



CATALOGUE  
OF ETHNOGRAPHICAL COLLECTIONS  
OF TADEÁŠ HÄNKE

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As can be expected with regard to the long period of time which elapsed between the date when Hänke's collections reached Europe (1794) and the date of their coming to the then Vaterländisches Museum in Prague (1821), there was no documentation to any of the objects of ethnographical character. The data recorded in the oldest preserved inventory of the Vaterländisches (the present National) Museum from the 6th May 1826 correspond with this situation.<sup>1</sup> Except for brief descriptions of the objects there is no further specification, the itemized list contains altogether 42 objects numbered from 113 to 127 (this inventory will be further referred to as inventory "A"). What happened to the collection after this period can only be deduced from the printed list of "Archaeological Collections of the National Museum from the Year 1863"<sup>2</sup> (marked letter "B"). Spread throughout the text among other collections there are altogether 18 items in this inventory, listed under 15 numbers, which are explicitly attributed to Hänke. Apparently some objects were removed from the collection during those forty years, they were perhaps even lost or the fact that they were part of the Hänke collection had fallen into oblivion. The third and last of the historical inventories to mention the objects from this collection is an inventory compiled in the 1930's when the Náprstek

Museum (until then a private museum) became part of the National Museum in Prague. It was then that other departments of the National Museum delimited their collections and moved their non-European collections to the Náprstek Museum and at the same time all known data on these collections including brief descriptions and measurements were recorded in the so called "Inventory of the Land Depository"<sup>5</sup> (marked "C"). In it there are altogether 16 objects listed under 16 numbers which are explicitly attributed to Tadeáš Hánke. In the 1940's and 50's after the collections had been taken over by the Náprstek Museum they were renumbered in accordance with the inventories of this museum (it is under these numbers that the Hánke collections appear in the catalogue).

In the course of putting Hánke's collections together and itemizing them it was necessary to combine the information from all three inventories: the oldest one contains brief descriptions but no locations, the collection, however, is recorded as a whole; list "B" does give the location, but it can hardly be relied on. For example four wooden miniature helmets from the North-West Coast are listed here as heads of four Philippine gods, nine baskets from the same region as well as the game mentioned in list "A" were localized into Egypt and attributed to a different collector.<sup>4</sup> The data in inventory "C" are identical with those in the "B" inventory. The "C" inventory, however, also lists a number of objects with no specification, it can be assumed that during the 160 years when the objects were deposited in museums the fact that they were part of the original collection was forgotten. In the case of these objects the main lead in their determining was their dating.<sup>5</sup> The situation was simplified by the fact that in the Czech lands there exist only three historical collections of objects from the North-West Coast: 1. the Hánke collection, 2. the Oberländer collection from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries (well documented and kept at the Náprstek Museum at present), 3. the Colloredo-Mansfeld collection from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries (kept at Opočno castle at present). Although objects from the North-West Coast prevail in Hánke's collection, there are also individual items from California and Tahiti. All objects can be dated before the year 1794 (see O. Kašpar's article). Numbers

from the historical inventories are noted in the catalogue at the end, in parentheses.

### The Catalogue

1. 21.106/1—45 — Basket twined from spruce root and grass, decorated with a band of geometrical pattern under the edge. Acquired probably in Yukatat Bay in 1791; Pacific Eskimo or Tlingit?<sup>6</sup>  
height = 14,5 cm;  $\varnothing$  = 13 cm  
A stick game consisting of 44 cane (?) sticks with painted marks taking the form of stripes one above the other, is also listed under the same number. Acquired in 1791, North-West Coast. length = cca 12 cm. (A/113 B/62—70; C/153). Fig. 1.
2. 21.138 — Basket twined from spruce root and grass, decorated with a band of geometrical pattern under the edge. Acquired probably in Yukatat Bay in 1791; Pacific Eskimo or Tlingit?  
height = 14,5 cm;  $\varnothing$  = 16 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/189)
3. 21.139 — Basket, dtto, same location and dating.  
height = 19,5 cm;  $\varnothing$  = 18 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/190)
4. 21.140 — Basket, dtto, same location and dating.  
height = 11,5 cm;  $\varnothing$  = 23 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/191)
5. 21.141 — Basket, dtto, same location and dating.  
height = 12 cm;  $\varnothing$  = 17 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/192)
6. 21.142 — Bottle twined from spruce root and grass, decorated with a geometric pattern in four bands one above the other, with a cylindrical top decorated with a motive of yellow stripes (the top has a separate inv. no. 21.060). Acquired probably in Yukatat Bay in 1791; Pacific Eskimo or Tlingit?  
height = 16,5 cm;  $\varnothing$  (of the bottom) = 9 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/193).
7. 21.152 — Jar coiled from plant fibres, under the bulging there is a decoration of five rows of brown triangles which are situated diagonally one above the other on a yellow-brown background. Acquired on the Californian Coast in 1791.  
height = 14 cm; max.  $\varnothing$  = 19,5 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/203).  
Fig. 2.

