



AUSTRALIAN WOODEN WEAPONS AND TOOLS FROM THE J. V. DANEŠ COLLECTION IN THE NÁPRSTEK MUSEUM

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ABSTRACT: J. V. Daneš's collection of the National Museum – Náprstek Museum includes over 700 ethnographic objects from the entire Pacific area. The collection is mostly unpublished, and some of the objects never had their provenience established. The present paper introduces 46 indigenous wooden weapons – clubs and sticks, boomerangs, spears, shields and spear throwers – from Australia.

KEY WORDS: Jiří Viktor Daneš – Australia – Náprstek Museum – indigenous weapons

Introduction:

Jiří Viktor Daneš (1880–1928) was a geographer, diplomat, traveller, author of multiple scientific and popular publications, and a keen collector. He compiled a remarkable collection of ethnographic artefacts and photographs from Australia and the entire Pacific area that is now kept in the collections of the National Museum – Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures in Prague (Náprstek Museum). Daneš's life and travels are well documented thanks to his own travelogues (Daneš – Domin 1912; Daneš 1926, to name the two most relevant for this paper) and an abundance of publications (e.g. *Život a práce prof. J. V. Daneše* 1928; Kinský 1961: 280–289; Martínek 2017). Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about his collection. J. V. Daneš died suddenly in 1928, without having had properly organised his acquisitions. The assemblage of objects, as well as some of his photographs, was transferred to the National Museum by his widow Božena² practically without any

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² Evidence books of the Náprstek Museum report the accession of 818 items on 12 December 1941 and five more in 1983 from Daneš's colleague Emil Ballek. Today, the collection totals 706 items, as some were signed away due to exchanges with other museums or poor state of preservation.

documentation. Most objects were merely broadly described as “Oceanic” or “Australian” (in some cases incorrectly), with no specification of the area of origin. The ethnographic collection now contains over 700 items that document every aspect of life; from household goods, work tools and clothing, through to musical instruments and currency, to ceremonial items and objects of high symbolic value.

Even though the collection has received some attention from the Museum’s curators, that during several decades gradually specified, re-determined or newly established the provenience of a number of the objects³, it has been largely neglected in the regard of publishing with a single introductory article that summarizes Daneš’s travels and discusses the origin and provenance of objects (Jungová 2017). Today, the set forms a substantial part of the Permanent Exhibition of the Cultures of Australia and Oceania and the entire Pacific Collection of the Náprstek Museum.

During his two stays in 1909–1910 and 1920–1923, Daneš spent a total of 32 months in Australia. The first journey was dedicated to scientific exploration of the continent; Daneš, together with botanist Karel Domin, travelled mostly around Queensland and the south coast. Daneš studied the geomorphology of Australia, while Domin collected botanical specimens. Daneš’s second stay in Australia was official – he was named Consul General of the newly established Czechoslovakia in Australia. During the appointment, Daneš and his wife had to stay mostly in Sydney, although they still took every opportunity they had to travel and acquire new artefacts.

Daneš’s motivation for collecting ethnographic objects is uncertain. It is clear from several brief mentions in his books (e.g. Daneš 1926: 301 about commissioning models of a house and a boat, or Daneš 1926: 306 about unease with purchasing any objects from villagers) that his acquisitions were purposeful. We may, however, only guess what this purpose was – whether to sell the objects for profit, as memorabilia from his travels, or perhaps to study and publish them by himself. The fact that the objects from the Australian Museum in Sydney were acquired for the National Museum suggests that his intentions were at least partially to introduce far away cultures to the public in his homeland.

A lack of original information on the collection practices or provenances of the objects is probably among the reasons why the assemblage has not been published in the past. However, the breadth and importance of the Daneš collection call for a gradual thorough study. The Náprstek Museum currently cares for 104 objects from Australia collected by J. V. Daneš during his travels. The segment of Daneš’s collection presented here introduces Australian wooden weapons and tools – throwing clubs, sticks and returning and non-returning boomerangs, shields, spears and spear throwers. Circumstances of acquisition of at least some of the objects may be assumed from the travelogues. For instance, *Dvojmí rájem* [Through a Double Paradise] captures how J. V. Daneš and K. Domin attended a corroboree and visited the missionary station of Yarrabah, and purchased weapons and shields on both occasions (Daneš – Domin 1912: 146-147; 273 both events are, however, narrated by K. Domin). Daneš also acquired several items from the Australian Museum in Sydney with the intention of handing them over to the Museum of the Kingdom of Bohemia⁴, today’s National Museum (Fisher, Egan, e-mail communication, 2018). The acquisition took place in December

³ This is apparent from evidence cards and various notes and tables created by the curators.

