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INSTITUT
DE
PALÉONTOLOGIE
HUMAINE
PARIS

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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

COLLECTION

OF

GOLD ORNAMENTS

FROM THE

"HUACAS" OR GRAVES OF SOME ABORIGINAL RACES

OF THE NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES

OF SOUTH AMERICA.

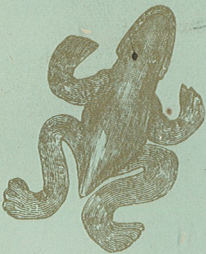
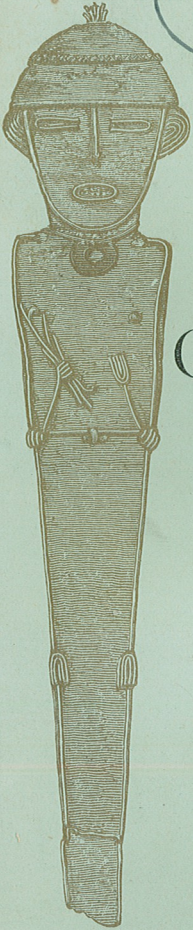
BELONGING TO

LADY BRASSEY.

BY

BRYCE-WRIGHT, M.A.I., F.R.G.S.,

F.R.HIST.S., ETC.



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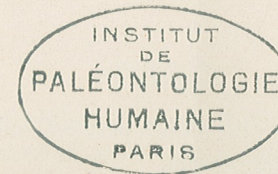
R. B. Wright



APPENDIX.

DESCRIPTION OF A COLLECTION OF GOLD
ORNAMENTS FROM THE *HUACAS* OR GRAVES
OF SOME ABORIGINAL RACES OF THE
NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES
OF SOUTH AMERICA.

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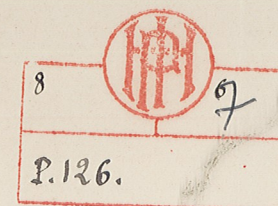


DESCRIPTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS FROM
THE *HUACAS* OR GRAVES OF SOME ABORI-
GINAL RACES OF THE NORTH WESTERN
PROVINCES OF SOUTH AMERICA,
COLLECTED BY
LADY BRASSEY.



THE very interesting collection of gold antiquities from the north-western provinces of South America formed by Lady Brassey is certainly one of the most representative in this country. It includes not only a large series of personal and religious ornaments, illustrating the perfection to which the goldsmith's art was carried by the Indians, but contains also specimens of the various rarer implements, such as celts and chisels (all in the precious metal), which are not usually to be met with even in collections formed in the immediate vicinity of the graves themselves.

No class of objects is more obscure in their origin or history than the ornaments and implements used by the ancient Indians of Antioquia, Cauca, and Boyacá, which are the three states (forming a portion of the new republic of the United States of Columbia) from whence the whole of the specimens of this collection were procured. They extend from one de-



gree north latitude to the eighth parallel, and are bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

In our investigations of the antiquities of the old world we are assisted to a very great extent by the more or less perfect system of writing, either hieroglyphical or in more distinct characters. Hieroglyphics were used in Mexico, but in this region no such system of recording events was practised. Although in one part of Antioquia, near Titiribe, some concentric and single circles with dots in the middle have been found carved upon groups of stones, still there seems to be no analogy between them and the tribes under consideration, such sculptures being found miscellaneously spread over different parts of America. Probably all these belong to another distinct race. These peoples did not even make use of the *Quipus* or *Quipos* of the Peruvians. These *Quipus* were threads or fringes knotted in various ways, but the meaning which they were intended to convey was generally understood only by those who made them, and not always even by them. It was like the practice resorted to nowadays of tying a knot in one's handkerchief—the knot is found, but, alas! what does it mean?

The authorities, it seems, discountenanced any attempt to record their history. We are thus thrown back upon uncertain traditions, and the information that could be gathered by the Spaniards at the time of their occupation.

There seems to have been a considerable difference between the inhabitants of the north-western States of South America and those of Mexico, the latter possessing many elaborate sculptures, whilst the former seem to have sedulously discouraged their erection. The ruthless and barbarous character of the Spanish invasion no doubt caused a great destruction of the few contemporary monuments that might have thrown farther light upon their social, religious, and

political history; while to that greed of gold, and the cruelty and recklessness which seem ever to accompany it, we probably owe much of our present ignorance and inability to interpret the ideas which are symbolized in the curious ornaments and images represented in this collection.

The population of the country in former times was simply enormous. Mr. R. B. White¹ states: "It may be safely reckoned that the population of Cauca and Antioquia was not less than 2,000,000, and was more likely 3,000,000." One little state, that of Pacora, mentioned several times in the following catalogue, provided at one time a contingent of ten thousand men to fight the Spaniards. The country was divided up between many tribes, all of whom were cannibals, and of a very low type of civilization; and yet these were the makers of such beautiful objects! With customs quite distinct, tribes seemingly complete in themselves, and speaking different dialects, occupied patches of ground only a few miles in extent, into which incursions were always being made by one or the other, so that their lives were spent in continual warfare.

