

Plateau - Great Basin - California

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For convenience, and because Museum material from these three large and complex regions is limited to specimens from the Klamath, the Plateau, Great Basin, and California culture areas will be briefly discussed under one heading.

The Plateau includes the inland area drained by the Columbia and Fraser rivers, the Great Basin the generally dry and infertile area between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada, and the California culture area most of the present state of that name.

The Klamath Indians were located in northern California and southern Oregon, just on the «border», therefore, between the three cultural provinces. The physical environment is high, mountainous, with many lakes and marshes. The people hunted deer and smaller animals and birds, fished in the lakes and rivers, and gathered various roots and seeds (the seeds of the yellow water lily were a principal food supply). The material culture of the Klamath reflects an extensive use of the

cat-tail tule, used for houses, basketry, utensils and clothing.

The Museum's collection was assembled in the early 1880's by Alphonse Forrer from St. Gallen, Switzerland, and sold to the museum in 1883. Although Forrer's profession and reasons for being in Oregon at this time are not known precisely, it seems probable that he was trained as a Natural Sciences teacher: his notes on the collection reflect a knowledge of and interest in various plant fibers; in a letter written to the Museum during a stay in Switzerland he mentions attending a «Naturhistorisches Fest» in Zurich; and in a publication of the «Ostschweizerischen Geografischcommerziellen Gesellschaft» he is listed as «Lehrer». In any case, Forrer seems to have collected in a systematic and observant manner (presumably with the intent of selling the materials to European museums), and with a conscious attempt to acquire only those items which were traditional in construction and materials. The documentation for the collection is based upon two handwritten lists and two letters from Forrer, dated April 24 and June 28, 1883, in which he offers the material for sale.

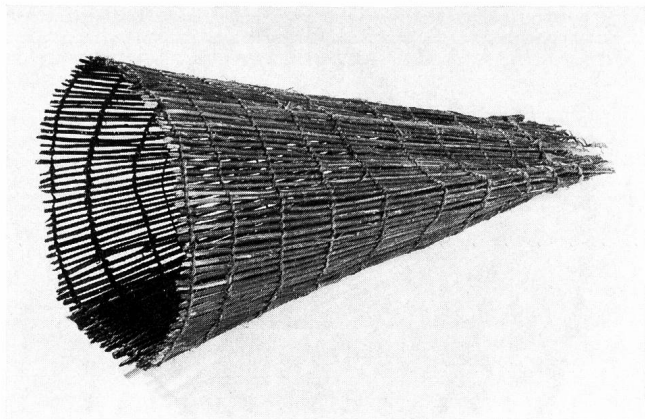


Fig. 149. Fish Trap, Klamath (Cat. No. 219)

219 Fish Trap

Oreg. 1

Conical basket of willow branches woven together in open twine using nettle (?) bark fibre at approximately 8 cm intervals. Bottom end is closed, and top is open, without closing device to prevent escape of fish. Metal rod is secured around inner circumference.

Bottom row of twining is unravelling: metal reinforcing rod distorted, and shape flattened.

H. 78 cm; W. top: 48 cm

KLAMATH

Figure 149

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Fischfänger aus Weiden. Der Reif wird inwendig mit der dranhafenden Schnur befestigt und wird dann im Schiff unter Wasser gesetzt. Die Indianer stampfen dann im Schiff herum, wodurch die kleinen Fische in den Fänger getrieben werden, der Fänger wird dann plötzlich aus dem Wasser gehoben und die Fische auf Angeln als Köder für grössere Fische benutzt.»)

Acc.: 1883

220 Mat

Oreg. 2

Made from flattened tules. The tule warps are twined at intervals of about 6 cm with bark cord. A border warp (a two-ply rope of twisted tules) is placed along two edges, lying parallel to the tule warps. Twining cords form a continuous strand; that is, on reaching the edge of the mat the cords are carried outside the mat to the next point where twining is to commence and there twined across the warps in the opposite direction.

Good condition

L. 123 cm; W. 96.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Matte um drauf zu liegen.»)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 150

221 *Mat*

Oreg. 3

Made from split tules twined together at approximately 4 cm intervals with cord of same material. An irregularly-cut length of tanned, smoked skin is knotted through one corner.

Good condition

L. 88 cm; W. 67 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's Oregon, U.S.A.: «Matte um drauf zu liegen.»)

Acc.: 1883

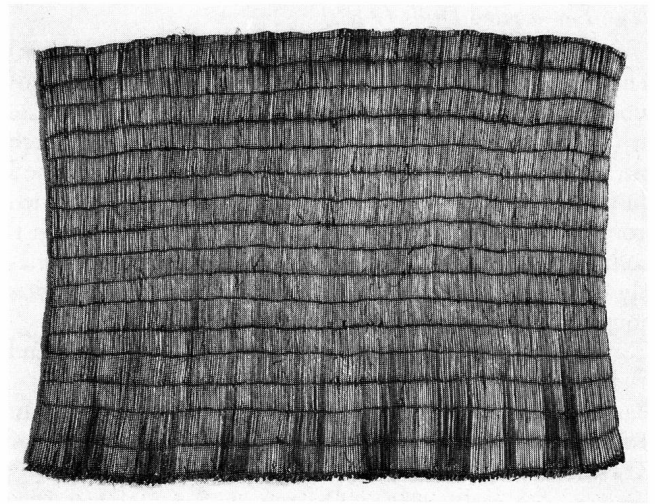


Fig. 150. Mat, Klamath (Cat. No. 220)

222 *Hand Game*

Oreg. 4a

Ten thin pencil-like wooden sticks, of uniform size, all stained red.

Following from Forrer's notation, these were probably used in a stick gambling game in which two players sit opposite each other, holding a number of sticks in their hands. These are thrown simultaneously into the air and the object is to correctly guess whether the number is odd or even.

Good condition

L. 11.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Hölzer womit die Indianer spielen, grad oder ungrad zu werfen.»)

Acc.: 1883

Lit.: Culin (1903: p. 248)

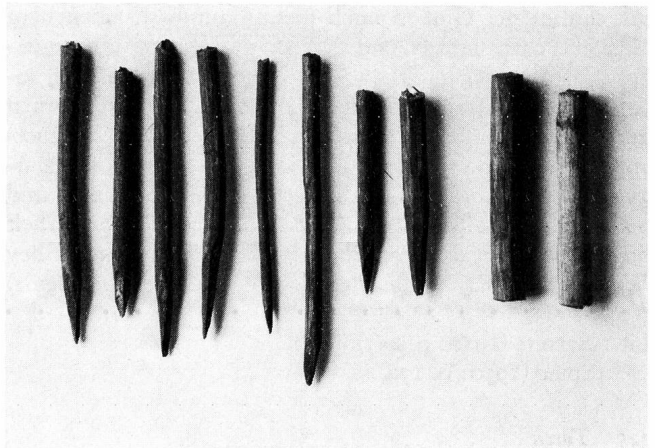


Fig. 151. Hand Game, Klamath (Cat. No. 223)

223 *Hand Game*

Oreg. 4b

Two short cylindrical lengths of wood, uniform in size, one painted red and marked with a black band around centre, the other unpainted and unmarked. In addition, there are eight counters – fine sticks of wood sharpened to a point at one end, and painted red.

Figure 151

Spier (p. 79) describes this game: «This is... a man's game played by about 6 in a row on each side. 2 men are each provided with 2 short bones, one of each pair marked with a black band. These 2 change the bones from hand to hand as they sway side to side crossing and uncrossing their arms, their companions accompanying them with swaying and song... the opponents guess the hands which hold the unmarked bones. 12 sticks for counters are stuck upright between the contenders... the successful guess wins the right to hide the bones; at each failure the hiding party takes counters from the neutral pile, and when this is exhausted, from the opponent's winnings... The side getting all 12 wins.»

Good condition

«Bones»: 6 cm × 1 cm; Counters: c. 8.5 cm

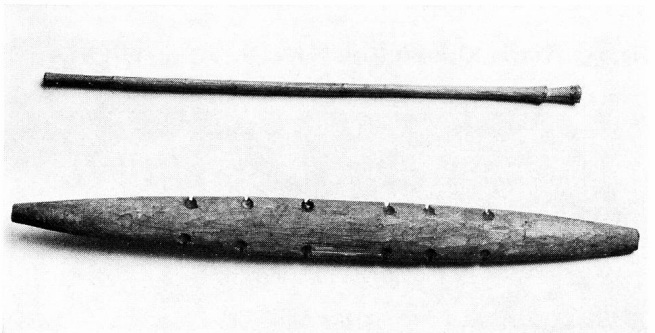
KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1800's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

Comparison item: Spier (1930: p. 79)

Fig. 152. Fire-making Drill, Klamath (Cat. No. 224)



224 *Fire-making Drills (2 sets)*

Oreg. 5 (a, b, c, d) Figure 152 (a and b shown)
The base block in each case is an elliptical-shaped oblong of wood, with circular pits along edges for the drill to rotate in (12 in one block; ten in other). From the edge of each pit, a notch is cut in the side of the base, to carry the wood dust to the tinder. The drill is an upright twirler formed from a cylindrical stick of wood, the basal end of which is hollowed to permit fitting of point (now missing, presumably of dry willow root or some such material) which was bound in place with sinew.

Condition is fair; loss of point to drills in both cases and basal ends of same splitting.