⁴ The Australian Museum’s records name the institution as The Royal Museum of Bohemia.

1922, i.e. at the end of Daneš's diplomatic appointment, shortly before he and his wife commenced the around-the-world voyage back to Europe. The National Museum then handed over the objects to one of its branches, the Náprstek Museum.

Clubs and throwing sticks [Pl. 1]:

Clubs and throwing sticks (also known as *nulla nullas* and *waddies*⁵) are simple, yet highly effective tools. Their strength lies in their simplicity, and hence variability. They can be used as throwing or striking weapons for interpersonal violence as well as hunting, tools for digging out nutritious tubers, to make a fire, as a pestle etc. The form can be very minimalistic, little different from a mere pointed stick, or elaborately shaped with treated surface, decorated with utilitarian or symbolic engravings and paint (Davidson 1936a). The Daneš's collection includes seven clubs and sticks, mostly from Queensland and New South Wales, i.e. areas well known to him. At least one of the items (Inv. No. 26147) was purchased from the Australian Museum in Sydney.

1. Club, Inv. No. 25958

Queensland

Hardwood, paint; l. 59.5 cm

Throwing club made of heavy light-brown wood, with a quadrilateral head with rounded edges, tapering towards the handle. Both ends are pointed. The surface is smooth, with darker ends and several faded ochre-coloured annuli.

2. Club, Inv. No. 25959

Queensland

Wood; l. 75.0 cm

Throwing club made of light-brown wood with dark patina, with a wider head tapering towards the handle. Both ends are pointed. The body is decorated with incised lines that form cross-hatched or dotted diamonds. The handle is left smooth and undecorated.

3. Club, Inv. No. 25960

New South Wales

Hardwood; l. 70.0 cm

Throwing club made of dark-brown wood, the head is slightly wider than handle. Both ends are sharply pointed. The whole club is finely fluted with the exception of the handle that is roughly incised for a more secure grip.

4. Club, Inv. No. 25961

New South Wales

Hardwood; l. 68.5 cm

Throwing club made of dark-brown wood; the head is slightly wider and tapers towards the handle. Both ends are sharply pointed. The surface is longitudinally fluted, the gripping end is roughly incised.

⁵ These terms come from a language use in the Sydney area and are commonly applied to clubs and throwing sticks in all Australia. Naturally, different language groups use different names for the same objects.

5. Club, Inv. No. 26145

Northern Territory

Wood, polychromy; l. 53.0 cm

A throwing club with a wide pointed head and a tapered blunt handle. Whole instrument is longitudinally fluted. The central part is covered with reddish-brown paint, both ends with a white pigment that is partially wiped off, revealing the underlying dark-brown wood.

6. Club, Inv. No. 26146

New South Wales

Hardwood; l. 71.0 cm

Throwing club tapering from bulky head to straight handle, both ends are pointed. The surface is finely fluted; the gripping end is roughened with incisions.

7. Stick, Inv. No. 26147

Western Australia, Mt. Malcolm

Wood; l. 75.7 cm

Curved stick of circular cross-section with fine fluting. One end forms a blunt point; the gripping end displays remnants of adhesive, possibly resin. Object bears old identification number E26581.

Note: The identification number comes from the Australian Museum in Sydney. A note associated with the stick states Mt. Malcolm as the area of origin, which is in concordance with the type and design of the object.

Boomerangs [Pl. 2]:

Boomerangs are a form of throwing clubs specific in their curvature and cross-section. Although commonly considered to be characteristic for Australia, boomerangs have been used in many cultures; the oldest attested exemplar comes from Poland (Valde-Nowak – Nadachowski – Wolsan 1987). They are a typical example of a multi-purpose instrument that goes beyond being a weapon and a hunting tool; it is also a tool to dig wells and fire-pits for cooking, cut open and chop up carcasses, scrape hot ashes to and from cooked meat, as a fire-saw together with a softwood base, as a tool for retouching blades and as a rhythmical musical instrument. Two basic types of boomerangs can be distinguished – returning and non-returning. The former is well known, but in fact much less common in practice, usually only used for games and sports. The non-returning boomerangs are, on the other hand, widely spread and used both for hunting and warfare. Both types are represented in the collection, including one boomerang for a left-handed user (Inv. No. 26142). Three boomerangs (Inv. Nos. 26140, 2642, 26143) were acquired from the Australian Museum in Sydney.

8. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25946

New South Wales or Victoria

Wood; span 77.0 cm, w. 5.1 cm

Boomerang with wide, almost symmetrical curvature and semi-elliptical cross-section, made of brown wood. The surface is smooth, without incised or painted decorations.

9. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25947

New South Wales or Victoria

Wood; span 71.0 cm, w. 5.4 cm

Boomerang with wide, symmetrical curve and flat semi-elliptical cross-section, made of light-brown wood. The surface is smooth, without incised or painted decorations.

10. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25948

Northern Australia (?)

Wood, polychromy; span 63.7 cm, w. 5.1 cm

Boomerang with wide asymmetrical curvature with flat elliptical cross-section. The surface is covered with red paint and nine transversal white bands on the centre and one of the arms.

Note: Domin mentions acquisition of multiple boomerangs, some of them painted in red and white, at the Yarrabah Mission (Daneš – Domin 1912: 273), although the design also corresponds to boomerangs from Western Australia.

11. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25949

Northern Australia (?)

Wood, polychromy; span 54.7 cm, w. 5.1 cm

Boomerang with wide asymmetrical curvature and flat elliptical cross-section. The surface is covered with red paint; white dots decorate the centre and spread towards the ends, where the dotted area is delimited with transversal white bands. The tip of one arm and one third of the other arm are only painted red, without dots.

Note: Domin mentions acquisition of multiple boomerangs, some of them painted in red and white, at the Yarrabah Mission (Daneš – Domin 1912: 273), although the design also corresponds to boomerangs from Western Australia.

12. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25950

New South Wales

Wood; span 49.0 cm, w. 6.2 cm

Symmetrical boomerang made of light-brown wood with dark patina, richly decorated with incised motives of herring bone, cross hatching, zigzags and straight or curved lines. The engravings are not very precise and rather untidy.

13. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25951

New South Wales

Wood; span 50.5 cm, w. 5.3 cm

Symmetrical boomerang made of light-brown wood with dark patina, richly decorated with incised motives of cross hatching and zigzags. The engravings are rather clumsy and untidy.

14. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25952

New South Wales or Victoria

Wood; span 57.8 cm, w. 6.3 cm

Boomerang with wide and symmetrical curvature with semi-elliptical cross-section, made of dark wood with light stripes along the edges. The surface is smooth and undecorated. One end is round, the other tapers to a point.

15. Boomerang, Inv. No. 25953

New South Wales, Gundagai District

Wood; span 55.6 cm, max w. 8.7 cm

Boomerang made of light-brown wood with grey-brown patina with flat semi-elliptical cross-section. The curvature is wide and symmetrical, one arm tapers, the other expands with a point on the outer edge and rounded transition to the inner edge. Woodworking tool (possibly the *tula* adze) marks are visible on the upper surface; the lower surface is smooth. Inscription on the lower surface reads: "New South Wales, Gundagai District, December 1921 [illegible]".

16. Boomerang, Inv. No. 26139

Western Australia

Wood; span 51.7 cm, w. 6.3 cm

Boomerang with wide symmetrical curvature and flat semi-elliptical cross-section with pointed ends. The surface bears marks from a woodworking tool (possibly the *tula* adze). The wood used is light-brown along the inner edge and medium-brown on most of the surface. A small hole in one of the arms near the centre possibly marks a fallen-out knot.

17. Boomerang, Inv. No. 26140

Queensland, Capricorn

Wood; span 51.3 cm, w. 6.4 cm

Boomerang with a wide symmetrical curvature and semi-elliptical cross-section, made of patinated light-brown wood. The ends are pointed, the lower surface is smooth, upper surfaces are decorated with shallow and smooth transversal grooves; two transversal incised bands decorate one of the arms. Next to these bands is original identification number E20291.

Note: The identification number comes from the Australian Museum in Sydney. According to its records, the item belonged to a series of returning boomerangs coming from Queensland and New South Wales.

18. Boomerang, Inv. No. 26141

New South Wales, between Darling and Lachlan Rivers

Wood; span 70.9 cm, w. 4.8 cm

Boomerang with wide and slightly asymmetrical curvature, and flat elliptical cross-section, made of medium-brown wood with dark stains. Ends are tapered but not pointed. The surface is decorated with woodworking tool (possibly the *tula* adze) marks. Sticker on the object reads: "between Lachlan & Darling [rivers] Dan[eš]".

19. Boomerang, Inv. No. 26142

Eastern Queensland

Hardwood; span 58.0 cm, w. 5.2 cm

Asymmetrical boomerang with wide curvature and flat elliptical cross-section; the shape suggests it was made for a left-handed person. Ends are pointed. The boomerang is made of red-brown hardwood, lower surface displays longitudinal fluting. The upper surface is decorated with incised motives – a row of wide triangles along both edges filled with longitudinal grooves, and two rows of lenticles also filled with longitudinal grooves symbolizing a hopping kangaroo (cf. Basedow 1925: 350–351, Fig. 46). The object bears old identification number E21327.

