Catalogue of the Roth Collection of Aboriginal Artefacts from North Queensland

Volume 1

Items collected from Archer River, Atherton, Bathurst Head, Bloomfield River and Butcher's Hill, 1897 – 1901

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Preface

This is the first in a series of catalogues being prepared on the Roth collection of Aboriginal artefacts held at the Australian Museum.

These catalogues will let Aboriginal people know about this north Queensland material which was gathered together nearly 100 years ago. It will make it easier for everyone to use this valuable collection and will save the delicate objects, registers and original documents being handled too much by people wishing to study the artefacts.

The original 18 Roth Bulletins are full of information. Unfortunately, like much 19th century and early 20th century writings, they are written in a manner that is difficult to understand. The lack of an index makes it hard to find information. Production of these new regional catalogues by the Australian Museum will make the older works easier to use.

The regional catalogues were compiled with the assistance of John Day and Bridget Ohlsson (photographers), and Fiona Duncan, Sara Knuckey, Tania Cleary, Jane Bible and Kelly Bona (cataloguers). Additional photographs have been taken by staff of the Photographic Division of the Australian Museum. The catalogues were designed by Brian Bona of Studio B.

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Philip Colman of the Malacology Section of the Australian Museum kindly checked scientific names of shells mentioned in the old Roth Bulletins.

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