Between the mountainous districts of the Cordilleras and the sea coast, on the Pacific side, the country presents immense varieties of soil and temperature. Near the sea, on the lowlands, the heat is very great; but on the sides of the mountains and the elevated tablelands it is temperate. Above are the forests, containing many wild animals. It may be supposed that with such variety, corresponding to so many degrees of latitude, that portion of the human family inhabiting this district would present corresponding differences: hence we see that in the temperate parts a larger amount of average intelligence seems to prevail, such as in Antioquia,

¹ "Journ. Anthro. Inst.," vol. xiii., No. 3.

where it is about fifty degrees. On the Pacific coast rain seems to be incessant, as it also is in the Atrato Valley and River San Juan. The tribes of Antioquia were the only ones in the districts under consideration that buried their dead in *tumuli*, surrounding them with their arms, implements, &c., in a similar manner to the northern nations; and in the case of rank or wealth, with pottery, as well as the whole of their weapons, ornaments, and other insignia in gold. The majority of the graves were rifled by the Spaniards, who melted down, without a thought of their antiquarian value, gods, ornaments, and implements, simply for the metal. Many of these *Huacas* contained ornaments of immense value, amounting, according to some authorities, to as much as £4,000, £8,000, and £13,000 respectively; so it is no wonder they were assiduously sought after.

The Indians were rather a short people, averaging from 5 ft. 6 in. to 5 ft. 10 in., with well-knit, muscular frames, but of slender make. The women possessed beautiful dark expressive eyes and good figures.

The gold was procured from quartz lodes; and, considering that the Indians only used stone implements, instead of gunpowder, as nowadays, it is marvellous that they worked so efficiently. It was procured nearly always by sinking shafts, not by driving galleries; and they very seldom searched for it in the washings of the rivers. That they were great adepts at working the gold when procured, a glance at Lady Brassey's collection will show.

By many of the natives of Columbia it was supposed that the Indians were in possession of some great secret which permitted them to render the gold soft like putty, and then harden it. This was in consequence of finger-marks being seen on the ornaments, which must, however, have existed in the moulds of clay.

It seems also that they not only knew how to work the metal into wire or drawn gold, but to plait it so beautifully as to compare even with the goldsmith's work of the present day.

They appear to have thoroughly understood melting and casting into moulds, hammered and *repoussé* work, and soldering, the solder being itself of gold (see description of deities, figs. 4 and 5).

In casting, a model was first made in some plastic material resembling wax. On this a mould (probably of clay mixed with sand) was pressed. The whole being heated in the fire, the wax ran out, leaving the empty form to receive the molten metal. This process has been well known amongst ourselves and is called *à cire perdue*.

Until lately it has always been a matter of conjecture in what way many of the gods (such as figs. 14 and 15) were produced. This has been explained through the discovery in a collection of gold ornaments from about the same locality, in the possession of Mr. W. Copeland Borlase, M.P., of some gods, standing in relief on hard Lydian stone (a variety of quartz, known often as "Touchstone"). These bas-reliefs have evidently been used as moulds, a plate of gold being heavily pressed on the raised surface, forming thus a kind of intaglio. This is shown by the back of each gold figure. Other metals were obtained, such as silver, copper, quicksilver; but none of them were worked to a great extent.

Gods, ornaments, &c., are occasionally found in copper, but very seldom—gold being always the favourite metal. The tools used for their mining and agricultural purposes were always of stone, the material being generally of volcanic origin. Nose ornaments have, however, been found of jade, which must have been imported from China or New Zealand.

The *Huacas* (graves) which are scattered indiscrimi-

nately over the country, seem to have all been made upon a similar plan.¹ "A dry, elevated ridge, composed of easily excavated material, was selected as the cemetery. A pit of only a yard or so in diameter was sunk, sometimes vertically, sometimes at an angle, or sometimes varied from vertical to inclined. It was sunk to depths varying from fifteen to sixty feet, and at the bottom a chamber was formed in the earth. Here the dead was deposited with his arms, tools, cookery utensils, ornaments, and chattels generally, with maize, and fermented liquor made of maize."

The question which naturally strikes an inquirer is from whence are these Indians derived, and in what manner has America been peopled. The question is naturally one of the greatest interest, and has been answered in many ways. There can be no doubt that America was inhabited by races with considerable civilization, long before the advent of the tribes who governed them during the periods of which we have any knowledge. The great encampments and trenches found in the cold regions of the North, extending through Mexico into Peru, the sculptured stones, the large stone statues near the Magdalena River in South America, and other remains, all point to races in advance of the small and feeble Indian tribes who have since occupied the land. Many propositions have been advanced. The American antiquary Delafield considers that the ancient inhabitants of North America, Mexico, and Peru were derived from the Old World, tracing them back to the shepherd kings of Egypt, who, he says, migrated northwards, and whose descendants gradually passed into America through Behring Straits, and ultimately spread through the continent. Undoubtedly there are resemblances to be traced between some of the religious beliefs and other

¹ R. B. White, "Anthropo. Inst. Journ.," vol. xiii., No. 3.