8. 21.153 — Globular bowl coiled from plant fibres, decorated with a rather faded out pattern of deflected rays and bands (of purple, straw-yellow, reddish-brown colours) passing diagonally from top to bottom. The bowl is identical in pattern with food tray inv. no. 22.015. Acquired on the Californian Coast in 1791; Chumash. height = 13,7 cm; max.  $\varnothing$  = 22,5 cm. (A/113; B/62—70; C/204). Fig. 3.
9. 21.373 — Headdress, perhaps from the skin of a black bear, in the form of "Bear's Ears", decorated with black zoomorphic motives on dark green background. Fragmentary — originally it appears to have been of fur and with attached eyes and nostrils from abalone shell discs. Said to be used by shaman when fighting against harmful spirits (personal communication B. Holm). Acquired in 1791; Tlingit. length = 20,5 cm; height = 21,5 cm. (A/123?; C/443). Fig. 4.
10. 21.540 — Dugout (model) of wood (type Head — Canoe), decorated with painted zoomorphic motives in black colour. The painting imitates the traditional "northern style". Acquired in Nootka ? in 1791; Haida. Same models are deposited in Museo Arqueologico, Madrid.<sup>7</sup> length = 42,5 cm. (A/117; B/10; C/10). Fig. 5.
11. 21.576 — Dugout (model) of wood (type Head-Canoe), decorated with painted zoomorphic motives in black colour. The painting imitates the traditional "northern style". Acquired in Nootka (?) in 1791. Haida. Same models are deposited in Museo Arqueologico, Madrid. length = 47 cm. (A/117; B/9; C/646).
12. 21.603 — Hook, wooden, with a back turned point of bone, the separate parts are bound together with bast. Acquired in Nootka in 1791; Nootka or Kwakiutl; length = 31 cm. (A/120; B/6; C/673).
13. 21.634 — Hook, dtto, same location and dating; length = 22,5 cm, breadth = 7,7 cm. (A/120; B/7; C/704). Fig. 6.
14. 21.635 — Hook, dtto, same location and dating; length = 21,5 cm, breadth = 9,7 cm. (A/120; C/705).
15. 21.636 — Hook, dtto, same location and dating; length = 18 cm, breadth = 6,8 cm. (A/120; B/5; C/706).
16. 21.637 — Hook, dtto, same location and dating; length = 10 cm; breadth = 4,8 cm. (A/120; B/8; C/707).

17. 21.638 — Miniature helmet — made of wood, decorated by an extension with a human face. This may represent the sun (after B. Holm). Toy? Souvenir? Probably acquired in Yakutat Bay in 1791, Tlingit; height = 4,5 cm,  $\varnothing$  = 3,8 cm. (A/122; B/30; C/708). Fig. 7.
18. 21.639 — Miniature helmet made of wood, decorated with a wolf's head with black painted features. Toy? Souvenir? Probably acquired in Yakutat Bay in 1791; Tlingit. height = 3,5 cm, length = 6,5 cm. It is a miniature likeness to a helmet deposited in Museo Arqueologico, Madrid.<sup>8</sup> (A/122; B/30; C/709). Fig. 8.
19. 21.640 — Miniature helmet made of wood, decorated with a sea-lion's head, with brown patina. Toy? Souvenir? Acquired probably in Yakutat Bay in 1791; Tlingit; height = 4,3 cm,  $\varnothing$  = 3,3 cm. (A/122; B/30; C/710). Fig. 9.
20. 21.641 — Miniature helmet made of wood, decorated with bird's head (eagle?), damaged — part of the beak has been broken off, with brown patina. Toy? Souvenir? Acquired probably in Yakutat Bay in 1791; height = 4,5 cm,  $\varnothing$  = 3,7 cm. (A/122; B/30; C/711). Fig. 10.
21. 21.644 — Harpoon toggle-head (model) consisting of a wooden neck, head made of bone with an inserted iron point (leaf-like). A leather strap is attached. Acquired probably in Nootka in 1791; Nootka or Kwakiutl; length = 26,5 cm. (A/125; C/714).
22. 21.645 — Hook made of wood with a backturned point made of bone, the separate parts are bound together with bast. Acquired probably in Nootka in 1791; Nootka or Kwakiutl; length = 10 cm. (A/120; C/715).
23. 21.719 — Rattle in the form of a bracelet consisting of 17 brown pods tied to a strap of whitish string. Acquired on the Californian Coast in 1791;  $\varnothing$  = 8,5 cm, height = 6,5 cm. (B/31; C/789).
24. 22.015 — Food tray coiled from plant fibres decorated on the outside as well as the inside with a pattern of six double winding lines going from the periphery to the centre (in purple, straw-yellow, reddish-brown colours). Identical in pattern with basket inv. no. 21.153. Acquired on the Californian Coast in 1791; Chumash. Used for acorn meal pre-

