



AFRICAN-BUSHMAN BOW, ARROWS AND POISON STICK  
AND AN AXE WITH HEAD OF IRON OBTAINED FROM THE  
OVAMBO



A TORTOISE-SHELL COSMETIC BOX AND THREE WATER  
VESSELS USED BY AFRICAN BUSHMEN

*A Bushman  
Collection*

**T**HE Museum has received, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Rodolphe M. de Schauensee, a valuable collection of objects illustrating various phases of the life of the Bushmen living near Etosha Pan, in the northern part of the South African mandated territory of Southwest Africa, and in the district of Ghanzi in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The collection shows how well these intelligent little yellow men, pushed into a most inhospitable environment by their better organized and more numerous Bantu neighbors, have made use to the utmost of the scanty resources of the scrub. A discovery, vital in the pursuit of game and for their survival in the face of their powerful enemies, was that of the poison which they apply to their arrows and which made them a terror to the surrounding Bantus. The group of weapons shown in Plate X with the arrangements for applying the poison to their peculiarly futile-looking but deadly arrows, well illustrates the importance the Bushmen attached to a contrivance which reinforced the guarantees for survival given them by the forbidding nature of their waste retreat.

Not less vital was access to water, which in many places can only be reached by digging. The cane tubes through which the scanty underground supply was sucked up and the ostrich-egg vessels for storing what was so painfully sought and won are represented in the

collection, along with other simple vessels and utensils, ornaments made of ostrich-egg-shell discs, women's cosmetic boxes made from the shells of small tortoises, and so forth [Plate XI].

There are also a number of articles from the Ovambo, western neighbors of the Bushmen, as well as some things which the Bushmen receive from them, knives, for example, either made by the latter or by Bushmen from iron supplied by the Ovambo.

The collection was made on an expedition undertaken by Mr. and Mrs. de Schauensee for the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia. H.U.H.

*The Central and South American Galleries* **T**HIS issue of the *Bulletin* will coincide with the complete reinstallation of the galleries devoted to South and Central American Archaeology, the lower section of the Filtler Pavilion having just been renovated and rearranged to accommodate chiefly the Museum's outstanding collections of Maya Pottery and South American Gold. It seems proper at this time to mention the latter group, since they can well be considered among the greatest treasures in the whole scope of the Museum's collections. They fall into several groups, according to the various countries in which they were collected. The most extensive is doubtless that from Colombia, containing astonishingly decorative and well-wrought breast plates as the outstanding pieces, supplemented by a