Baseboards: L. 58.5 cm, W. 6 cm; L. 49.5 cm, W. 5 cm

Twirlers: 48.5 cm and 50 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Feuerzeug. Der dicke Stecken wird auf das Leder gelegt und mit beiden Füßen festgehalten, der dünne Stecken wird dann in eines der runden Löcher hereingesteckt und nachdem unter dem betreffenden Loch etwas trockenem Baumbast oder Schwamm gelegt worden ist, solange mit Ausübung möglicher Kraft herumgedreht, bis etwas Glut herunter fällt, die dann unter dem Loche befindliche Substanz wird mit samt der Glut in noch mehr Baumbast, trockenem Gras etc. eingewickelt und dann, hochgehalten von Indianern, die sich gegenseitig ablösen, im schnellsten Laufe, solange herumgetragen bis das ganze Bündel in Flammen geräth. Es ist sehr leicht, auch für Europäer mit diesem Feuerapparate Wärme, ja selbst Rauch zu erzeugen, zur Erzeugung von Glut jedoch, erfordert es einiger Übung und bedarf es auch selbst bey den Indianern angestrengter Arbeit bis sie ein richtiges Feuer erhalten weshalb sie auch nur bey Wechslung ihres Wohnortes alle Feuer ausgehen lassen.»)

Acc.: 1883

Lit.: Barrett (1910: p. 257)

Spier (1930: p. 172)

225 *Torch*

Oreg. 6 Figure 153
Made from reddish-brown bark formed into short, solid rope, then tightly bound with the same.

Good condition

L. 54 cm; W. 3 cm

KLAMATH

Fig. 153. Torch, Klamath (Cat. No. 225)

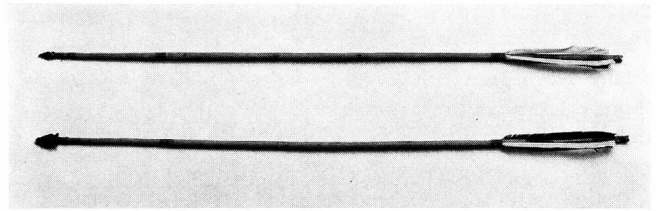
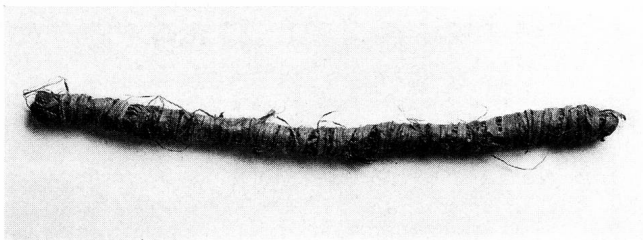


Fig. 154. Arrows, Klamath (Cat. No. 228)

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Fackel aus Bast (zur Übertragung des Feuers von einem Ort zum anderen).»)

Acc.: 1883

226 *Cord*

Oreg. 7

Made from two-strand twisted nettle fibre, coiled in hank. Good condition

L. 13 cm; W. 3 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Schnur aus Brennessel, der wie Flachs behandelt wird, verfertigt.»)

Acc.: 1883

227 *Boy's Bow and Arrows (8)*

Oreg. 8, 10

Wooden bow, roughly carved from a single piece, indented at handgrip. Bowstring of two-strand twisted sinew.

Each arrow is a slender wood stick from which bark has been scraped. At nock, rough notch has been carved; opposite end of shaft is tapered into sharp point.

Good condition

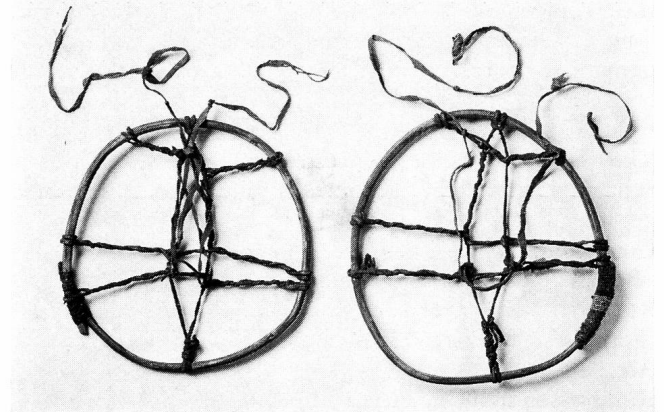
Bow: L. 59.5 cm; W. 3 cm; Arrows: L. (average) 50 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Pfeil und Bogen eines Indianerknabens.»)

Acc.: 1883

Fig. 155. Snowshoes, Klamath (Cat. No. 229)



228 Arrows (2)

Oreg. 9 (a, b)

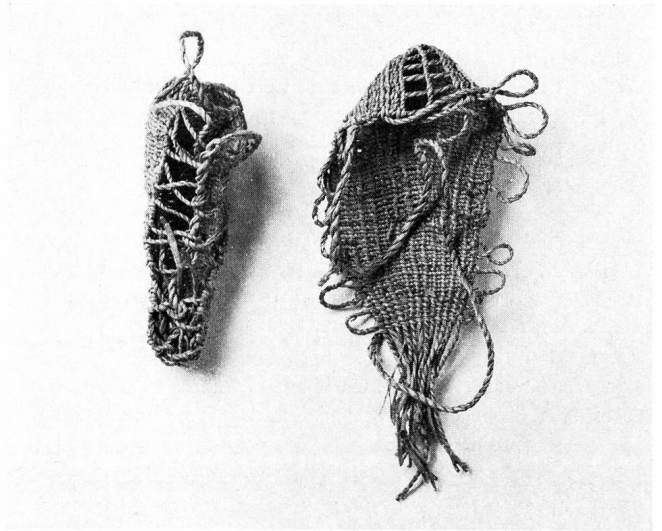
Wooden shafts are slightly tapered at fore-ends, where wood is split to receive base of small triangular obsidian point which is lashed with sinew. Opposite end of shaft is feathered with three split and trimmed feathers (on (a), one dark, two white; on (b), two dark, one white) bound at either end with sinew. Shaft is also sinew-wrapped near fore-end. Sinew wrappings are stained brownish-red, and at feathered end shaft is painted in two bands of same colour. Good condition

(a) L. 68.5 cm; W. (point) 1 cm; (b) L. 69.5 cm; W. (point) 1.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «2 Kriegs- und Jagdpfeile. Die Pfeilspitzen sind mit Sehnen befestigt. Dieselben erweichen tief im warmen Blut sehr schnell, wodurch wenn der Pfeil augenblicklich herausgezogen wird, die Pfeilspitze zurückbleibt was den sicheren Tod zur Folge hat.»)

Acc.: 1883



229 Snowshoes

Oreg. 11 a (i, ii)

Made from a circular hoop of wood from which the bark has been peeled, the ends overlapped and tightly bound together with indigenous vegetable fibre cord. Webbing is of heavy, twisted rawhide thong, and there are long tanned skin ties for attaching snowshoe to moccasin.

Good condition

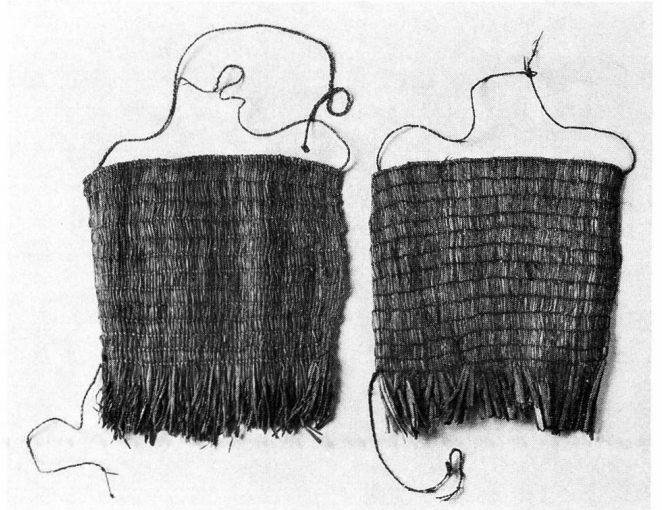
Diam. 39.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's, Oregon; U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 155



230 Moccasins

Oreg. 11 b (i, ii)

Made from tule in plain twined basketry technique. There is a fairly deep heel in open twining; rest of moccasin is unshaped, closely twined, and tapered toward toe, from which warp strands extend freely. Along sides are loops of two-strand twisted tule; in use, the warp strands are folded over toe, and the moccasin laced back and forth over foot via a single long lace of two-strand tule which is secured at front side of moccasin.

Good condition, although there are remains of insect infestation.

L. (excl. free warp strands at toe): 28 cm; W. 17 cm; H. 12 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 156

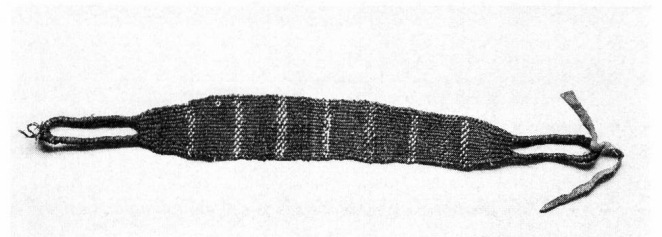


Fig. 156. Moccasins, Klamath (Cat. No. 230)

Fig. 157. Leggings, Klamath (Cat. No. 231)

Fig. 158. Belt, Klamath (Cat. No. 232)

Fig. 159. Women's Hats, Klamath: left (Cat. No. 233); right (Cat. No. 261)



231 Leggings

Oreg. 11c (i, ii)

Figure 157

Made from split tules twined together at approximately 2 cm intervals with cord of same material. Twining cords form a continuous strand. At bottom of legging, warp ends form a free-hanging fringe. At lower corner, ends of weft strands are twisted together to form a cord for securing legging – a long, similar cord forms two ties at top of legging.