customs of the Old and New Worlds, especially those having relation to the solar worship; but it is questionable whether such resemblances are not to be traced to the general tendency towards religious belief in mankind, the presence in both hemispheres of the sun and moon, and the beneficent influence of the solar light and heat, which lead man to look up to the sun as the best and most prominent object for worship, thus causing many independent centres of a religion having a similar object. Again, it is supposed that the aborigines of America came from Asia by way of the Pacific Isles, and there are many indications, by weapons and ornaments, supporting this. Others were wafted by the trade-winds "from the Canaries and the Pillars of Hercules; and we know that parties arrived from Norway and Iceland, as well as from Siberia, and the land of the frozen Tundra."¹

These hypotheses all seem to have some evidence in their favour; but it certainly appears that, as there were undoubtedly great centres of civilization and an independent development in the New World, it is to America, and America only, we must look for the origins of its civilization.

The Indians of Columbia seem to have possessed a religion distinct from that of the more enlightened Incas proper of Peru—in fact, they possessed in the strictest sense a native and original religion, and all attempts to connect it with any earlier faiths in Asia or Europe have completely failed. Their deities seem to be somewhat similar in many instances to those of the Incas, and also to those of the Mexicans.

They possessed one god—that of the wind—under the names of Cuculcan, Hurakan, Gucumatz, and Volaū, who seems to correspond with the Mexican god Quetzalcoatl, the "feathered serpent" or the "serpent bird." They also evi-

¹ Markham's "Cuzco," p. 202.

dently worshipped the condor, as may be seen by the specimens (figs. 1, 2, and 3), as well as nearly all the striking animals (reptiles and fish) of their country. Above all stood their worship of the heavenly bodies, analogous to the sun-worship of the Incas, but springing from a distinct original source, the outcome of a natural superstition.

Before describing in detail the interesting antiquities made by the tribes who have been the subject of these introductory remarks, thanks are due particularly to Senor Leocadio Maria Arango of Medellin, who wrote a long letter relating to these particular objects, and furnished the precise localities from which they were procured. A paper recently read by Mr. R. B. White before the Anthropological Institute upon the tribes of the same districts has also been of value.



Fig. 1.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.

GODS OR IDOLS.



THE series of divinities is large and extremely interesting, comprising, in fact, as far as the type of manufacture is concerned, nearly all the varieties known from this portion of Central America. From the solid god in the purest gold, hammered out of the rough nugget, to the idol of the thinnest and lightest description, embracing in their range the human figure in remarkable and grotesque forms, with ornaments and birds, frogs, squirrels, and mythological animals and deities, all are represented.

1. GOD OR IDOL. A god or idol, in gold alloyed with a small percentage of copper, probably dedicated to the condor. Weight, 2 oz. 16 dwts. Height of original, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches; width, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches. *District of Jerico, State of Antioquia.*

This interesting relic of the tribes formerly inhabiting the State of Antioquia represents a religious ornament which was most probably dedicated to the sun and the condor. The deities at the top, five in number, have head-dresses symbolical of the sun, and the three heads hold triangular pieces of gold in their mouths suggesting the condor, a bird held in great reverence by all the

tribes in the vicinity of the Andes. The piece consists of a graceful pedestal, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in width at the bottom, and about half that width at the top, upon which are three condors with feet. Each bird has a deity mounted upon its head, and upon both sides are similar gods mounted upon a kind of scroll forming portions of the pediment. These figures may be the representatives of the ensimmed deity, the head-dress on each representing the sun. The pediment has been hammered out, the gods cast, and then soldered with gold. At the feet of the condors is a band formed by two bars of gold, about the eighth of an inch apart, the space between ornamented with double oblique lines and circles, the latter indicative again of the sun. It is furnished with two hooks at the back for suspension, probably as an amulet. Originally it was well polished. (Fig. 1.)

2. IDOL. An idol dedicated to the condor. Actual size. Weight, 1 oz. 6 dwts. 20 grains. District of Angostura, State of Antioquia.

This is a similar religious ornament to No. 1, but with two birds' heads only. The birds have short legs and feet, resting upon the same shaped pediment as before. Senor Leocadio Arango describes the piece (as well as Nos. 1 and 3) "as being a Divinity of the greater Hierarchy." It is dedicated to the condor, but the symbol upon the heads of the birds is quite distinct from No. 1. This object is more interesting in one sense, as it possesses elaborate ornamentation, enclosed in a broad band at the top of the pediment, below the feet of the condors. The circle is naturally there, being common to all the tribes who worshipped the sun; and the incised lines running obliquely form a pattern known to both the Mexican and Peruvian types of ornament, as well as similar to several types observed upon pottery coming from Japan.¹ One of the most characteristic forms of ornament in Mexico and Peru was the well-known meander Greek-fret or key pattern; but apart from this there seems to be really no connection between the Old and New World ornamentation. The shape of the pottery of these regions is not unlike that of the Old World, more particularly that of ancient Cyprus. The fylfot symbol †

¹ "The Stone Age in Japan," J. Milne, "Journ. Anthropol. Inst.," 1881.

