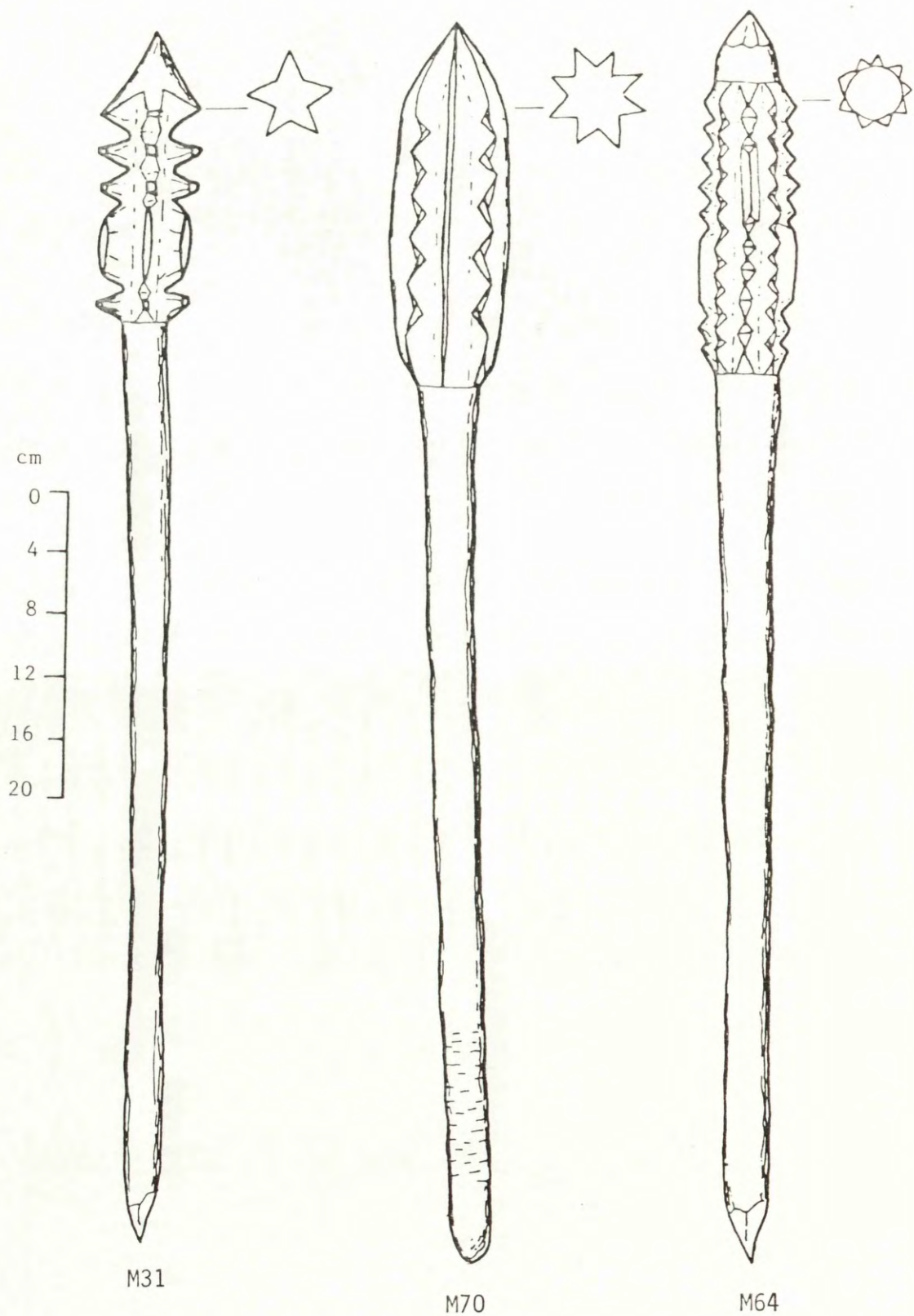
Length: 73 cm; Max. Width Head: 16.8 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 6.3 cm (butt).

M32: NEC-AWC 762.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end chiselled to a point, with 8 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head has 12 rows of between 7-8 pyramid-shaped blunt spikes. White pigment covered spikes and pointed end. Brown.

Condition: Poor, long, wide crack along entire length, pigment flaking, dry. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland. (Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 73 cm; Max. Width Head: 17.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 7.8 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 8.1 cm.



M31: NEC-AWC 763.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head has 5 rows of 4 pyramid-shaped spikes and 1 long spike. White pigment covered spikes and pointed end. Light brown.

Condition: Fair, cracks along shaft and head, dry, pigment flaking. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland.

(Ibid.) Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 81 cm; Length Head: 19.0 cm; Max. Width Head: 23.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.7 cm (butt).

M70: AM-E76996.

Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt chiselled to semi-rounded end, with 9 cm hatched incisions forming a grip. Head has 4 rows of 6 pyramid-shaped spikes between 4 single long ribs. White pigment covered spikes and pointed end. Light brown.

Condition: Fair, cracks along head and pigment flaking.

Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland. (Ibid.)

Identification on arch, 1904.