Good condition, despite evidence of insect infestation.

H. 40 cm; W. 42 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

232 Belt

Oreg. 12

Figure 158

Made from reddish-brown shredded inner bark fibre worked in closely-spaced plain twine weave. Design of six vertical stripes is achieved through introduction of weft strands of shiny light-coloured strips. At either end of belt, warp strands are gathered together into two bundles and bound together into a loop. At end of one loop, a length of tanned, lightly-smoked skin is knotted.

Good condition

L. 77.5 cm; W. 9 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Männnergürtel aus Bast.»)

Acc.: 1883

233 Hat (woman's)

Oreg. 13

Figure 159 (left)

Worked in close, plain, twined weaving. Semi-circular shape, with weft of finely-rolled brown nettle cords, and designs worked in a darker brown (tule root?) and a shiny creamy-white material (grass or rush leaf). Designs consist of simple bands and zigzag lines in alternating colours; in addition, there are two elevated bands in creamy-white, worked in three-ply twined weaving.

Good condition

Diam. 18 cm; H. c. 10 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Feiner Frauenhut aus einer gespaltenen Holzart geflochten.»)

Acc.: 1883

Lit.: Barrett (1910: p. 254–55)

Mason (1902: p. 460–62)

Spier (1930: p. 182)

234 Game

Oreg. 14, 63

Figure 160

Consists of a pair of sticks of hard wood, tapered from middle to either end, and cut square at ends. These sticks are painted red and have burned-in line designs. The second pair of sticks are thin, cylindrical, and of wood stained red. There are also seven counters of wood stained red: six of these are short lengths tapered to a point at one end; the seventh counter is similarly shaped, but twice as large. (For the hand game as described below, there would be two such sets of counters.)

The game is played by men seated in two opposing rows, sitting with the counters placed in front of them on the ground. One side arranges the four long sticks in a certain order which is hidden from the other side by use of a circular mat, basket, or skin. The guesser on the opposing side must guess the arrangement; if he is correct, he receives the sticks to hide, if he is wrong, the hider takes one or two small counters from his opponent's stock and sticks them upright in the ground. The longer counter is taken last. The game is won when one side has all 14.

Good condition

Playing sticks: (thick) 31.5 cm; (thin) 28.5 cm;

Counters: (small) 13 cm; (large) 20 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Spielzeug. Die 4 langen Stecken werden auf die Erde gelegt, mit dem Geflechte bedeckt und muss gerathen werden, die dünnen Stecken inner- oder ausserhalb der grossen liegen. Die kleinen Stecken dienen als Marken.»)

Acc.: 1883

Lit.: Dorsey (1901: Pl. 3)

235 Bundles of wood splints (3)

Oreg. 15

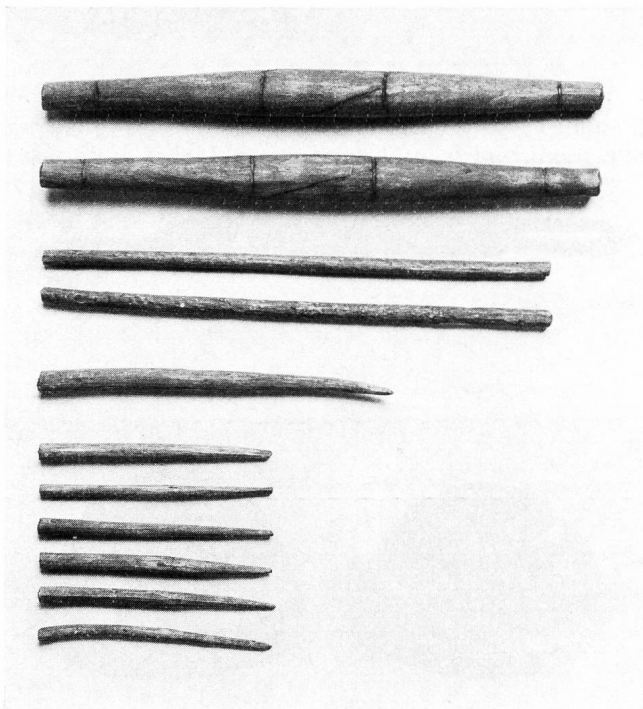
Each bundle contains approximately 25 fine splints, held together with tanned skin thong.

Good condition

Bundle: L. 25 cm; Diam. c. 3 cm

KLAMATH

Fig. 160. Stick Game, Klamath (Cat. No. 234)



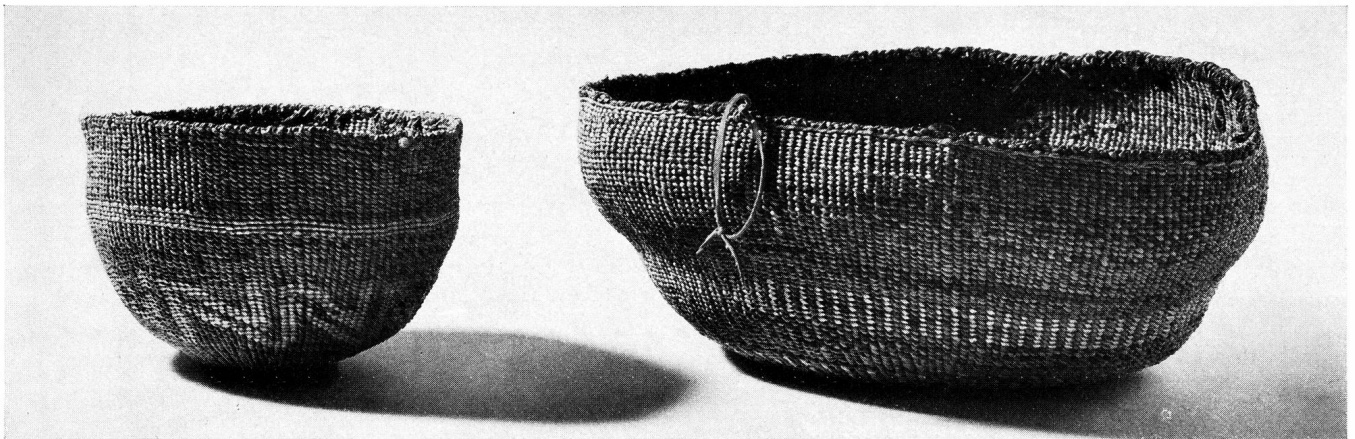


Fig. 161. Storage Baskets, Klamath: left (Cat. No. 238); right (Cat. No. 236)

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «3 Büschel Hölzer, bei Krankheitsfällen setzt sich ein Indianer mit einem grossen Vorrath solcher Hölzer neben seinen kranken Freund, er zündet eines ums andere fortwährend an, und gelingt es ihm bis Sonnenaufgang so fortzufahren, ohne dass das Feuer ausgeht, so wird angenommen, dass der Kranke geneset.»)

Acc.: 1883

236 Storage Basket

Oreg. 16

Figure 161 (right)

Large, round, flat-bottomed. Worked in plain, close twining technique with weft of light brown tule strands; design introduced by reddish-brown tule roots, and a shiny, creamy-white material (cat-tail strands?). A small loop of tanned skin is knotted through rim.

Good condition

Diam. (rim) 38 cm; H. c. 15 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «3 Körbe z. Aufbewahrung von Nahrungsmitteln, etc.») (reference is to Oreg. 16, 17, 18)

Acc.: 1883

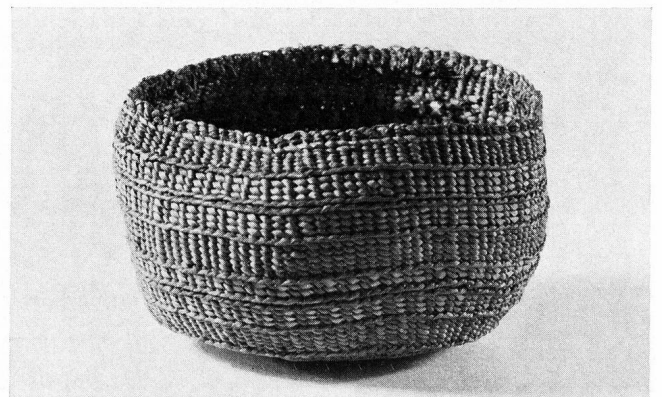


Fig. 162. Storage Basket, Klamath (Cat. No. 237)

Fig. 163. Child's Basket, Klamath (Cat. No. 239)

237 Storage Basket

Oreg. 17

Figure 162

Flat-bottomed, with slightly rounded sides and circular rim. Worked in plain, close, twining technique with weft of light brown tule strands with design introduced by using a shiny, creamy-white material (cat-tail strands?). There is also a series of raised bands around sides and on base; these are worked in three-ply twined weaving. At rim, ends are twined to the inside and edge is stitched with nettle-fibre cord.

Good condition; slight distortion of shape.