- paration?<sup>9</sup> Baskets from Chumash from the same expedition also deposited in Museo Arqueologico, Madrid.<sup>10</sup>  $\varnothing = 44$  cm, height = 9 cm; (A/119; B/15; C/1086). Fig. 11.
25. 22.016 — Bowl from a coconut, part of a ladle (the wooden handle is missing), in the shape of a half egg, with an opening for inserting a handle. Acquired in Central America before the year 1794; height = 10,3 cm,  $\varnothing = 7$  cm. (A/116; B/24; C/1087).
  26. 22.017 — Bark-cloth fragment decorated alternately with blue and red painted stripes. Acquired in Tahiti in 1793; size: 35 X 23 cm. (A/115; B/21; C/1088).
  27. 22.018 — Bark cloth fragment of two layers pasted together, on the obverse side decorated with a pattern of black and brown stripes and triangles. Acquired in Tahiti in 1793; size: 25,8 X 14,2 cm. (A/115; C/1089).
  28. 22.236 — Hat twined from Spruce root and grass, in the top half decorated with a black and red painting of a stylized beaver, in the lower half with three rows of black rhombuses. Acquired probably in Yukutat Bay in 1791; Tlingit. Identical with two hats deposited in Museo Arqueologico, Madrid.<sup>11</sup>  $\varnothing = 31$  cm, height = 11,5 cm. (A/114; B/41; C/1307). Fig. 12.
  29. 22.237 — Hat twined from spruce root and grass, probably painted in a similar way as the preceding one. Although it should have been handed over from the National Museum to the Náprstek Museum, it hasn't been identified so far. (A/114; B/42; C/1307).
  30. 22.621 — Basket twined from spruce root and grass, decorated with a geometrical pattern in the band under the edge. Acquired probably in Yakutat Bay in 1791; Pacific Eskimo or Tlingit? height = 10 cm,  $\varnothing = 13$  cm. (A/113; B/52—70; C/1692).
  31. 44.630 — Wooden vessel for oil, oval, its front part is carved into the shape of a whale. Haida or Tlingit; length = 16,1 cm, breadth = 9 cm, height = 6,9 cm. (A/118?) There is no documentation to the vessel, but according to B. Holm it comes from the early 19th century. Inventory "A" mentions a wooden burner (under 118) which could refer to this vessel.

That is why I include it in the catalogue as a possible part of Hänke's collection. Fig. 13.

Thus there are 29 to 31 items of ethnographical objects from the end of the 18th century acquired by Tadeáš Hänke deposited in the Náprstek Museum at present. In comparison to the oldest and most complete list "A" several baskets, some hooks, two teeth (no. 121), a torch (no. 124) and a necklace assembled from rings of horn (no. 126) are missing. Surprises and "new discoveries" are, however, possible.