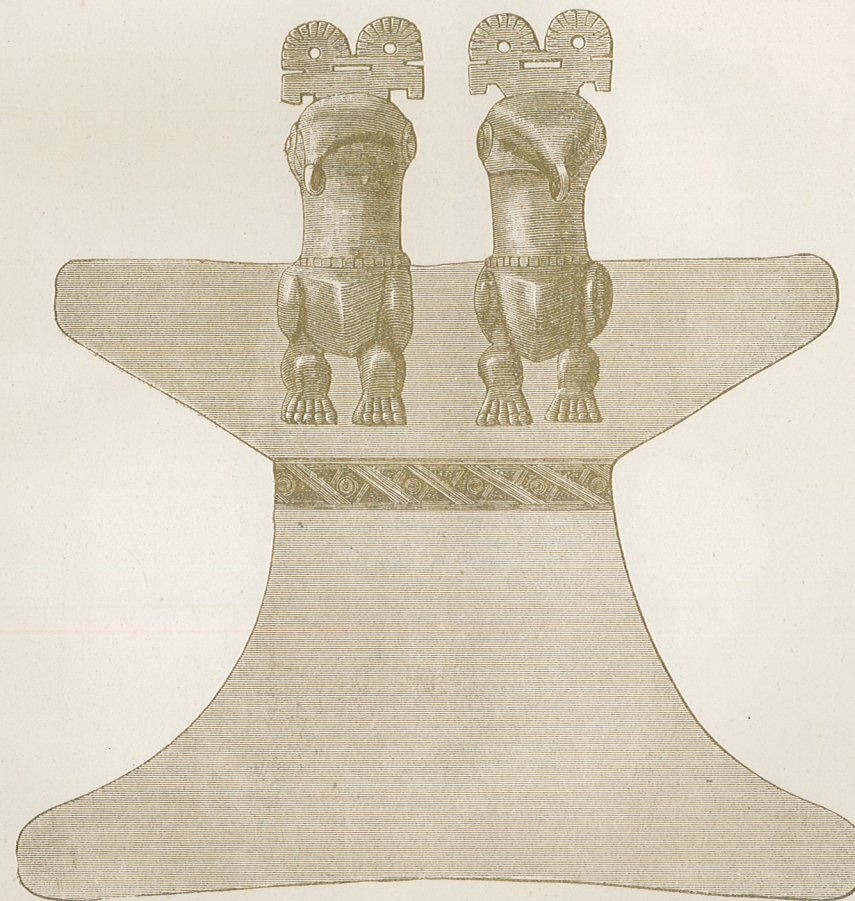


Fig. 2.

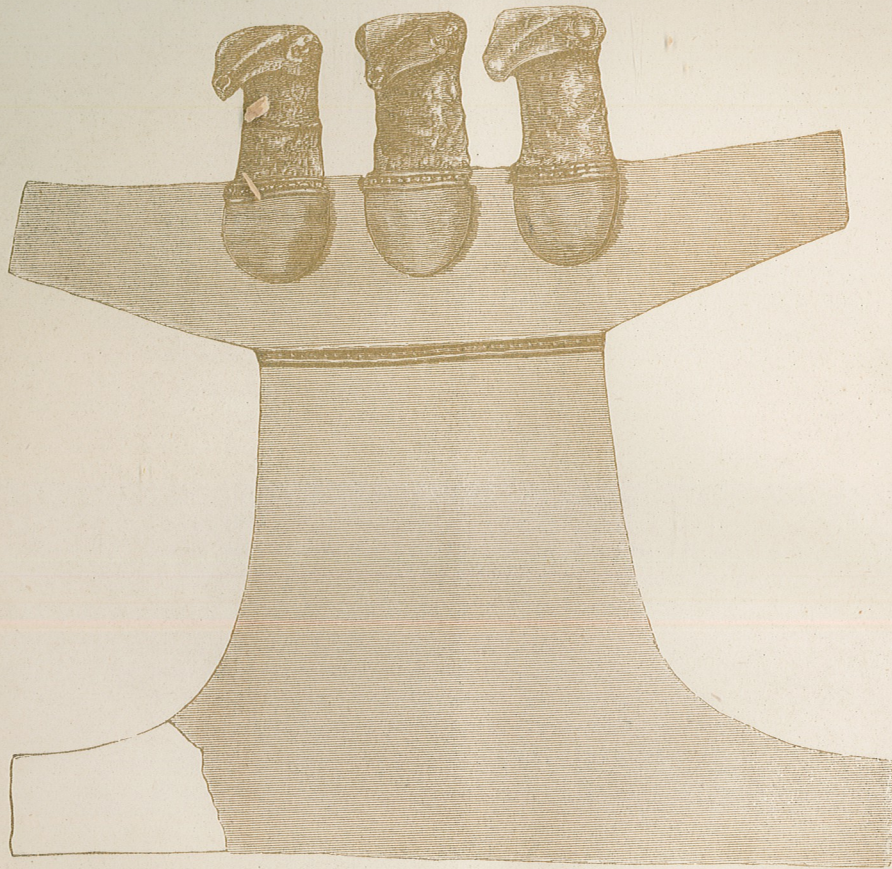


Fig. 3.

is quite unknown in the New World, and the cross is extremely rare in any form whatever. In the great collection of pottery formed by Mr. Copeland Borlase, M.P., numbering thousands of specimens, it is only once represented. The herring-bone ornament¹ is entirely wanting in Mexico and Peru, and the zigzag is comparatively rare. It is hardly necessary to point out the value of ornamentation upon such objects as these antiquities. They afford a clue or sequence to their probable derivation and development from other countries.