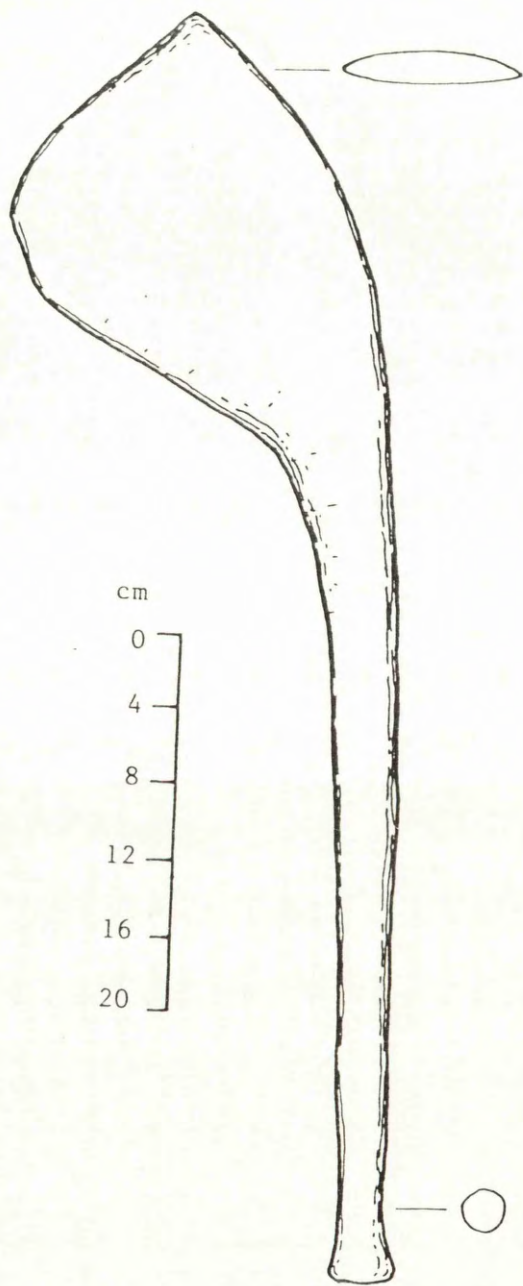
Length: 81 cm; Length Head: 24.0 cm; Max. Width Head: 23.5 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.5 cm (butt).

M64: AM-E76962.

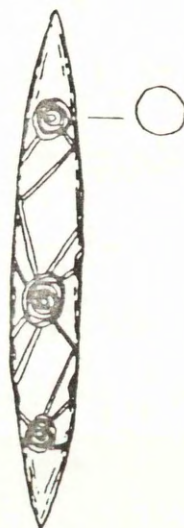
Purchased 1979. Circular in cross-section along straight shaft, defined spiked head. Butt end chiselled to a point. Head has 6 rows of 7 pyramid-shaped spikes and 1 long spike, and 3 rows of 10 pyramid-shaped spikes. Grey pigment covered spikes and chiselled pointed end (Munsell 7.5YR6/0). Light brown.

Condition: Fair, cracks along entire length, one spike chipped and pigment flaking. Provenance: Central and South-east Queensland. (Ibid.)

Length: 80.5 cm; Max. Width Head: 20.0 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.0 cm (handle); Width Butt: 8.8 cm.



M41



M51

M41: NEC-AWC 781.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section at the head and circular along the shaft. Butt has a slight bulb, with a flat base. Large flat accentuated head with pointed end, sharp edges. Plain and smooth finish. Blackish brown, stain. Condition: Good, bulb end chipped. Provenance: Unknown, Central New South Wales, Bathurst area (McBryde, pers. comm.). Length: 69 cm; Max. Width Head: 17.6 cm; Min. Diam. Shaft: 8.4 cm (handle); Diam. Butt: 10.5 cm.

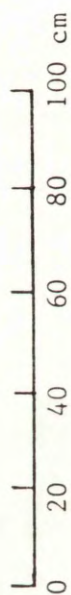
MESSAGE STICK

M51: NEC-AW 589.

Purchased 1975. Circular in cross-section. Decorated with incised design of twelve concentric circles interconnected with parallel lines. Widest in the centre tapering to sharp pointed ends. Reddish brown, smooth finish. Condition: Excellent. Provenance: Unknown, Central Australia and Western Queensland (Smyth, 1879:335; Roth, 1897:136). Length: 26.7 cm; Max. Diam.: 10.9 cm (centre).



M176



CANOES

M176: AM-E78218

Purchased 1982. Inland riverine canoe. Single sheet of bark, possibly river red-gum. Surface smooth inside, rough bark on the outside. Sides curved upwards, with deepest section in the centre. One end flattened and pointed upwards, the other more curved. Its upward turn is less pronounced and was probably plugged with a clay mud, no mud remaining.

Condition: Poor, one long 220 cm crack along the base, curved end has a series of cracks and is buckled, eighteen metal screws, braces and glue to arrest cracking has only further aggravated the condition. Provenance: Inland, South-east Australia (Mitchell, 1839:223; Dunbar, 1944:174).

Identification on arch, 1904.

Length: 330 cm; Max. Width: 28.5 cm; Max. Depth: 18 cm (centre).

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