Note: The identification number comes from the Australian Museum in Sydney.

20. Boomerang, Inv. No. 26143
Central Australia, Charlotte Waters
Wood, paint; span 75.8 cm, w. 5.9 cm

Boomerang with wide and asymmetrical curvature with semi-elliptical cross-section and rounded ends, made of brown wood. The lower surface is smooth, upper surface displays longitudinal fluting. One end is decorated with a pair of transversal bands and a plaited ornament, both painted grey. The lower surface displays original identification number E18535.

Note: The identification number comes from the Australian Museum in Sydney.

Parrying shields [Pl. 3]:

Parrying shields, also called tamarang, can come in two forms that differ in their appearance, but not in their primary function – to withstand heavy blows from clubs, whether held in hand or thrown. The first form is a narrow, vertical and rather a massive block of wood with a handle cut into the posterior edge. The narrow shape allows for an unobscured view, while the depth helps absorb the blow. The second type is oval in shape, also cut from a single piece of wood including the handle. The shape is less favourable in terms of the view; however, unlike the first form, it is also effective against spears.

21. Parrying shield, Inv. No. 26144
Western Australia
Hardwood, polychromy; l. 74.7 cm, w. 13.6 cm

Parrying *wunda* shield in the shape of an elongated oval is decorated with fluting on the entire frontal face. The incised lines are longitudinal on both ends and diagonally skewed in the central part. Grooves are alternately painted with red and white pigment.

22. Parrying shield, Inv. No. 26165
Southwest Queensland
Hardwood; l. 65.0 cm, w. 7.2 cm

Parrying shield with a long and narrow oval shape with tapered ends and triangular cross-section. The frontal face is slightly convex, ornamented with incised lines.

23. Parrying shield, Inv. No. 26166
Victoria
Hardwood; l. 80.2 cm, w. 5.8 cm, h. 14.2 cm

Parrying shield with a pronating central part, giving the object a wedge shape when viewed from the side. The shield is decorated with incised ornaments on each of its two demi-faces – two stripes of fine crossed lines running from the centre towards the tapered ends and a zigzag motif in the middle part.

Rainforest shields [Pl. 4a,b]:

Rainforest shields gained their name because they are distinctive for the Aboriginal peoples inhabiting the Queensland rainforests. Unlike the parrying shields, the rainforest shields are made of light wood, and they provide the bearer with a large covering surface. However, they are more prone to breakages and damages. They are also multifunctional – together with a stick or boomerang, they can be used to make a fire. Rainforests shields are painted with white, yellow, red and black pigments to create symbolic designs. Blank shields were given to young boys to decorate them as part of their initiation process. They are the shield of choice against the rainforest sword club (Aaberg 2009). One of the shields (Inv. No. 26209, see below) is attested from the area of Bellenden Ker (see Pl. 5); it can be reasonably assumed that the other shield was also acquired on the same occasion.

24. Rainforest shield, Inv. No. 26208

Northeast Queensland

Wood, polychromy; l. 99.6 cm, w 30.8 cm

Rainforest shield of slightly irregular oval shape, concave along its longitudinal axis and convex along its transversal axis. A rectangular protuberance in the centre is painted red. The whole surface is covered with painted motives in yellow, white and red with black lining. The shield bears visible marks of use – grooves from a cutting weapon. The grooves were apparently made before the shield was painted, as they are covered with pigments.

25. Rainforest shield, Inv. No. 26209

Queensland, Bellenden Ker

Wood, polychromy; l. 99.8 cm, w. 37.2 cm

Kidney-shaped rainforest shield with a rectangular protuberance in the centre. The shield is painted white, with red and yellow diamonds, lined in black. The central protuberance is red. Longitudinal cracks have formed at two places.

Note: Daneš acquired the shield after a corroboree near “Harvey’s Creek” (by which he means today’s town of Bellenden Ker), as evidenced by photographs from Dvojím rájem (Daneš – Domin 1912: 149, 151, 169). See Pl. 5.

Sword club [Pl. 4c]:

Sword clubs (or simply swords) are the counterparts of rainforest shields, therefore they are found in the same area, i.e. the rainforests in northeast Queensland. This one-handed weapon is made of heavy hardwood and usually left undecorated. They were typically used in duels where the opponents took turns to swing the sword club overhand to deliver a full-force blow to the opponent’s shield. The only sword club from the Daneš’s collection was in all probability gained under the same circumstances as Inv. No. 26209.