This object is the smallest of the three religious ornaments, but is the brightest, being well polished and in a high state of preservation, and is evidently made of purer gold, most probably of $21\frac{1}{2}$ fineness—this percentage being the standard for gold ornaments of the purest description² from Central America. (Fig 2.)

3. DIVINITY IN GOLD. Three condors' heads upon a plain pediment. Height, $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches; width at base, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Weight, 2 oz. 13 dwts. 6 grains. *District of Aguadas, State of Antioquia.*

This deity in a general sense resembles Figs. 1 and 2. It has three heads of the condor mounted upon a pediment, but no ornamentation, with the exception of two lines at the lower part of the necks of the birds, and similar ones at the top of the pediment, these lines enclosing another intercepted with perpendicular cuts, making it appear a simple cord. In this deity the condors have no feet, being rounded off from the neck. It has a ring at the back so that it can be worn as an amulet. The figures have been cast, and are hollowed out at the back and soldered on the pediment, which has been hammered out. (Fig. 3.)

- 4 and 5. DEITIES. In flat gold, representing human figures in a nude state. Natural size. Weight of No. 4, 8 dwts. 18 grains. Weight of No. 5, 7 dwts. *City of Funja, State of Boyacá.*

¹ See "Archæologia," vol. xlvii., R. P. Greg.

² "Bull. Amer. Ethn. Soc.," Oct., 1860, p. 21.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

The above are two of the most remarkable objects in the collection. Both are of a bright yellow colour, and doubtless made of the purest gold. The mode of their manufacture is extremely

interesting. It is apparent that the maker has first chosen a flat piece of gold, which he has fashioned to represent the general outline of a body. He has then carried out his design by forming the features, hands, and head-dress with gold wire, which he has joined to the flat piece of metal by the aid of a primitive blow-pipe, the solder used being gold. This application of the blow-pipe is very interesting and deserves special attention. The work, although excessively rude, shows at a glance that the Indians of Boyacá were special adepts at goldsmith's work, and possessed a good knowledge of the art in its infancy. Both the figures are nude, with the exception of the heads. No. 4 is covered with a conical cap at the top of which is a tuft of radiating pieces of gold wire, representing, perhaps, the rays of the sun. The middle of the cap is ornamented with a horizontal band formed of crossed lines. The nose, eyes, mouth, and ears, as well as the outline of the face, are formed by a gold wire, and although so primitively made, there is a natural look about the features which is very striking. Round the neck of Fig. 4 is a ring or circle of gold, most probably representing the sun, not unlike many of the nose ornaments described under Personal Ornaments (see Figs. 38 and 39). The body tapers from the shoulders, the feet approaching each other. Below the feet, however, the plate of gold forming the body extends to some distance as if it were used for fitting into a socket or shrine. The arms from the shoulder to the elbow rest upon the body in a straight line with the outside wire, but from the elbow to the hand they are inclined across the chest. The right hand (Fig. 4) contains what looks like a bundle of sticks, but there is one ornament amongst them which was evidently a staff of authority. It is terminated in a hook at the top. In many of the deities in other collections this sceptre is to be seen, and is conspicuous in a series of similar gods in the collection of the Museum of Leyden, and that of Mr. Copeland Borlase. Happily two such staves are in the latter collection *separate*, and are worthy of special attention, leaving little doubt as to their significance, although they were probably employed as insignia of authority similar to the Jöey or Jade sceptre of China. The left hand is empty resting upon the breast. In Fig. 5 the right hand clasps also a similar sceptre, and the left holds a bird resembling a pigeon. The head-dress of this deity differs from No. 4 by having a more elaborate ornamentation crossing it. It is not so high and has no radiating tuft. This god has a similar circle of gold to Fig. 4 suspended round the neck. (Figs. 4 and 5.)



Fig. 6.

6. DEITY, in solid gold, probably representing the god of plenty. Natural size. Weight, 2 oz. 3 dwts. *Pereira, State of Cauca.*

This god is quite different in shape and description to any of the previous, being very solid in character, and only about two inches in height. The deity's hands are placed upon his knees, and at his feet are two birds, probably pigeons, looking towards each other. Upon the forehead is a head-dress, representing feathers, which falls behind the back to the ground. On the top of this head-dress is another bird, and the sides of the deity, right and left, are supported by two columns, but what they indicate it is difficult to define, as well as the true symbolism of the idol itself. It has evidently been made from a solid block of gold of the purest quality of $21\frac{3}{8}$ fineness. Coming from the State of Cauca, it was made by one of the lowest and most degraded tribes of Central America. (Fig. 6.)

