

FISH-HOOKS FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*

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In plates xi and xii of Lieut. Wheeler's Report on archaeology there are several drawings of ornaments found near Santa Barbara, Cal., and on the adjacent islands, by Mr. Paul Schumacher and myself, which the editors are pleased to call fish-hooks. A writer in the Century Magazine for April presents drawings of other specimens of like character, found by myself in the same locality and now deposited in the Smithsonian Institution. I have also in my possession a series of these ornaments, but it would require a broad stretch of the imagination to believe that they were intended for fish-hooks. The point, which in many instances curves downward, comes so near the stem that it would be next to impossible for them to become hooked in a fish's mouth. The point of one of my best specimens, manufactured from the shell of the *Haliotis*, comes within the sixteenth of an inch of the stem or shank; and were a line to be looped on the stem and cemented with asphaltum, as was practiced by the California Indians, the space would be completely filled. My specimens range in size from one-half inch to two and a half inches in diameter, and were manufactured from *Haliotis* shells [fig. 1, p. 75 herein] and from bone [fig. 2]. The first of these ornaments of which I have any knowledge, I found in a rancheria at Rincon, on the line between Santa Barbara and Ventura counties; and during five years' subsequent residence at Santa Barbara, and the exploration of the mainland and islands, I had an opportunity to study them in every stage of development. I am convinced that, with few exceptions, they were designed for ornaments, as their shape precludes the idea of their use as fish-hooks. They were probably suspended from the ears, and possibly worn on other portions of the body. The true fish-hooks of what may be termed the Santa Barbara Indians have never, to my knowledge, been figured; yet they are more commonly met with in the rancherias and 'cementaries' in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties than the curved specimens we have been considering. I send you drawings of two specimens belonging to my cabinet [figs. 3 and 4]. These hooks were made of two slightly curved pieces of bone pointed at each end, and firmly tied together at the lower end and cemented with asphaltum. They are somewhat similar to those still in use by the South Sea Islanders. The larger specimen I found with a

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skeleton at Point Dume, Ventura county. There were several others similar to the one figured still retaining the thong and cement that bound the parts together. The smaller specimen I found on the surface in a rancheria one mile west of the town of Ventura.