

# AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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to the circumference.\* The circular incised sculpture is very common on many petroglyphs, particularly in America, such as Bald Friar Rock, in Maryland; Girao, in Brazil; Cipreses, in Chili, and on the Colorado River, Utah,† and it is certainly curious to find this form of ornamentation whether on implements, as pictographs on the walls of Cave-shelters, or as petroglyphs, so widely distributed. It is curious and even startling to find the close general resemblance there is between this circular and spiral incised ornament on our Black's weapons, and in their Cave-shelters, and those curious petroglyphs found in odd quarters of the globe, and known as "cup-sculptures," both with and without a radial groove. Many of these were described by the late Mr. George Tate, occurring on Northumbrian (England) rocks, both circles and ovals, mostly with a radial groove.‡ Mr. Tate regarded them as the work of a Celtic race, and "symbolical most probably of a religious nature." Dr. B. Seemann has figured precisely similar closed concentric circles from the rock surfaces in Veraguas, New Granada, and believes them to have been produced by a very ancient people of that country, and to be "symbols full of meaning" to those who executed them.

I have lately seen a number of single circles on the petroglyphs of the Hawkesbury country around Narabine Lagoon, between Manly and Pittwater, both separately incised and forming portions of compound figures.

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### A SPEAR WITH INCISED ORNAMENT FROM ANGELDOOL, NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR., Curator.

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A remarkably ornamented spear has been received from Angeldool, on the Narran River, by Dr. James C. Cox, who has been kind enough to present it to the collection. It is made from a sapling of light coloured hardwood, eleven feet nine inches long and two and a-half inches in its greatest circumference, tapering at both ends to a point. Unlike a very large number

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\* *Loc. cit.*, t. 13.

† Mallary; 10th Rep., Bureau Ethnol., U.S., 1893, pp. 86, 120, 153, 160.

‡ Tate; *Anthrop. Review*, iii., p. 293.

of Aboriginal spears, it is in one piece, and not with the head separately formed, and lashed or cemented on. I take it to be a hand-thrown weapon, and not propelled with the assistance of a womerah. The head of the spear, for eight and a-half inches from the apex, is blackened, then five alternating white and black bands follow occupying in the aggregate one foot, three of the bands white and two black. From this point downwards, to within nine inches of the proximal end, are six serpentine, but not encircling, continuous grooves, each bearing a series of close, backwardly directed, incised barbs, or teeth, and rendered prominent by having been coloured black. Spears similarly banded at the apex have been figured before, but neither Angas, Eyre, Wood, Smyth, or Knight, in their respective works, have given an illustration of one similarly ornamented with incised sculpture or decoration. With the exception of this feature, it is one of the type of such simple spears as the *Uwinda*, of the Murray River,\* or the *Koy-yun*.† Mr. E. M. Curr, however, states‡ that the Blacks of Hinchinbrook Island, and the adjacent mainland used carved spears, but he does not give particulars.



Smyth figures a simple spear with the distal end, or apex, segmented by white and black bands from West Australia,§ but otherwise it completely differs from the present weapon.

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#### AN ACTINOCERAS FROM NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA.

BY R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR., Curator.

(Plate iii.)

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I am not aware that this interesting genus has so far been recorded from the Carboniferous rocks of West Australia. A rather fine example exists in our collection from the Lennard

\* Angas; S. Australia Illustrated, 1846, t. 51, f. 34.

† Smyth; Aborigines of Victoria, i., 1878, p. 307, f. 83.

‡ Australian Race, ii., 1886, p. 418.

§ Smyth; *loc. cit.*, p. 337, f. 143.