7. DEITY, of gold, of Yunca or ancient Incarial type, with remarkable head-dress. Natural size. Weight, 16 dwts. $\frac{1}{4}$ grains. *District of Manirales, Antioquia.*

This god is of Yunca or ancient Inca type. One is struck immediately with its head-dress, representing a kind of horizontal cross, springing from the back of the head, which is square. This cross is composed of a series of spirals, emanating separately from its centre. The spirals are similar to many of the circular ornamentations upon the bronze implements of Scandinavia and Hungary, and are believed to represent the moon. The legs are bent, the hands bowed to the sides, and the body ornamented with dots or nodules of gold. The shoulders are similarly decorated; and round the neck are three rows of gold, forming a necklace. The face is of a repulsive description—the nose and mouth large, and the eyes very prominent. (Fig. 7.)



Fig. 7.

- 8 and 9. PRIMITIVE GOD AND GODDESS, in gold. Exact size. Weight of No. 8, 5 dwts. 12 grains; No. 9, 6 dwts. 15 grains. *District of Cali, State of Cauca.*

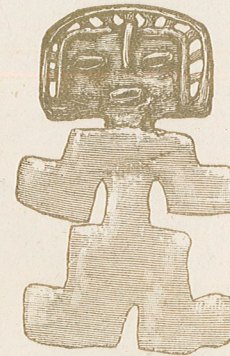


Fig. 8.



Fig. 9.

No. 8 is of a rude and primitive type, and is not unlike the devil gods which schoolboys draw upon their slates—the arms, legs, and

head forming the principal part of the figure, whilst the body is nearly ignored. It has evidently been hammered out; the nose, eyes, and mouth formed of gold wire, as in Figs. 4 and 5. The head is square in shape, ornamented with a simple gold wire, attached as it were by spokes, which were evidently added, with the wire forming the features, after the body was made.

The gold is not of a high quality, and is mixed with copper. This figure, which is truly hideous, represents the god, whilst No. 9 represents the goddess, who is, if possible, still more frightful in appearance. The face is large, with round protruding eyes, and a very big mouth. The head is decorated with radiating pieces of gold, representing probably the rays of the sun. It has been cast in a mould, and then hammered. Both figures were made by the abhorred and depraved tribes of the State of Cauca. They are provided with loops at the back to be strung on the person. (Figs. 8 and 9.)



Fig. 10.

10. SMALL SOLAR GOD, in gold. Actual size. Weight, 1 dwt. 16 grains. *District of Aguadas, Antioquia.*

This miniature god is evidently dedicated to the sun, the head-dress suggesting the solar rays. It has been beaten out, the nose, eyes, and mouth formed by simple nodules of gold, raised by hammering the metal at the sides. (Fig. 10.)

11, 12 and 13. GODS OR IDOLS, in gold, used for stringing into necklaces. Exact size. Weight of No. 11, 2 dwts. 22 grains; No. 12, 6 dwts. 4 grains; No. 13, 3 dwts. 12 grains. *District of Pácora, Antioquia.*

These deities have been cast, and then hammered. They are hollow, and have hooks at the back for suspension. (Figs. 11, 12, and 13.)

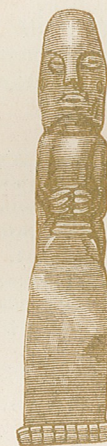


Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.

14, 14A. GODS OR IDOLS, in thin gold, used for making into necklaces. Weight of the pair, 20 grains. *District of Angostura, Antioquia.*

These have been made in the manner referred to in the introductory remarks, viz., by being placed upon a raised surface, representing the deity, made of Lydian stone, and then heavily pressed. The gold is very thin, so that the impression is easily made. (Fig. 14.)



Fig. 14.

15 and 16. GOLD ORNAMENTS, representing deities of two birds' heads with a single body. Weight of pair, 2 dwts. *District of Supia, State of Cauca.*

These are the ornaments dedicated to a bird, and held in reverence by the tribes of Cauca. They are produced by pressure, in the same manner as No. 14. Many specimens were made, and then strung and used as a necklace. (Fig. 15.)



Fig. 15.



Fig. 16.

The frog is regarded as the symbol of rain and harvest; but a special god, called the "Guesa," is the great harvest god in Central America. (Fig. 16.)

17. FROG, in gold. Worshipped by the Indians. Cast and then hammered. Weight, 3 dwts. 16 grains. *District of Pácora, Antioquia.*

The gold of which this is made is very pure. The frogs found in Central America often have balls of the precious metal in the eye-cavities, which produce a rattling noise. This specimen has been cast, and the legs then hammered out to produce the length they now assume.



Fig. 17.



Fig. 19.

18, 19, 20. THREE ANIMALS, in gold, worn as charms. Actual size. 18 from *District of Supia, State of Cauca*. 19 and 20 from *District of Manirales, Antioquia*. Weight of No. 18, 7 dwts. 10 grains; No. 19, 6 dwts. 8 grains; No. 20, 2 dwts. 16 grains.

