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94. Strangling-Cords from the Murray River, Victoria, Australia.

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Source: *Man*, Vol. 1 (1901), pp. 117-118

Published by: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2839288>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 09:07 UTC

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the freshness and the decorations on which showed that they were trade goods for the natives of Apia."—*Campagne de la Corvette L'Alcinière en Occanie, Paris, 1854.*

H. LING ROTH.

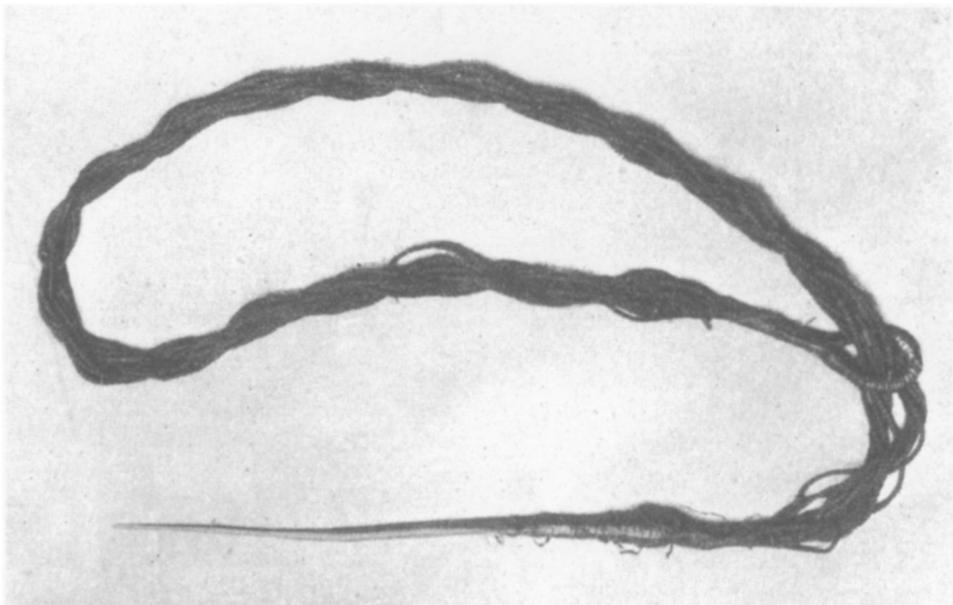
### Australia.

Balfour.

*Strangling-cords from the Murray River, Victoria, Australia.* Communicated  
by Henry Balfour, M.A., Curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.

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Two of these extremely rare instruments have recently been secured for the Pitt Rivers Museum, having formed part of Mr. Norman Hardy's collection. I believe that these are the only specimens in England. Brough Smyth (*Aborig. of Victoria, 1878, I., p. 351, fig. 169*) figures one of them, and gives the native name of *nerum*. He describes it as consisting of a kangaroo-fibula pin,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, attached to a cord made of seven strands, doubled and twisted loosely to form a 14-strand cord, with a loop at one end and the pin at the other. "The aboriginal carrying this noose tracks is "enemy to his *miam*, and having marked the spot where he has gone to sleep, he



"approaches him stealthily, slides the bone under his neck, puts it through the loop, and "quickly draws it tight, so as to prevent him from uttering the slightest sound. He "then throws the body with a jerk over his shoulder, and carries it to some secluded "spot, where he can take, securely and at his ease, the kidney fat." The two specimens to which I now refer were obtained by Mr. John R. Peebles as long ago as 1857 from the Watty-Watty or Litchoo-Litchoo tribes (now extinct) in the neighbourhood of Tyntynder, Murray River, Victoria. The one figured herewith is practically identical with that described by B. Smyth, both in size and structure, the length including the pin is exactly one yard. The other example is somewhat larger, the kangaroo-fibula pin being 8 inches long, in other respects it is similar to the other. Both correspond with B. Smyth's specimen in being made of seven strings of twisted fibre doubled back to form a single loosely-twisted cord of 14-ply. The two sets of seven strings at the end away from the pin are separated for a short distance, so as to form a loop which is neatly "served" with kangaroo sinews, which material is used for the attachment of

the bone pin. The strings are ruddled with red ochre and fat. The Loddon River natives call this instrument *Knarrarm*.  
H. B.

**Torres Straits: Pottery.**

Haddon.

*Correction.*

Mr. Myres' memory has unfortunately played him false with regard to Papuan carbonised pottery (*see* MAN, 1901—78). No pottery is made in Torres Straits. I have exhibited lantern slides at the Anthropological Institute and elsewhere showing the whole process of pottery-making at Port Moresby, including the application of a decoction of mangrove bark to the red-hot pot. This application darkens the pottery, but does not make "black ware" of it. I have given the distribution of pottery manufacture in British New Guinea in the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, October, 1900, page 429.  
A. C. HADDON.

**OBITUARY.****Obituary: Peek.**

Rudler.

*Sir C. E. Peek, Bart., M.A., F.S.A.*

By the premature death of Sir Cuthbert Edgar Peek, the Anthropological Institute has had the misfortune to lose a staunch friend whom it could ill spare—one who had ungrudgingly devoted time and thought to the administration of its affairs, and from whom much further assistance might reasonably have been expected. Born on January 30, 1855, he was but little more than 46 years of age at the time of his death.

Sir Cuthbert was the only child of the late Sir Henry William Peek, the first baronet—himself a valued member of the Institute—to whose title and estates he succeeded in 1898. Sir Cuthbert was educated at Eton and at Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating B.A. in 1879. Practical astronomy and surveying he studied under Mr. John Coles, of the Royal Geographical Society; and in 1881 he undertook some journeys in Iceland, accompanied by Mr. Delmar Morgan and Mr. Coles. The results of this exploration were presented to the Geographical Society and to the British Association, and also formed the basis of Mr. Coles's work entitled *Summer Travelling in Iceland*. In 1882 Sir Cuthbert presented to the Geographical Society the sum of 1,000*l.* consols, the interest of which forms the "Cuthbert Peek Prize," awarded for scientific exploration.

Astronomy was a science to which Sir Cuthbert was greatly devoted. In 1894 he established and equipped an excellent observatory on his estate at Rousden, in Devonshire, between Axmouth and Lyme Regis. Assisted in his researches by Mr. C. Grover, he carried out a series of observations on certain variable stars, systematically recording the changes of light, with the view of determining the cause of variability. Sir Cuthbert, in the early part of his career, joined a party of observers in a journey to Queensland for the purpose of studying the transit of Venus. His observations on the geysers of New Zealand made on this occasion and his notes on Maori customs were presented to the British Association in 1883.

It was in 1885 that Sir Cuthbert Peek became a member of the Anthropological Institute, and in 1891 he was elected honorary secretary, a position which he held with much advantage to the Institute for five years. During his secretaryship he introduced great improvements into the administration, devoting himself especially to the development of the library, the collection of ethnological photographs, and the illustration of the journal. In 1894 he started a "vocabulary publication fund," to which he was a