26. Sword club, Inv. No. 26532

Northeast Queensland

Hardwood, adhesive, string; l. 148.1 cm, w. 14.6 cm, handle l. 8. 5 cm

Sword club made of light-brown wood, with a blunt flat undecorated blade of long kidney shape and a short handle of rectangular cross-section. The handle is covered with adhesive (probably resin) and wound with fibre string.

Spears [Pl. 6]:

On the Australian continent, spears are widely used, not competed with by bows and arrows, slings and other projectile weapons (Davidson 1934a; Davidson 1934b). They are used for hunting and fishing, as well as fighting, and for ceremonial or even recreational purposes. Some types are thrown by hand, while the use of a spear thrower is also extended. Spears may be simple, made of one piece of wood crudely pointed on one or both ends. These are very difficult to associate with a certain area unless records of their original acquisition are available. They can be found in almost all of the continent as well as Tasmania (Davidson 1934a). Spears can also be composite with a separate head and shaft made of wood or reed. They may have multiple heads (prongs), usually numbering three or four; these are most often associated with fishing. Similarly to sticks and clubs, spears can be very crude, or decorated with carving and painting. The presented sample consists of one-piece, as well as composite spears, with simple, barbed or multi-pronged heads.

27. Spear, Inv. No. 26422

Australia or Tasmania

Wood; l. 233.0 cm

Spear made of one piece of dark-brown wood, with a round cross-section and both ends pointed.

Note: This item is difficult to assign to any specific area, as similar spears are attested in all regions of Australia, as well as Tasmania.

28. Spear, Inv. No 26423

Northern Territory or Western Australia

Wood, plant material, adhesive; l. 232.0 cm

Composite undecorated spear consisting of a wooden head and wooden shaft bound together with an annulus made of plant material covered with adhesive.

29. Spear, Inv. No. 26428

Northern Territory or Western Australia

Wood, plant material, adhesive; l. 236.0 cm

Composite spear consisting of a wooden head partially smeared with resinous adhesive, and a short shaft painted red and secured with stripes of plant material.

30. Spear, Inv. No. 26430

Northern Territory

Wood, plant material, adhesive; l. 268.9 cm

Composite undecorated spear with a wooden head and shaft attached together with an annulus of plant material and cemented with adhesive.

31. Spear, Inv. 26431

Northern Territory or Western Australia

Wood, plant material; l. 300.0 cm

Composite undecorated spear, the head is longer than the shaft. Both parts are bound together with a ring of plant stripes.

32. Spear, Inv. No. 26477

Northern Australia

Wood, polychromy, plant material, adhesive; l. 274.4 cm

Fishing spear with a long straight wooden shaft of circular cross-section, with a wooden four-pronged head. Both ends of the spear are decorated with red, white and black paint.

33. Spear, Inv. No. 26478

Northern Australia

Wood, polychromy, plant material, adhesive; l. 309.0 cm

Fishing spear with a long wooden shaft of round cross-section, and wooden head with four prongs, painted red, white and black.

34. Spear, Inv. No. 26479

Northern Australia

Wood, paint, plant material, adhesive; l. 266.0 cm

Fishing spear consisting of a wooden shaft and a wooden three-pronged head attached with resin and an annulus of plant stripes. The spear is decorated with red paint.

35. Spear, Inv. No. 26480

Northern Australia

Wood, polychromy, plant material, adhesive; l. 239.0 cm

Fishing four-pronged spear made of light-brown wood, decorated with red, white and black paint.

36. Spear, Inv. No. 26481

Northern Australia

Wood, paint, plant material, adhesive; l. 184.0 cm

Fishing spear made of medium-brown wood, with a four-pronged head. Parts of the spear are painted black.

37. Spear, Inv. No. 26482

Northern Australia

Wood, stingray barbs, polychromy, plant material, adhesive; l. 228.3 cm

Fishing spear with a long straight wooden shaft and head made of hardwood with two short and two longer stingray barbs attached to its end. The spear is decorated with black and white polychromy.

38. Spear, Inv. No. 26483

Northern Territory, Arnhem Land

Wood, bamboo, stingray barbs, polychromy, plant material, adhesive; l. 196.8 cm

Composite fishing spear with a bamboo shaft, wooden head and prongs made of stingray barbs – six are preserved out of the original count of eight. The spear is decorated with red, white and black paint.

39. Spear, Inv. No. 26506

Northern Territory or northern Queensland

Wood, bamboo, stingray barbs; l. 298.4 cm

A composite spear consisting of a bamboo shaft and wooden head with one row of eight stingray barbs.