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> Archives of the National Museum in Prague, carton XII, N/2/52, on page 5 there is the following list: item 113 — 12 Korbchen, worunter eines mit Spielzeug, 114 — 2 Strohüte, 115 — 2 Schürzen von Graspagat, 116 — 1 gravierter Becher von Kokos, 117 — 2 Schiffmodelle von Holz, 118 — Thuribulum von Holz, 119 — 1 schöngeflochtene Schiessel, 120 — 9 verschiedene hölzerne Fischangeln, 121 — 2 Zähne, der eine graviert, 122 — 4 hölzerne Götzenkopfe, 123 — 1 Söckchen, 124 — 1 Fackel, 125 — 1 Wiederhackenstecher, 126 — 2 Schnur bestehend aus feingeschnittenen Hornscheiben, 127 — 1 Stuckeichen Leinwand aus Otahaity (sic).
- <sup>2</sup> Anonymous (Jan Hlavatý?): — 1863 — Archaeological collections in the Museum of the Czech Kingdom in Prague. Prague, 84 pages. Hänke's collections are recorded in part "VI. Ethnographical objects". a) From the countries of the East and partly from America, where the objects are noted under eighty numbers on pages 76—78.
- <sup>3</sup> The inventory was originally numbered from 1 to 2.009 and later it was renumbered starting with number 21.001.
- <sup>4</sup> Anonymous 1863, 76—77. The baskets were attributed to F. Sieber who in fact brought objects only from Palestine and Egypt in 1816 (Novotný, A.: 1944 — Staropražští komedianti a jiné atrakce 1800—1850, Praha, p. 169—172).
- <sup>5</sup> I would like to thank B. Holm for his help in supplying the missing data on most objects during his visit at the Náprstek Museum.

- <sup>6</sup> See Lee, N.: 1981 — Pacific Eskimo Spruce Root Baskets. *American Indian Art Magazine* VI, no. 2, pp. 66—73.
- <sup>7</sup> Rüstow, A.: 1939 — Die Objekte der Malaspina-Expedition im Archäologischen Museum zu Madrid. *Baessler Archiv* XXII, pp. 173—234. It mentions models of canoes no. 1156 and 1157 on pp. 174—175 and 189.
- <sup>8</sup> Rüstow 1939, 192; the most similar is helmet no. 1290. Feder, N. also mentions the Madrid helmets: 1977 — The Malaspina Collection. *American Indian Art Magazine* II, no. 3, pp. 40—51, 80, 82.
- <sup>9</sup> King, J. O. H.: 1981 — Eighteenth Century Pacific Collections in the British Museum. *American Indian Art Magazine* VI, no. 2, pp. 32—39. See fig. 9 on page 37.
- <sup>10</sup> Feder 1977, 44.
- <sup>11</sup> Rüstow 1939, 180—181, 184—185; the most similar are hats no. 191 and 192.



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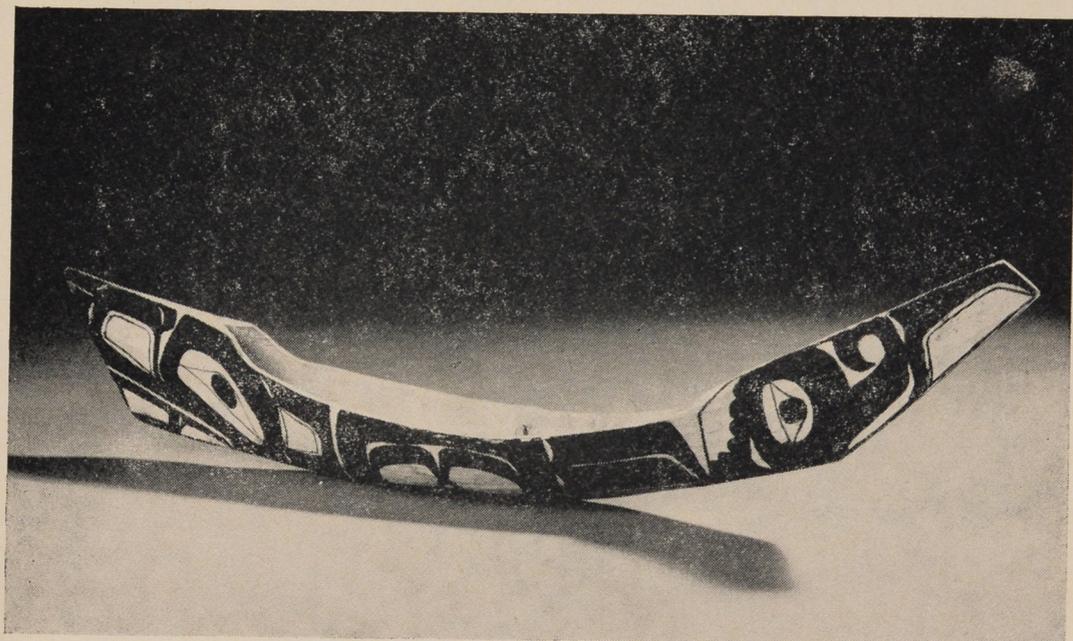
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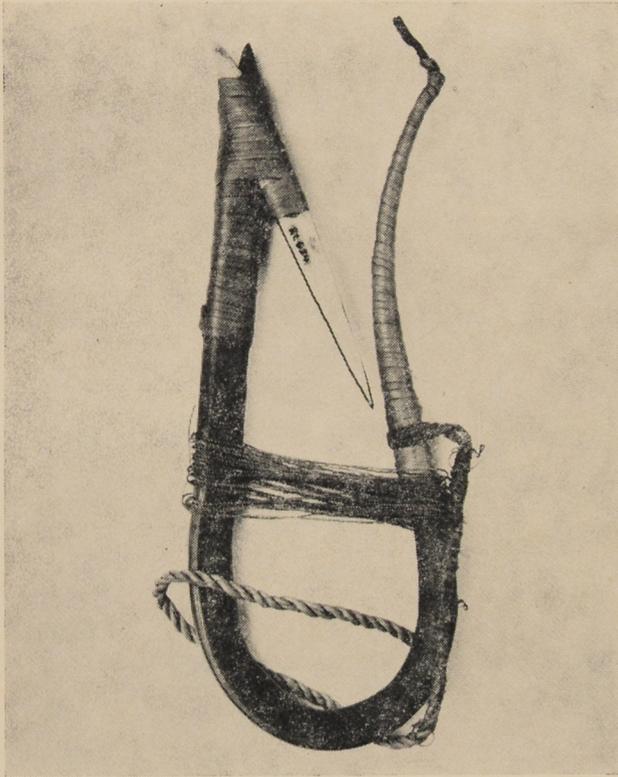