Diam. 19 cm; H. 11 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883



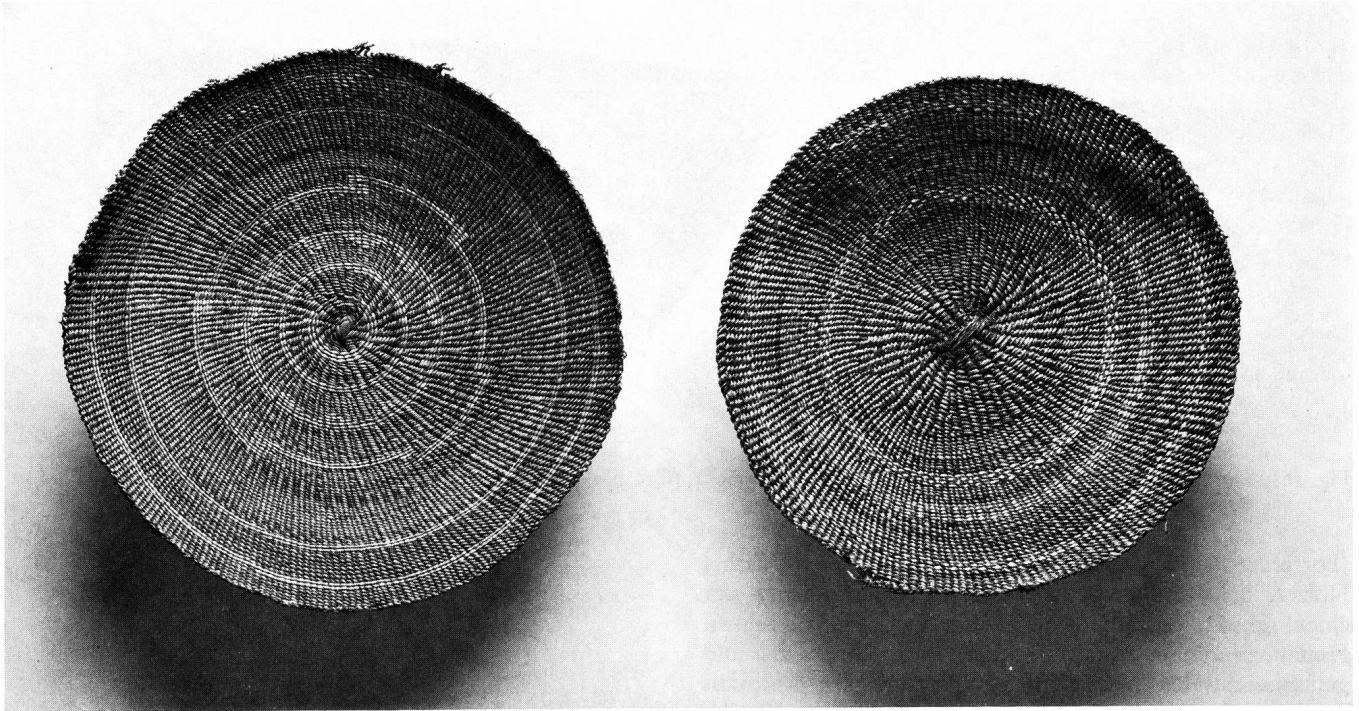


Fig. 164. Basketry Trays, Klamath: left (Cat. No. 240); right (Cat. No. 246)

238 *Storage Basket*

Oreg. 18 Figure 161 (left)
 Approximately semi-circular shape, with slightly flattened bottom, slightly rounded sides, and circular rim. Worked in plain, close, twining technique with weft of light brown tule stems and reddish-brown tule roots, design introduced by a shiny, light-brown material (cat-tail strands?). Starting point at base is formed from nettle fibre cord, and cord of same material is stitched around rim.

Good condition

Diam. c. 21 cm; H. c. 14 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

239 *Child's Basket*

Oreg. 19 Figure 163
 Made from tule stems in open twined weave. Shape is cylindrical, tapered toward rim, with inverted base. Warp elements slant diagonally. At edge, every warp is turned down and caught in the next row of twining. A carrying handle of two-strand twisted tule is attached at one end to rim; at other side it has broken away.

Handle broken, contents missing.

H. 10 cm; Diam. 10.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Kinderspielkorb, schwarzes Moos enthaltend, welches die Indianer in schlechten Jahren ihrem Essen beimengen um dessen Quantität zu vermehren.»)

Acc.: 1883

240 *Basketry Tray*

Oreg. 20 Figure 164 (left)
 Circular, very shallow, shape, worked in close, plain, twining technique with weft in light and darker brown tule stems and design (series of encircling bands, each two rows deep, one with triangles worked around inner side) introduced with shiny, yellowish-white strands.

Good condition

Diam. 37.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Auf diesem Geflechte werden Samen, etc. der Sonne zum Trocknen vorgesetzt.»)

Acc.: 1883

241 *Basketry Hat (woman's)*

Oreg. 21 Figure 165 (left)
 Made in close, plain twining method, using tule stems. Weft is light brown in colour, with design (series of encircling, parallel bands) in dark brown. Shape is truncated cone, with top now concave (due to shape distortion). At starting point (centre top) cord of twisted nettle fibre has been used instead of tule materials. Rawhide cords, originally serving as tie strings under chin (now only short lengths remain) are laced through lower sides of hat.

Damage around rim, and wearing of materials around top edge.

H. c. 15 cm; Diam. (rim) c. 21 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Frauenhut»)

Acc.: 1883



Fig. 165. Basketry Hats, Klamath: left (Cat. No. 241); right (Cat. No. 242)

242 *Basketry Hat*

Oreg. 22

Figure 165 (right)

Made in openwork, plain twining method, using tule stems. Shape is round, with a circular rim, and a short visor-type extension from rim. Stitched around outside of rim is a braided band in tule stems. Around mid-sides are worked two raised bands, done in three-ply twined weaving technique.

Good condition

H. 11.5 cm; Diam. 22.5 cm; Visor: 17.5 cm × 5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «... nach europaischem Muster.»)

Acc.: 1883

Fig. 166. Paint Bag, Klamath (Cat. No. 243)

243 *Paint Bag*

Oreg. 26

Figure 166

Small rectangular pouch of tanned skin, used to hold red ochre powder used as paint. Near top, wrapped and bound with tanned skin. Skin is stained red overall.

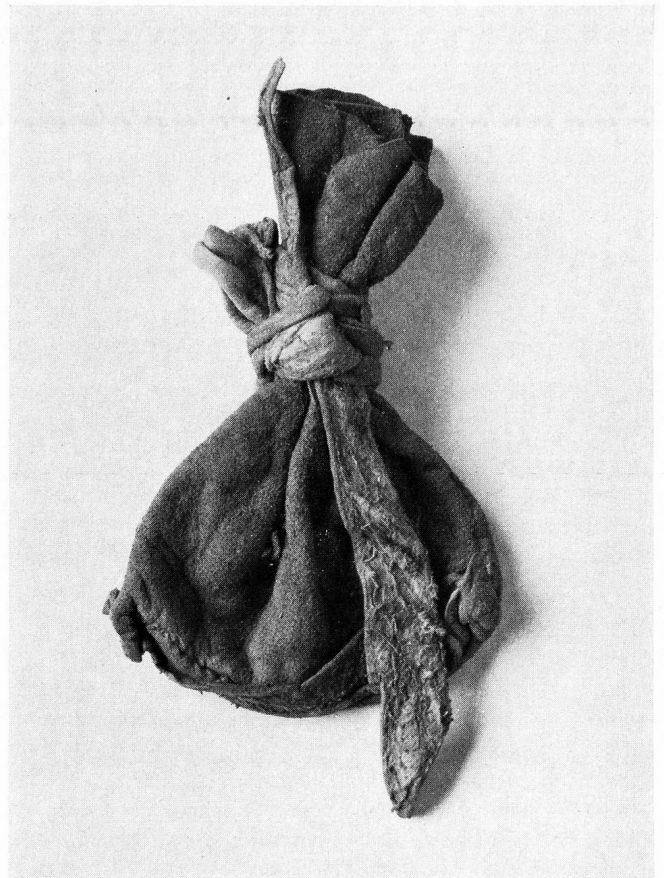
Good condition

H. 11 cm; W. 7 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Farbesack.»)

Acc.: 1883



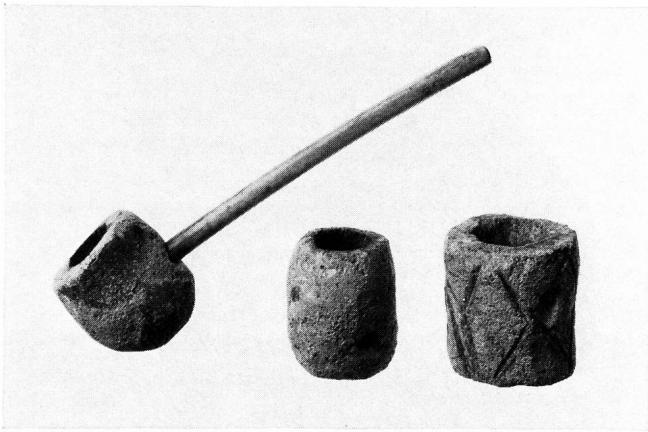


Fig. 167. Pipe Bowls and Stem, Klamath (Cat. No. 244)

244 3 Pipe Bowls and 1 Pipe Stem

Oreg. 27 (a, b, c, d)

Figure 167

Bowls are of soft sandstone. The largest of the three is roughly cylindrical in shape with tapered bowl worked to about one-half of its depth, and a small hole for the stem cut through one wall. Interior of bowl is blackened, exterior is incised with straight lines. Incisions have been darkened. The other two pipes are tubular, and flattened tubular, in shape, with deep blackened bowls and small holes in wall for attachment of stem. Stem is unaltered length of birdbone.

Stem is cracked at one end.

Bowls: 4.7 cm × 4.5 cm; 4.8 cm × 3.5 cm; 4.5 cm × 3.7 cm

Stem: 14 cm × 1 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Indianerpfeifen. Diese Erde ist beim Ausgraben weiss.»)

Acc.: 1883

245 Stinging Nettle Fibre

Oreg. 28 (a, b)

Two bundles of stinging nettle fibre which has been shredded into fine lengths and bound into hanks, preparatory to working into string.