Spear throwers [Pl. 7]:

Spear throwers, widely known as woomera⁶ (wumera, wommera) in Australian context, are a tool used to amplify the force given to a thrown spear by means of leverage. Different types are used across the continent varying in their size, shape and decoration. Generally, they consist of a long wooden base and a peg, usually made of wood or bone, which is attached by lashing, adhesive or both. Additional materials, such as shell, hair or stone, may also be used. Beside their main function, the flat or convex types of spear throwers can be used as containers or a fire-saw. The distribution of spear throwers in Australia was almost continental (cf. Davidson 1936b: 452, Fig. 2), however, the Daneš collection only includes specimens from the Eastern Australia.

40. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 25954

Queensland

Wood, adhesive, plant material; l. 77.4 cm, w. 4.6 cm

Boomerang-shaped spear thrower made of brown wood, with a wooden peg lashed and cemented to the base with the use of a plant stripe and resin. The surface is smooth, undecorated.

41. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 25955

Queensland

Wood, adhesive; l. 76.0 cm, w. 4.8 cm

Boomerang-shaped spear thrower made of brown wood, with a wooden peg attached to the base with resin. The surface is smoothed but scratched, one side is decorated with five concentric diamonds, the other with ten V-shaped elements pointing inwards, creating a 10-ray, 20-pointed star. Several other engravings are slightly marked, but were not finished.

42. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 25957

North Queensland

Wood, adhesive, string; l. 65.6 cm, w. 8.4 cm

Spear thrower made of dark-brown wood, with lentil-shaped wooden base and elongated tapered handle that is covered with resin. A wooden peg is broken off, attached to the base with natural and red strings, and partially covered with adhesive.

43. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 26184

Queensland, Cape York

Hardwood, adhesive; l. 78.0 cm, w. 84.5 cm

Leaf-shaped spear thrower made of deep red-brown hardwood with smooth surface. The tapered handle is elongated and covered with resin. A wooden peg is cemented with resin and displays a dent on the inner side.

⁶ Similar to nulla nullas and waddies, woomera is also an example of a common term used throughout Australia, even though other names coming from local language groups exist.

44. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 26185

Queensland, Cape York

Wood, shell, adhesive, plant material; l. 81.3 cm, w. 5.2 cm

Spear thrower made of a light-brown wood, long and slightly tapered at both ends. The surface is smooth, decorated with simple incisions forming rather clumsy letters "PJO" and "DICI". A wooden peg is attached with a plant stripe and attached with black adhesive, probably resin. Two large oval pieces of shell are cemented to the gripping end.

45. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 26370

Queensland or New South Wales

Wood, adhesive, plant material; l. 95.2 cm, w. 3.8 cm

Spear thrower made of long, almost straight piece of light-brown wood with rounded gripping end. The surface is smooth, without any decoration. A wooden peg was lashed and cemented with black adhesive, but fell out and is now missing.

46. Spear thrower, Inv. No. 26542

Southeastern Australia

Wood; l. 64.1 cm, w. 46.0 cm

Spear thrower made of a single piece of light-brown wood. Instead of a separate wooden peg, the distal end displays a hook cut in the solid that serves the same purpose. The handle is long and straight, with circular cross-section, and displays some damages. The central flat part is engraved with cross-hatched designs.

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a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)



g)

Pl. 1 Clubs from the Daneš Collection of the Náprstek Museum: a) Inv. No. 25958; b) Inv. No. 25959; c) Inv. No. 25960; d) Inv. No. 2596 1; e) Inv. No. 261 45; f) 26146; g) Inv. No. 26147.



a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)



g)



h)



i)



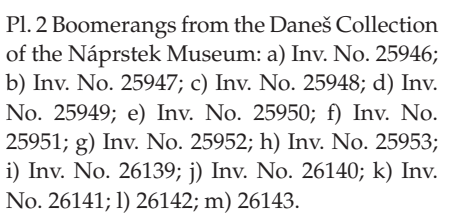
j)



k)



l)



m)

Pl. 2 Boomerangs from the Daneš Collection of the Náprstek Museum: a) Inv. No. 25946; b) Inv. No. 25947; c) Inv. No. 25948; d) Inv. No. 25949; e) Inv. No. 25950; f) Inv. No. 25951; g) Inv. No. 25952; h) Inv. No. 25953; i) Inv. No. 26139; j) Inv. No. 26140; k) Inv. No. 26141; l) 26142; m) 26143.



a)



b)



c)

Pl. 3 Parrying shields from the Daneš Collection of the Náprstek Museum: a) Inv. No. 26144; b) Inv. No. 26165; c) Inv. No. 26166.



a)