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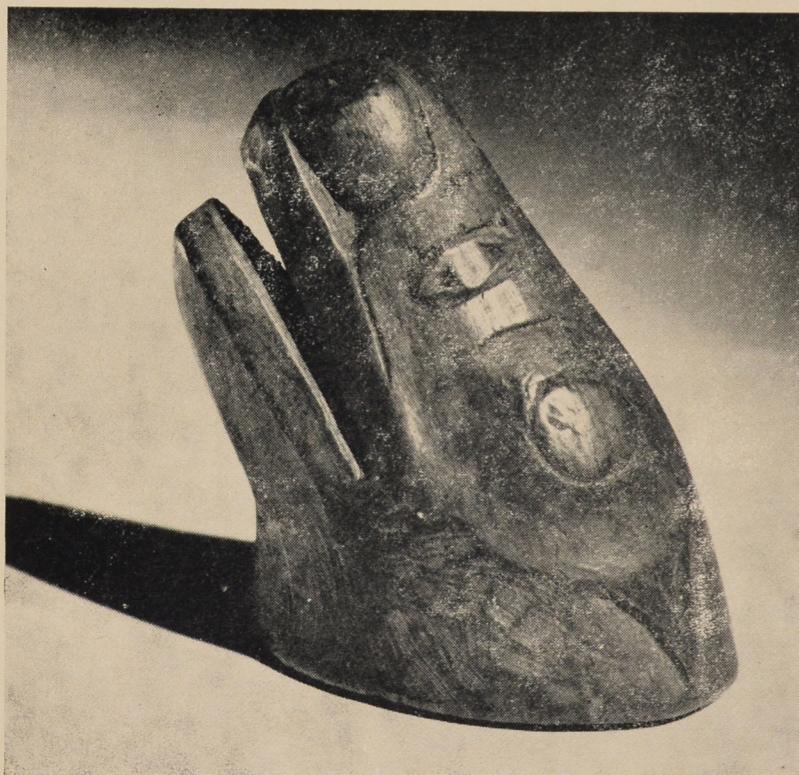
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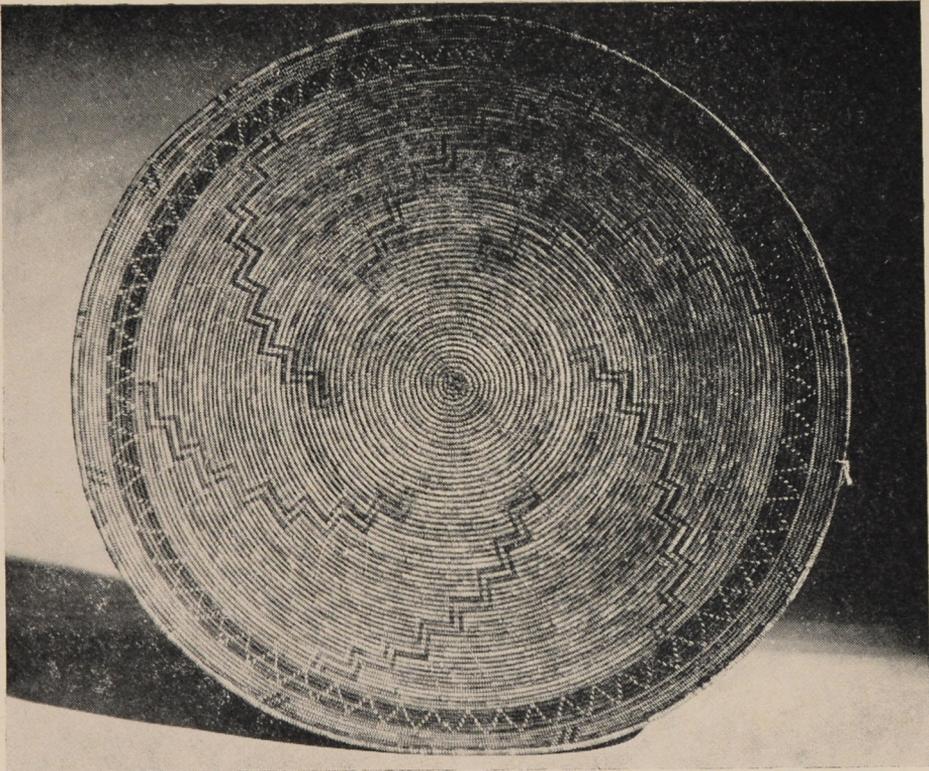