Good condition

Bundles c. 22 cm × 9 cm and 16 cm × 7 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's, Oregon; U.S.A.: «Brennesseln – preparat zur Fabrikation von Schnur.»)

Acc.: 1883

246 Basketry tray

Oreg. 29

Figure 164 (right)

Circular shape, very shallow, worked in close, plain twining technique with weft in light and darker brown tule stems, design (series of encircling bands) worked in shiny, yellowish-white strands (cat-tail?).

At starting point (centre), weft is formed from cord of twisted nettle fibre. Used for parching and sifting of seeds, etc.

Good condition

Diam. 34.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

247 Ring (for game)

Oreg. 30

Consists of a flexible twig, ends bevelled, bent into a hoop shape. A long cord of two-strand twisted tule root is loosely attached around hoop – presumably this was originally closely bound around the hoop, or, alternately, netted across the hoop.

This is probably a variant of the ring and arrow, or ring and spear game. The item appears similar to hoops described by Dorsey (p. 17) – the object being to shoot arrows (or throw javelins) at hoop and imbed them in the tule binding. Possibly used in conjunction with Cat. No. 265 (Oreg. 52). Hoop ends are no longer fastened together, and the cord is no longer secured.

Diam. c. 34 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Spielzeug. Die Binsenfaser muss beim aufschnallen gespiesst werden.»)

Acc.: 1883

Lit.: Dorsey (1901)

248 Hairbrush

Oreg. 31

Figure 168

Made from fine roots which have been gathered together into a bunch, then bent double and secured twice with tanned skin thong: once at point of bending, then again around base of brush so formed. Suspension loop of tanned skin is attached at top; thong is intermittently bound with shiny, creamy-white strands (cat-tail stems?).

Good condition

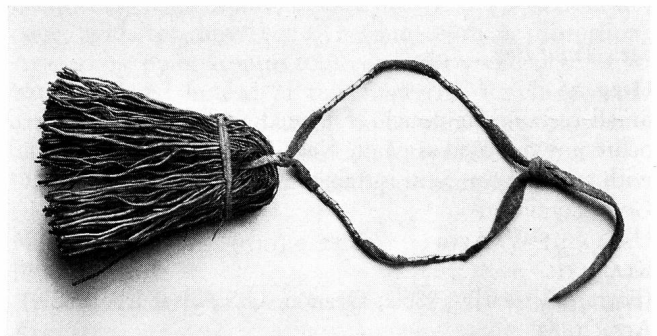
L. 8.5 cm; W. 5.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Haarbürste.»)

Acc.: 1883

Fig. 168. Hairbrush, Klamath (Cat. No. 248)



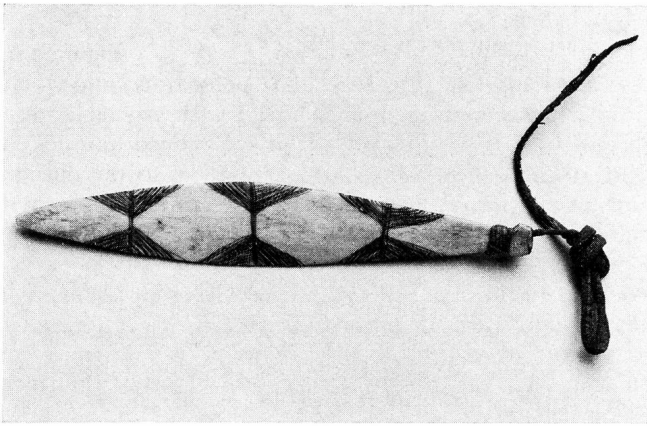


Fig. 169. Head Scratcher, Klamath (Cat. No. 249)

249 *Head Scratcher*

Oreg. 32

Figure 169

Made from bone, in very thin, elongated leaf-shape, pointed at one end, other end enlarged to small knob, base of which is bound with vegetable fibre thread and to which tanned skin thong is attached. One surface is incised with fine, blackened, line designs.

Used by girls during puberty rites, during which time it is forbidden to touch the hands to face or head.

Good condition

L. 13.5 cm; W. 2.2 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Kratzer, gegen Pediculina.»)

Acc.: 1883

Comparison item: Spier (1930: Fig. 6)

250 *Necklace*

Oreg. 33

Made from light-brown roots which have been cut into short tubular sections, pierced transversely, and strung together using string of twisted vegetable fibre thread.

Good condition

L. 46 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Halsband aus Wurzel.»)

Acc.: 1883

251 *Nasal Ornaments (3)*

Oreg. 34

Each is a stick of charred wood, one is plain, second is diagonally wrapped with shiny yellowish material (cane?), and third is wrapped with this material in band around one end.

Diagonal wrapping coming loose at one end.

L. 6 cm, 7.5 cm and 8 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Nasenhholz, wird durch die Nase gesteckt.»)

Acc.: 1883

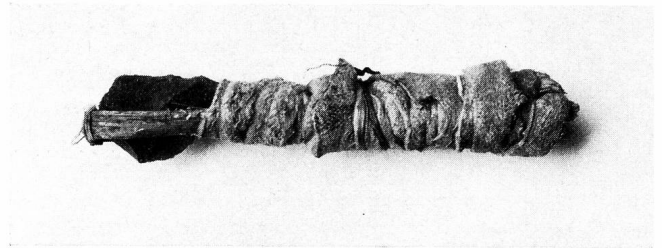


Fig. 170. Knife, Klamath (Cat. No. 252)

252 *Knife*

Oreg. 35

Figure 170

Blade is small cut piece of obsidian, which is inserted in fold of bent piece of split twig or root. Ends of wood are held together and bound with tanned skin, forming handle. Fold of twig is bound with sinew, probably to prevent stone cutting through wood.

Good condition

L. 7.5 cm; W. 1.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Messer zum Lederschneiden.»)

Acc.: 1883

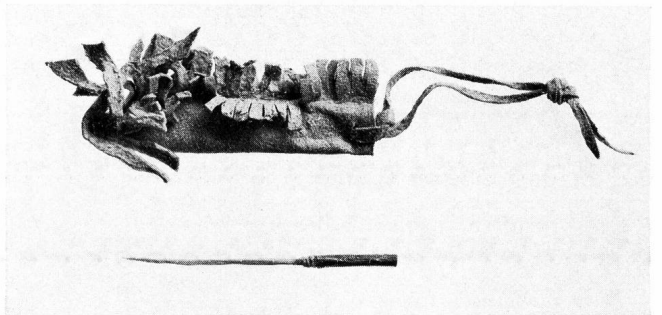
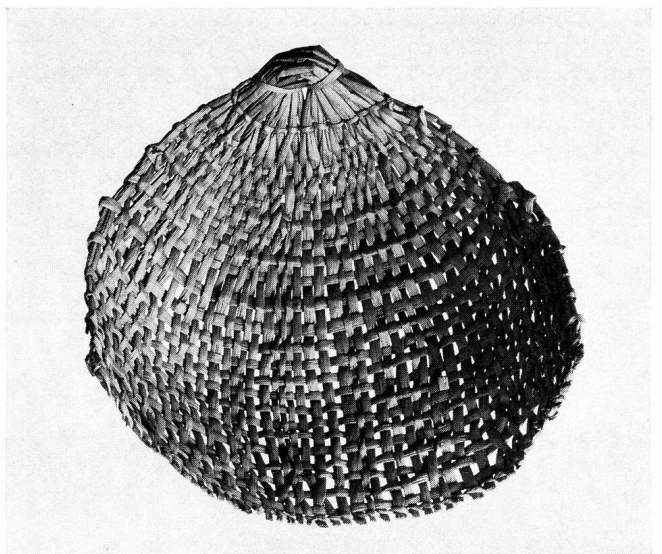


Fig. 171. Awl and Case, Klamath (Cat. No. 253)

Fig. 172. Basketry Platter, Klamath (Cat. No. 254)



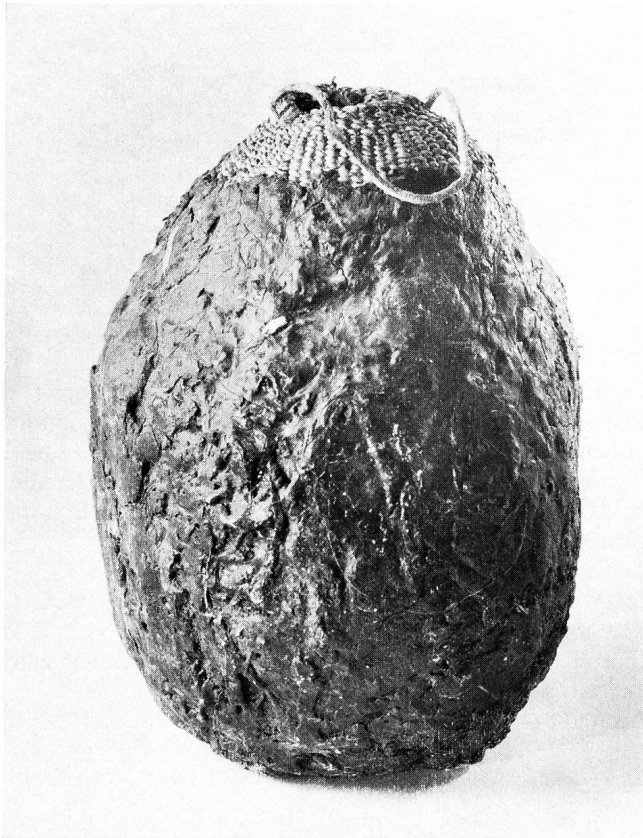
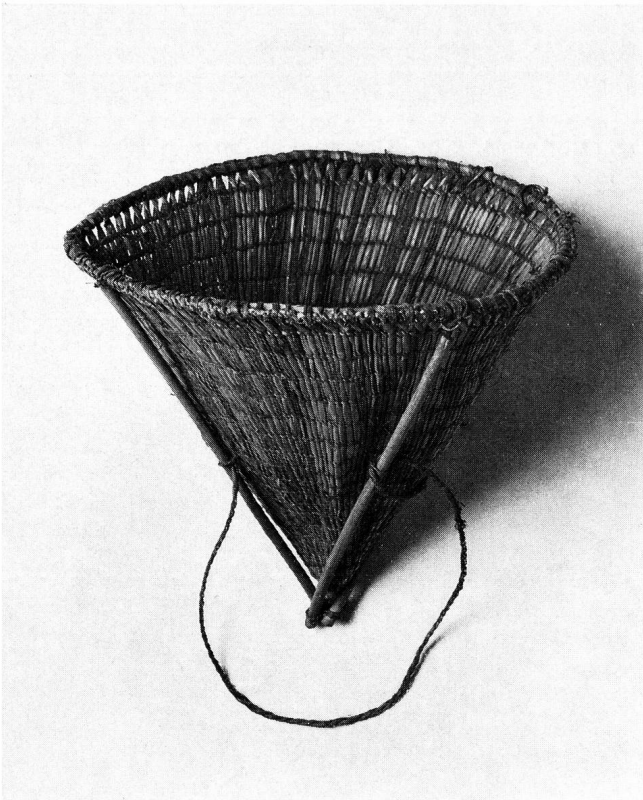


