



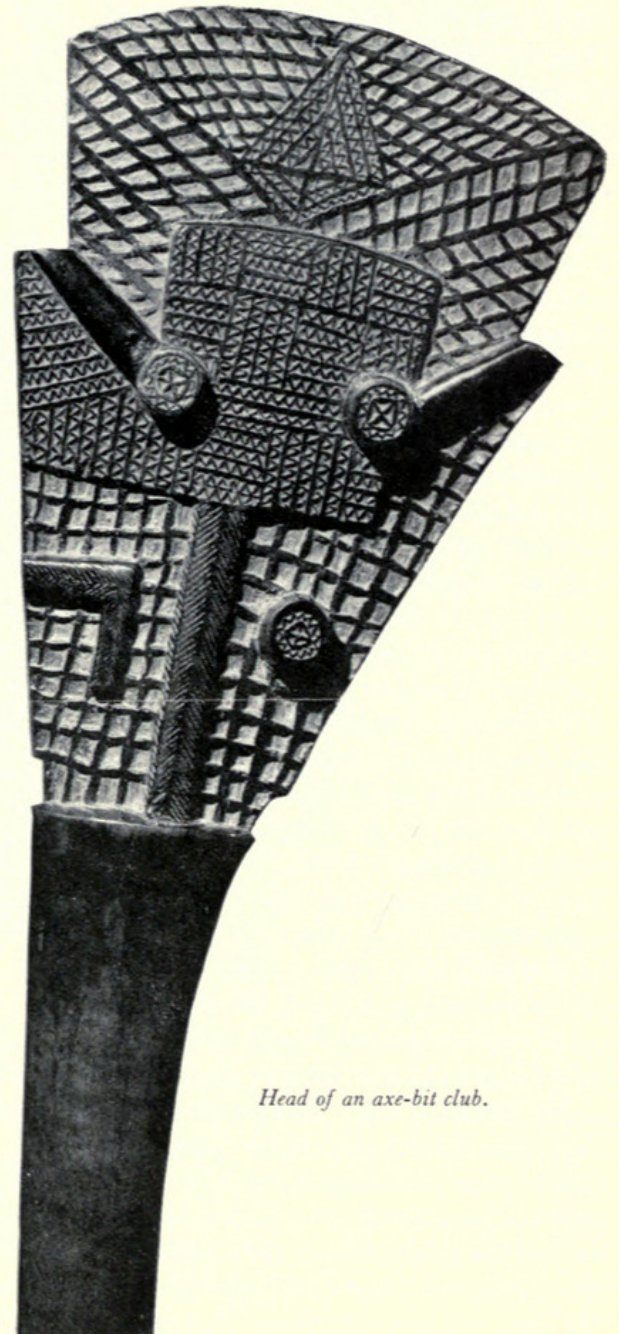
Detail of the carving on a paddle-club.

FIJI—The Fiji Islands are situated on what is generally considered to be the border line between Melanesia and Polynesia. For this reason Fijian culture is a blend of features from both major culture areas. The people of Fiji share many customs with other islanders. They make bark cloth and drink kava. Some practices, however, set them apart. Among Fijians the art of war was especially developed and their propensity to indulge in cannibalism has become widely known.

The forest lands of Fiji possess an abundance of hard and soft wood timber. From this ready stock of raw materials Fijian craftsmen produced a wide range of wooden artifacts. Among these are elaborate war clubs of huge proportions. Long and bulky spears with complicated barbs were shaped perhaps as much to frighten opponents as to harm them. The rough stone adzes used to produce wooden objects seem crude and difficult to manage, but they served well in the hands of the dedicated artisan. Some weapons display intricate incised geometric designs, the meaning of which only the carver knew. Others include small stylized human and animal figures which depict a battle scene or a turtle hunt.

—THIS MONTH'S COVER—

Pictured on the cover is one of the finest products of Maori workmanship—a neck ornament ("hei-tiki") made of nephrite greenstone. It is one of the three largest ornaments of its kind known to exist and is remarkable for the excellence and delicacy of its form. This outstanding artifact was a gift to the Museum from Captain and Mrs. A. W. F. Fuller of London, England, and may be seen in the new Hall F.



Head of an axe-bit club.



1961. "Fiji." *Bulletin* 32(5), 12–12.

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