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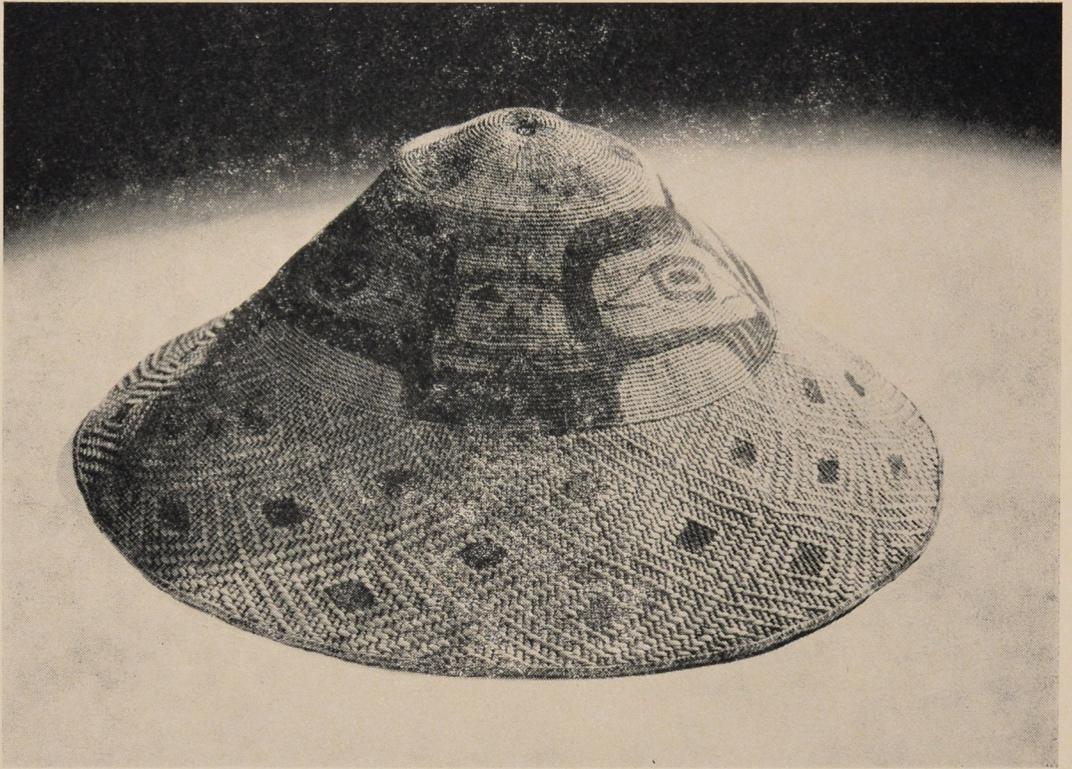




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