Fig. 173. Water Basket, Klamath (Cat. No. 255)

Fig. 174. Burden Basket, Klamath (Cat. No. 256)



253 *Awl and Case*

Oreg. 36

Awl has long, fine, sharpened bone point fitted into wood handle (piece of twig). Join is bound with vegetable fibre thread. Case is sheath made from soft-tanned, unsmoked skin, stitched with sinew, seam allowances to the outside and cut into fringe. Suspension loop of same skin is drawn and knotted through top corner.

Good condition

Awl: L. 10 cm, W. (handle) .5 cm; Case: H. 11 cm; W. (incl. fringe) 4 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Indianer Nähadel»)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 171

254 *Basketry Platter*

Oreg. 37

Made from tule materials in plain twined weave. Shape is triangular, slightly scooped. Made by doubling a bundle of tules so that their free ends diverge, serving as warps. The bundle is tied around at the joint to hold it together. Wefting is of open simple twine; it is a continuous strand commencing at joint or apex.

Used for serving food, particularly (according to Barrett, p. 256) broiled or otherwise cooked fish and roasted meat.

Good condition

L. 31 cm; W. 31 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Als Teller benutzt.»)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 172

255 *Water Basket*

Oreg. 38

Made from tule materials, twined in simple, very tight, weave. Shape is upright oval, with flat base and small mouth. Exterior was originally completely sealed with black pitch – areas of this have now broken off. At rim, a carrying-loop of tanned thong is drawn through basket.

Good condition, except for partial loss of pitch.

H. 30 cm; D. (at middle): c. 20 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Wasserkorb. Etwas Pech ist auf der Reise abgefallen.»)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 173

256 *Burden Basket*

Oreg. 40

Conical shape, in plain twined weave. Warp is of tule stems, weft of reddish-brown bark-like material (tule root?). Warp begins with a few strands brought together to a point at the bottom, with more stems added as the specimen widens out. These are joined with continuous weft strand, in rows about 2 cm apart. At top of basket, every two warp strands are twisted together, forming openwork pattern beneath rim. The rim is reinforced around inner edge with a hoop of wood, and whole is bound with weft strands.

Figure 174

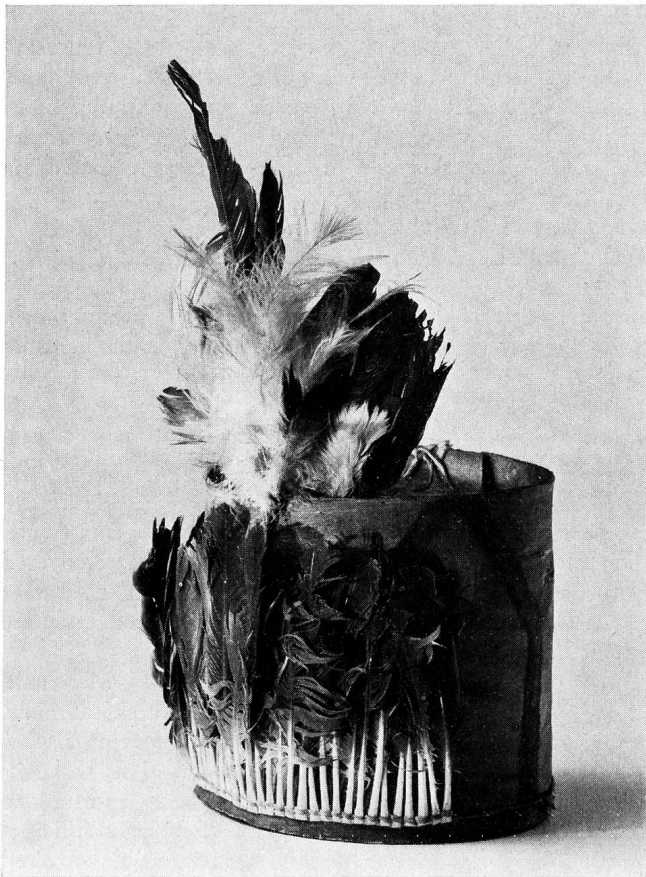


Fig. 175. Headdress, Klamath (Cat. No. 257)

Attached to outside of basket are four vertical wooden rods; these extend a short distance below the apex, where they cross and are bound with twine. Carrying string, attached mid-way down outside of basket, is of two-strand twisted vegetable fibre.

Collector's note suggests this basket was used to transport «Wokus» (also spelled «Wokas») seeds, which are the pods of the water lily and a principal seed supply of the Klamath. Good condition

H. 39.5 cm; Diam. (at rim): 33 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Wokus Korb und Stecken (Oreg. 41) . . . der Korb wird auf dem Rücken getragen.»)

Acc.: 1883

Comparison item: Mason (1902: Fig. 33)

Lit: Spier (1930: p. 160)

257 Headdress

Oreg. 44

Consists of a rectangular length of bark which has been bent into a cylinder and stitched with two rows of tanned skin thong. Around lower rim of cylinder is tied a skin thong to which medium-sized greyish-brown feathers are attached in upright fashion (this is accomplished by bending quill ends around the thong, then binding ends and base of quill together with a second thong). At centre front, top, is

Figure 175

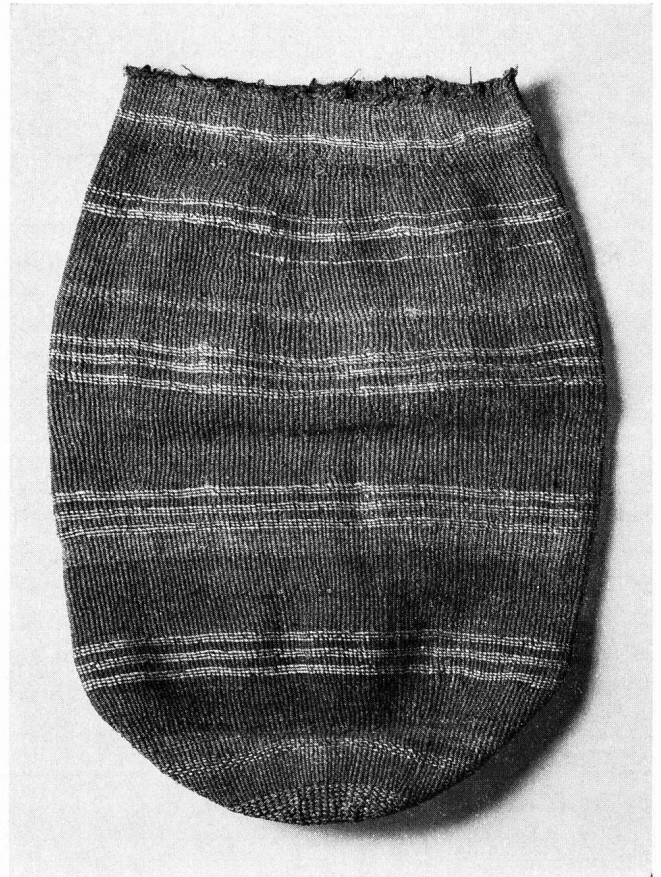


Fig. 176. Bag, Klamath (Cat. No. 258)

attached a bunch of downy white feathers; at same point but on inside are attached several medium-sized black feathers, small white and three long iridescent black feathers. Exterior of cylinder is painted from top to bottom with repeated «Y»-shaped motif in red-brown; band of same extends over wood seam, and around bottom front of cylinder.

Condition is good, except for some feather damage.

H. (incl. feathers) 32 cm; Diam. 18.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Ein Kriegshut.»)

Acc.: 1883

258 Bag

Oreg. 45

Large, tubular shape, with circular base and slight narrowing at top. Made from nettle fibre string, worked in simple twining weave. Design in form of encircling bands, usually in groups of three, is worked in a shiny, yellowish-beige material (cat-tail stems?).