It is extremely difficult to define what mammal these animals are supposed to imitate. The legs are those of frogs, but the heads are quite different, whilst they all possess curled tails. They most probably are imaginary animals, and were worn as charms.

No. 18 is of the purest gold, Nos. 19 and 20 being alloyed partly with copper. They have all been cast, and then hammered. The backs of each are differently ornamented, to represent the vertebræ. (Figs. 17, 18, 19.)



Fig. 20.



Fig. 21.



Fig. 22.

21, 22, 23. IMAGINARY ANIMALS, resembling something between a dog and a squirrel. Weight of No. 21, 1 dwt. 12 grains; No. 22, 20 grains; No. 23, 4 dwts. 10 grains. *District of Angostura, Antioquia.*

(Figs. 20, 21, 22.)

24. AN ANIMAL, in gold, something like a dog. There is no woodcut of this, but it is very like Fig. 22. Weight, 1 dwt. 4 grains. *District of Manirales, Antioquia.*

25. WINGED GOD, in gold, with rudder-like tail. Weight, 5 dwts. 12 grains. *District of Pácora, Antioquia.*

This remarkable mythological deity resembles a flying fish. The wings are particularly well ornamented, as also is the tail, which is very deep, in the shape of a rudder. The eyes are prominent, in a pointed head, with teeth like a shark.

The gold is alloyed with copper. (Fig. 23.)

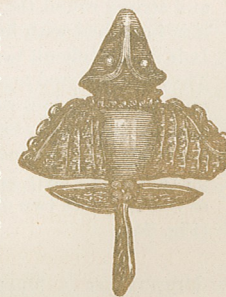


Fig. 23.

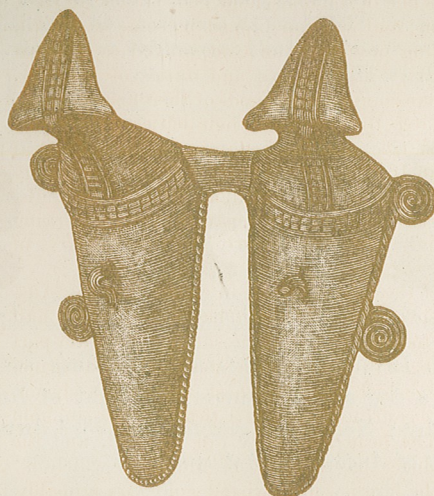


Fig. 24.

26. TWIN MYTHOLOGICAL GOD, in light coloured gold. Exact size. Weight, 1 oz. *District of Riosucio, State of Cauca.*

This represents a twin mythological animal used as an amulet and strung round the neck with other objects, for which purpose it is furnished with hooks on the breast as well as upon the back. It is really difficult to define what animals are meant in this object. They are soldered together at the bottom of the neck, and are well ornamented. Lines run from the head to the back, where they are met by other lines crossing the bodies, at the extremity of which are two spiral ornaments. Round the whole outline of the lower portion of the body is a single twist of gold wire, and near the end of the body are two other similar spirals. The bodies are hollow. (Fig. 24.)

27. BIRD UPON A STAFF, in bright gold. Weight, 1 dwt. 8 grains. *District of Manirales, Antioquia.*

This is one of the household gods similar to the Canopas of the Peruvians, and was worshipped by some family who, believing in the guiding providence of God, prayed to it as an intermediary in the cares and duties of life. As the Romans prayed to the gods of their homes, Lares and Penates, the Greeks to their deities of the wood, the forest tree, and the fountain, so these Central American Indians prayed to their *Huacas*, or family gods. Nearly all the families, villages, and districts possessed their own separate miracle-working idols, and these were mostly, in this country, of gold.

It is of the purest metal, in colour like the Australian sovereign. The stem has a small notch half way up to serve as a stop, presuming the lower part to have been dropped into a small hole at a shrine. The bird, which Lord Northesk thinks is a pigeon, is very beautifully and artistically made of gold wire. The head and body are graceful, and the whole object has a spirit of life in it which is very realistic. Under the bird is some twisted gold wire probably representing a cord. (Fig. 25.)



Fig. 25.

IMPLEMENTS.

The Collection, although not containing many implements, is extremely rich in possessing examples of chisels; No. 28 particularly being a type quite unique in the precious metal. In their mining operations the Indians used solely stone implements, and although bronze was used in Peru, the particular tribes inhabiting this portion of Columbia seem to have confined themselves to gold.

28. CELT OR CHISEL, in pure gold. Weight, 2 oz. 18 grains. *District of Carolina, Antioquia.*

This implement, or chisel, is by far the rarest of the objects contained in this remarkable collection, being in fact the only known type of a true wedge or celt in gold. It is precisely the same shape as

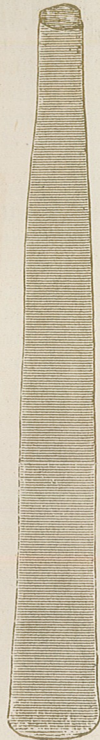


Fig. 26.



