

## ANCIENT OLLA MANUFACTORY ON SANTA CATALINA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA\*

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During my explorations along the Pacific coast I paid much attention to the discovery of the workshops of one of the most beautiful articles of true aboriginal workmanship. It is the olla, a cooking vessel made of a species of steatite, the pot stone, or lapis ollaris of old, of which Theophrastus and Pliny speak as a material used for the manufacture of vessels among the ancient eastern nations. My observations and notes, which I made while working on the mainland, pointed to the islands in the Santa Barbara channel as the locality in which the manufacture was carried on. I expressed the opinion in my report to the Smithsonian Institution (Hayden's Bulletin, vol. iii, p. 50) that the site must be looked for on Santa Catalina island. During my last years' visit to the island, on behalf of the Peabody Museum, I discovered the first quarries in the locality called Pots valley. The pits and quarries revealed the busy hand of the aborigines, among the debris, in the partly-covered pits where cooking vessels were found in all stages of finish, from the boulder but partly worked out from the rock and still firmly attached to it, the globular form roughly rounded, the boulder in which the excavation has already been commenced, and so on to the smoothly finished pot. All the implements with which the task was accomplished were also found, and by observing the progress of the work in the many specimens discovered, it was not difficult to ascertain the mode of manufacture, the result of which I made a subject of an essay accompanied by illustrations (Report of the Peabody Museum, 1877). Not only were cooking vessels extensively manufactured on this island, but also flat dishes (which the Mexicans call Comáles), cups, pipes, stone rings which were used as weights for digging-sticks, and all kinds of trinkets. These articles constituted the money of the people of Santa Catalina, like the shell-beads of the neighboring island of Santa Cruz, where they were extensively manufactured by the aborigines, and whence they were distributed far along the coast, and to some extent into the interior. The quarries are more abundant in number towards the south-eastern end of Santa Catalina where for about two miles square not less than three hundred quarries and pits were discovered during my last visit, with a large number of pot-boulders, sherds, tools, etc.

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\* American Naturalist, Vol. XII, No. 9, p. 629. Philadelphia, 1878.