Good condition

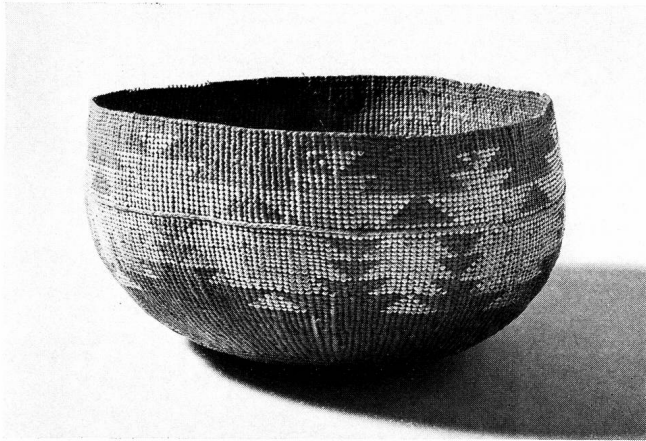
H. 78 cm; W. 58 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Ein grosser Sack aus Brennesseln Faden geflochten und verziert. Ein Prachtstück und die Arbeit mancher Woche representierend.»)

Acc.: 1883

Figure 176



259 *Basket*

Oreg. 46

Figure 177

Semi-circular shape, made from tule materials in very close, plain, twined method. Geometric design around upper part is introduced by use of a shiny beige (cat-tail?) strand. On outside of basket are three raised lines, formed from using three-ply weft.

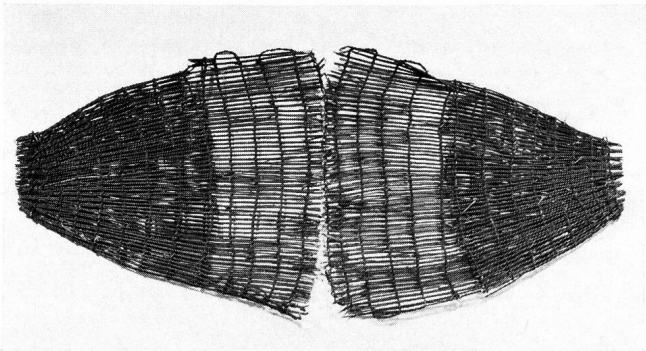
Good condition; slight damage to rim.

H. 11 cm; Diam. 21 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Wasserkorb. So dicht aus einer gewissen Holzart geflochten, dass er Wasser hält und auch so gebraucht wird.»)

Acc.: 1883



260 *Fish Trap*

Oreg. 47

Figure 178

Made from willow twigs, woven in open plain twine. Shape is oblong, tapered towards ends, which are covered with same willow twining. Middle section of basket presumably originally had low sides. Covered ends are stitched closed at end, and are open at top.

This trap seems comparable to one described by Meacham, as quoted in Spier (p. 152): «A canoe-shaped basket is made, with covering of willow-work at each end, leaving a space of 4 feet in the middle top of the basket. This basket is carried out into the tules that adjoin the lakes, and sunk to the depth of 2 or 3 feet. The fishermen chew dried fish eggs and spit them in the water over the basket, until it is covered with the eggs, and then retire a short distance, waiting until the white-fish come in large numbers over the basket, when the fishermen cautiously approach the covered ends, and raise it suddenly, until the upper edge is above the water, and thus entrap hundreds of fish, that are about 8" in length.»

Condition is poor; trap has been folded in storage, with the result that the willows are badly broken across mid-point.

L. 150 cm; W. 65 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Grosser Fischfänger aus Weiden zum fangen grösserer Fische.»)

Acc.: 1883

Lit.: Spier (1930)



261 *Woman's Hat*

Oreg. 48

Figure 159 (right)

Slightly tapered, rounded shape, with flat top and circular rim. Worked in very close, simple, twining technique. Made from tule materials: weft consists of two shades of brown fibres forming design against background of shiny, yellowish-beige strands. At starting point of weaving (centre top of hat), weft is formed from nettle fibre string; around the rim, warp ends are folded to the inside and stitched with the same material.

Fig. 177. Basket, Klamath (Cat. No. 259)

Fig. 178. Fish Trap, Klamath (Cat. No. 260)

Fig. 179. Feather Headdress, Klamath (Cat. No. 262)

Good condition
H. 18 cm; Diam. 11.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «feiner Frauenhut Weiss und Schwarz.»)

Acc.: 1883

262 Feather Headdress

Oreg. 49

Figure 179

Bunch of split hawk feathers, bound together at base with sinew. At base are attached two triangles of smoked tanned skin; to each of these is attached a tie of tanned skin.

Good condition

L. c. 26 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Ein Indianer Kriegskopfputz.»)

Acc.: 1883

263 Quiver and Arrows

Oreg. 50 (a, b, c, d, e, f)

Figure 180

(a) Quiver is a tapered cylinder made from tule stems laid lengthwise and woven together by simple twining method using weft strand of tule root (?) fibre at approximately 5 cm intervals. Bottom is sealed shut in same manner. Carrying strap is length of unsmoked, tanned skin.

(b) Wooden arrow. Tapered to a blunt point at fore-end, at opposite end feathered for about 30 cm with three grey-brown, split and trimmed feathers. Secured under sinew wrapping at shaft end is a bunch of seven grey-brown feathers, each attached to connecting piece of fringed tanned skin by sinew wrapping at base of quill.

(c) Wooden arrow, construction similar to (b) above. At fore-end of feathering, four small orange-tipped-with-black feathers are attached by means of having their quill ends bent around a skin thong and bound with sinew. Skin thong is then tied around shaft. Shaft and sinew wrappings are painted red.

(d) Wooden arrow. No notching at nock; feathering consists of two split, dark, brown-grey feathers.

(e) Wooden arrow, resembling (d) in manufacture.

(f) Arrow, with cane shaft and point of hard wood. Fore-end of reed is wrapped with pitched sinew to prevent splitting when foreshaft is driven in. There is a small ring of pitch around foreshaft, at place where point begins to taper. Feathering consists of three small, white, split and trimmed feathers, bound at either end with pitched sinew.

Quiver is in good condition; with exception of (f) all arrows have damage to feathering.

(a) L. 73.5 cm; W. 19 cm; (b) L. 72.5 cm; (c) L. 81.5 cm;

(d) L. 93 cm; (e) L. 92.5 cm; (f) L. 83 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Pfeilsack aus Binsen.»)

Acc.: 1883

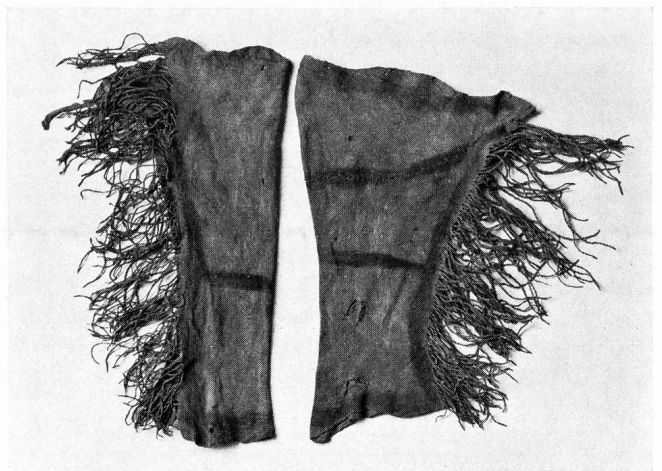
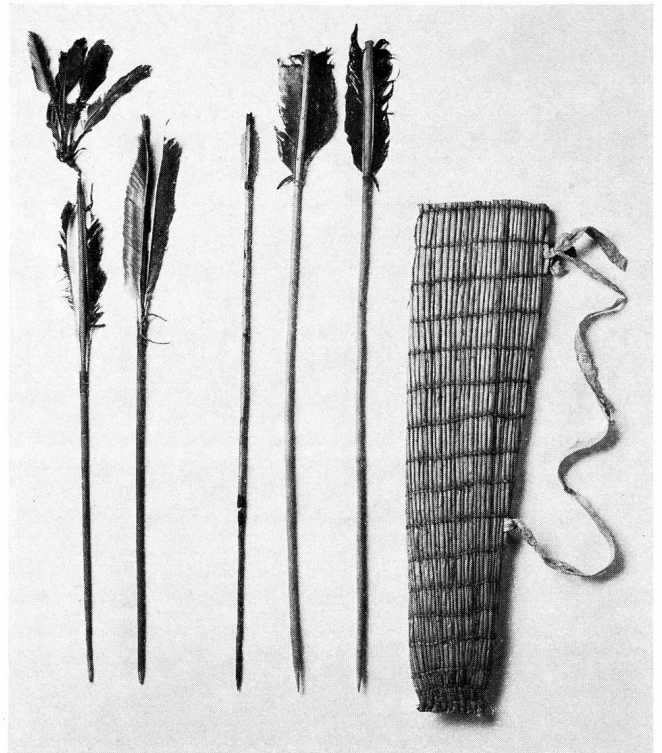


Fig. 180. Quiver and Arrows, Klamath (Cat. No. 263)

Fig. 181. Woman's Leggings, Klamath (Cat. No. 264)

Fig. 182. Basketry Hat, Klamath (Cat. No. 266)

264 *Woman's Leggings*

Oreg. 51 Figure 181
Made from soft, tanned and smoked skin. Seamed down outer leg, with seam allowance to the outside and cut into fine fringe. Red paint borders around outer side, top and bottom, transversely across middle, and delineating piecing on one legging. Sewing is with sinew; a hole in one legging has been stitched with commercial thread.

Good condition

L. 44 cm; W. 26 cm; Fringe: 17 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «paar Frauengaiters aus Leder.»)

Acc.: 1883

265 *Spear*

Oreg. 52
Lightweight, long shaft of cane with thinner wood foreshaft inserted in end and join bound with indigenous vegetable fibre thread. Foreshaft has burned-in diagonal, parallel, encircling lines. Point is long, thin, tapered piece of wood, fitted over end of foreshaft with split in end of point sealed with pitch, and join bound with commercial thread.