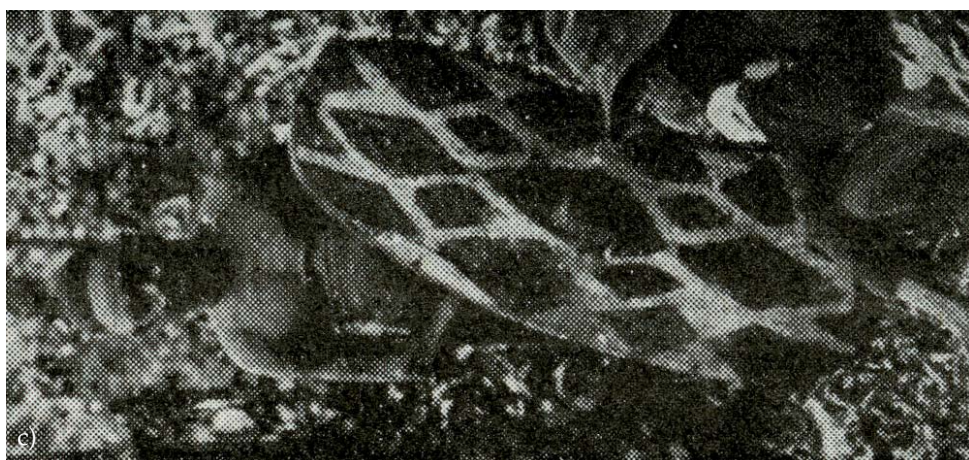
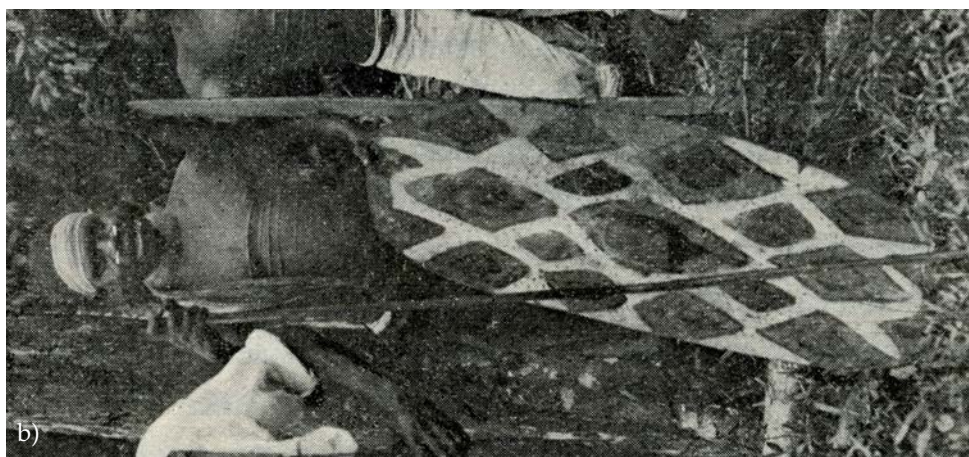
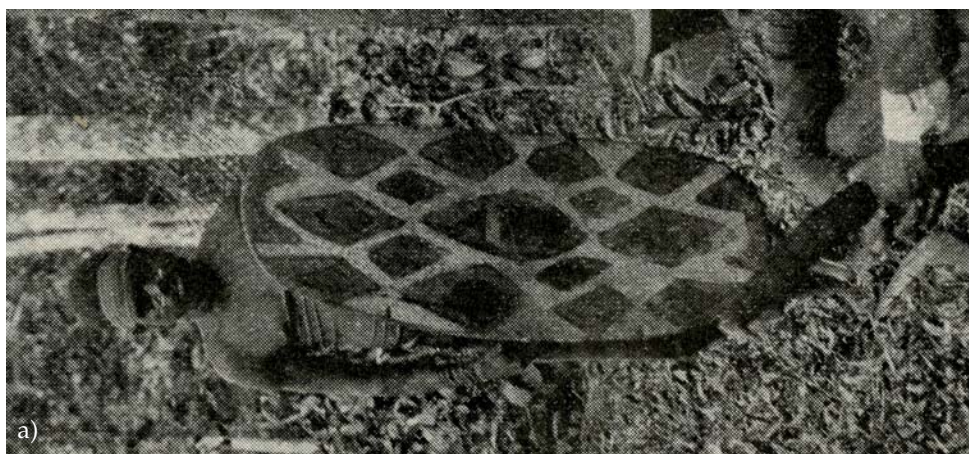


b)

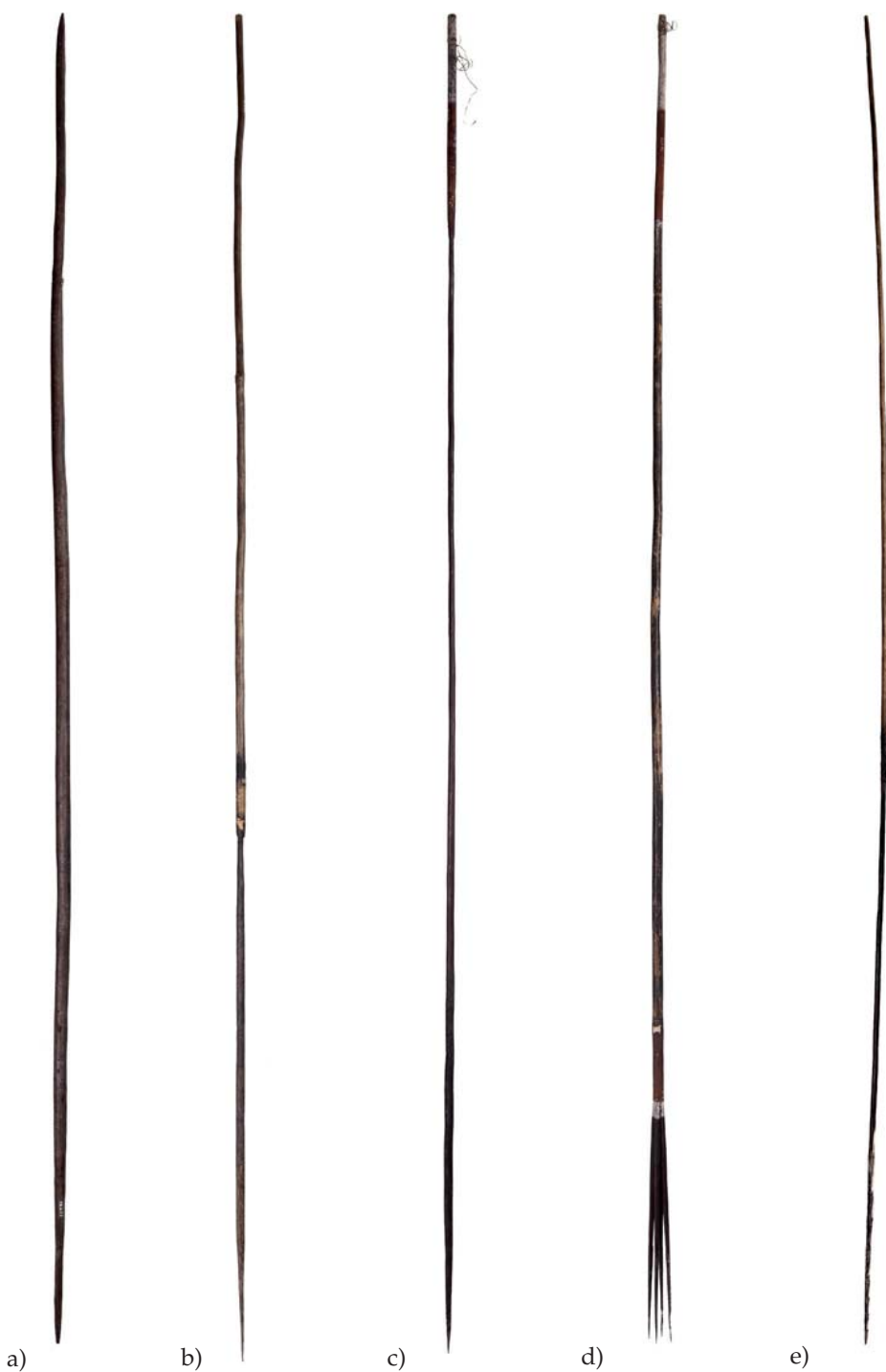


c)

Pl. 4 Rainforest shields and sword club from the Daneš Collection of the Náprstek Museum: a) Inv. No. 26208; b) Inv. No. 26209; c) Inv. No. 26532.



Pl. 5 Rainforest shield, Inv. No. 26209 with its supposed original owner during a corroboree near Bellenden Ker, Australia (cutouts from group photographs by Karel Domin, published in Daneš – Domin: Dvojím rájem, 1912): a) p. 151; b) p. 169; c) p. 149.



Pl. 6 Selected spears from the Daneš Collection of the Náprstek Museum: a) Inv. No. 26422; b) Inv. No. 26423; c) Inv. No. 26428; d) Inv. No. 26477; e) Inv. No. 26506.



Pl. 7 Spear throwers from the Daneš Collection of the Náprstek Museum: a) Inv. No. 25954; b) Inv. No. 25955; c) Inv. No. 25957; d) Inv. No. 26184; e) Inv. No. 26185; f) 26370; g) 26542.