Probable use as javelin in dart game, possibly in conjunction with Cat. No. 247 (Oreg. 30)

Condition is fair; tip of point is broken, and there is partial loss of shaft lashing.

L. 181 cm; W. (point) 1.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

266 *Basketry Hat*

Oreg. 53 Figure 182
Slightly flared shape, with circular, flat top and circular rim. Warp is of flattened tule stems, woven together with weft of the same, in three-ply twining which creates elevated bands around exterior of hat.

Shape is distorted, with some damage to tule. A metal rod is attached with metal wire around the inside of the rim – presumably a museum addition to preserve the form.

Diam. (rim) c. 30 cm; H. c. 20 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Mannshut»)

Acc.: 1883

267 *Necklace*

Oreg. 54 Figure 183
Made from large, beige-coloured seeds, strung on cord of twisted sinew.

Fair condition

L. 44 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Halskette aus essbaren Wurzeln.»)

Acc.: 1883

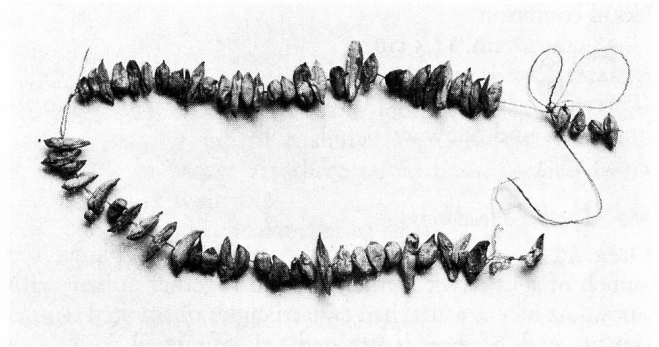


Fig. 183. Necklace, Klamath (Cat. No. 267)

268 *Ring and Pin Games (2)*

Oreg. 55 (a, b) Figure 184 (Oreg. 55 (b))
Each game consists of an elliptically-shaped bundle of circularly-wrapped tule rushes, with loop of twisted rushes emerging from top. Around loop is tied a fine cord of twisted nettle fibre, to the opposite end of which is secured the pin, a finely-sharpened piece of wood.

Spier (p. 83) describes a similar version of the game: «The ball is allowed to hang pendant: by a quick plunge of the pin straight down, an attempt is made to pierce the point of attachment of cord and ball. This «breaks the month». It is considered great luck, for it will shorten the month and hasten the coming of spring. It is a pastime of young and old of either sex during the long winter months spent in the earth-lodge.»

(a) Loop at top broken; (b) Good condition.

(b) L. ball: 5 cm; W. 2 cm; L. pin: 4.5 cm

KLAMATH

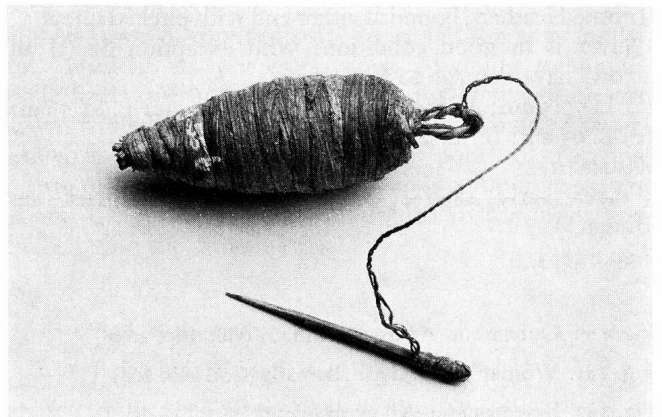
(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Fangspiel»)

Acc.: 1883

Comparison item: Dorsey (1901: Pl. II)

Lit.: Spier (1930)

Fig. 184. Ring and Pin Game, Klamath (Cat. No. 268)



269 *Necklace or Armband*

Oreg. 56

Two strings of twisted nettle fibre over which a single porcupine quill is looped to create a braided effect. Quills are predominately yellow, with small blocks of brown quills inserted at intervals.

Good condition

L. 105 cm; W. 2 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Hals oder Armband aus Stachelschweinsborsten.»)

Acc.: 1883

270 *Harpoon end*

Oreg. 57

Shaft is length of peeled wood, grooved around middle to accommodate wrapping of line. Foreshaft consists of two tapered lengths of wood, placed one on either side of shaft end and lashed secure with two-strand nettle fibre twine. There are two fine points of bone with wood bases into which a socket has been cut. Approximately two-thirds of point is wrapped with nettle fibre twine and coated with pitch. Points fit over tapered ends of foreshaft; line of braided nettle fibre extends from mid-way on point.

In use, the toggle point is thrust completely through the fish so that the detachable point will slip off and turn at right angles.

Good condition, but only a fraction of the shaft is present.

L. 42.5 cm; W. (foreshaft): 3 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Lanze zum Fischfang.»)

Acc.: 1883

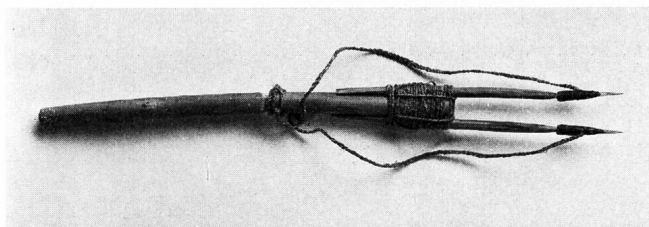


Fig. 185. Harpoon End, Klamath (Cat. No. 270)

271 *Cap or Sunshade*

Oreg. 59

Made from tule fibre in plain twined weave. Shape is narrow length which has been bent into an open loop, then inner sides brought together and twining continued across total width, forming visor-type sunshade.

Good condition

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Augenschirm gegen die Sonne.»)

Acc.: 1883



Fig. 186. Sunshade, Klamath (Cat. No. 271)

272 *Pillow*

Oreg. 60

Woven mat, made from flattened tules, two layers deep, twined together at approximately 5 cm intervals with nettle fibre cord. At one end, a border warp of braided tules is laid parallel to the tule warps and is caught in the twining cords.

In use, the mat would be rolled to form a pillow for the head.

Good condition

L. 62 cm; W. 30.5 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Kopfkissen.»)

Acc.: 1883

273 *Shaman's Arrow (?)*

Oreg. 61 (a, b)

Two short lengths of wood, each sharpened to a point at either end and encased in a tubular container made from unflattened tule stems which are bound together with strips of bark.

Good condition

L. arrows: 25 cm; Diam. case: 3 cm; L. case and arrows: 47.5 cm

KLAMATH

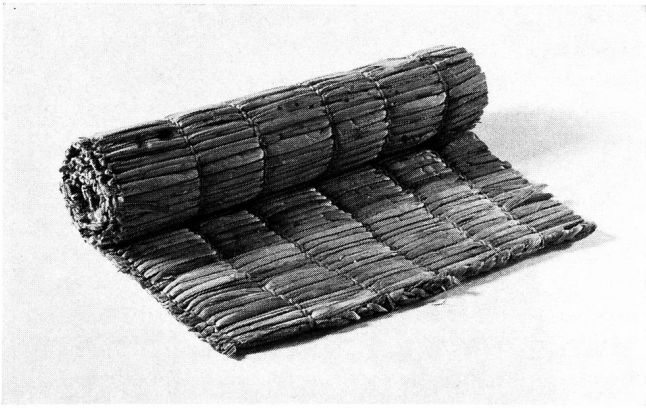
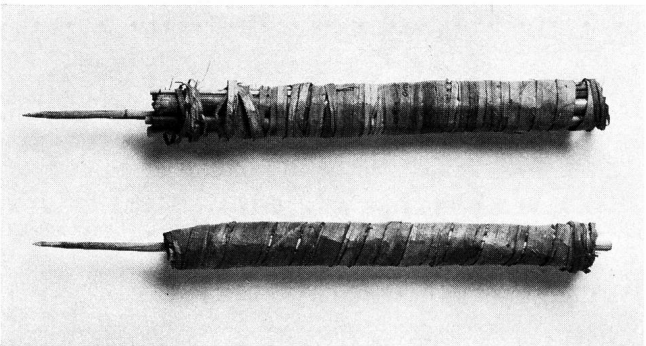


Fig. 187. Mat Pillow, Klamath (Cat. No. 272)

Fig. 188. Shaman's Arrows?, Klamath (Cat. No. 273)



(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «2 Zauberpfeile, in einem Rohrbündel, von Bast umflochten.»)

Acc.: 1883

274 *Section of Mat*

Oreg. 62

Long narrow rectangle of tule stems woven together in simple twine technique using nettle fibre string. Apparently this is a strip cut from a larger mat: third row of twining is partially destroyed due to uneven cutting of lower edge. Weft cord is unravelling and some of tule strands are breaking at end.

L. 196 cm; W. 14 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.)

Acc.: 1883

275 *Arrow Foreshaft and Point*

Oreg. 64

Shaft end is of wood, split to permit fitting of point. Point is of finely-worked stone (chalcedony) in a narrow triangular shape with serrated edges and downturned basal corners forming base. Point is lashed to shaft using sinew line.

Lashing loose, point of tip broken.

L. 10 cm; W. (point): 1.2 cm

KLAMATH

(Forrer, A.; early 1880's; Oregon, U.S.A.: «Pfeilspitze mit Fragment des Schaftes, aus Feuerstein, fein ausgezähnt.»)

Acc.: 1883