Fig. 26 A. (Side view.)

many of the Neolithic axes or chisels found in Scandinavia, in fact both the Wedge (*Kiler*), Fig. 6, page 9, or the Chisel (*Smalmeisel*), Fig. 22, page 11, in Worsaae's "Nordiske Oldsager," are identically the same in form. Chisels of the types following (Figs. 27, 28, 29) are not uncommon in gold, and are really of the same pat-

tern as those in steel at present in use, but this implement is of the true Neolithic wedge form, and being in the precious metal is perfectly unique. Nor do any celts of this type occur in bronze. It has been hardened by hammering, shows evident signs of use, and has a cutting edge similar to many of the ground axes of Denmark. It is highly polished. From whence the Indians procured this type, a form so common in the old world, unless by intercommunication, is a question which cannot but strike all who study the interesting subject of prehistoric archæology. (Figs. 26, 26A.)

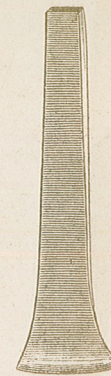


Fig. 27.



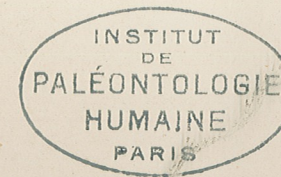
Fig. 28.



Fig. 29.

29, 30, 31, 32. CHISELS, in gold. Natural size. Weight of No. 29, 7 dwts. 12 grains; 30, 2 dwts. 12 grains; 31, 2 dwts. 12 grains; 32, 1 dwt. 6 grains. *District of Carolina, Antioquia.*

These chisels, which are hardened by hammering, were used upon other objects of soft gold, and most probably for polishing. Nos.



30 and 31 (Figs. 28 and 29) are curled at the top, perhaps to be placed in a kind of handle or for stringing as ornaments. (Figs. 27, 28, 29.)

PERSONAL ORNAMENTS.

The Collection is particularly rich in personal ornaments, which, contrary to usual custom, are mostly of the purest gold. As civilization advanced, there was a growing tendency to embellish the person and make the greatest show with the least amount of metal, so that most of the objects of a late period are greatly alloyed with copper, whilst those of the greatest antiquity were of the purest description.

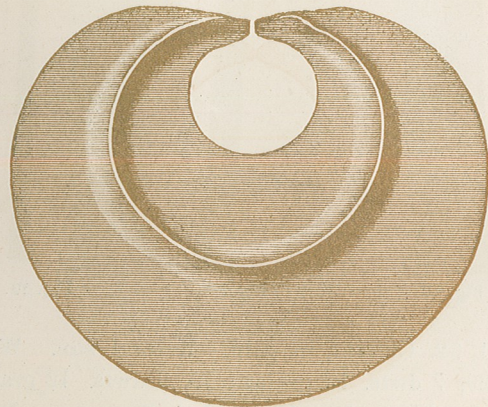


Fig. 30.

32A. NOSE RING OR ORNAMENT, worn principally by men. Weight, 17 dwts. 12 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This is an extremely fine disc of massive gold, with a circle in the centre emblematical of the sun. It was worn by being attached by the points to the cartilage of the nose, and thus hanging over the mouth. It was also worn in the ear, and hung round the neck. Many specimens of pottery representing gods dug up in Central America have these gold ornaments still attached to the nose. A large series of clay idols of various descriptions in the Borlase Collection have them thus attached, placing beyond doubt the question as to how they were worn. This disc lies perfectly flat, many are somewhat convex. (Fig. 30.)

33, 34. NOSE ORNAMENTS. Weight of No. 33, 2 dwts. 14 grains; weight of No. 34, 1 dwt. 15 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

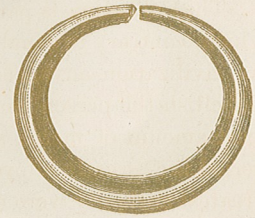


Fig. 31.

No. 33 is similar to Fig. 30, but much smaller. No. 34, Fig. 31, is not quite the same type, the ridge not being so well defined and not in the centre.

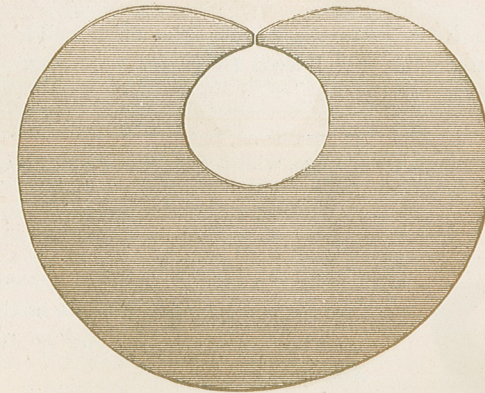


Fig. 32.

35, 36 and 37. NOSE OR EAR ORNAMENTS. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

The figure represents No. 36. The whole three are similar in shape, but vary in size. No. 35 is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in width, weighing 10 dwts. 2 grs. No. 36, Fig. 32, 10 dwts. 10 grs., is of the actual size of the woodcut; whilst No. 37 is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in width, weighing 8 dwts. 22 grs. They are quite plain, slightly convex, and well polished, and were worn as nose and ear ornaments in the same manner as Fig. 30. (Fig. 32.)

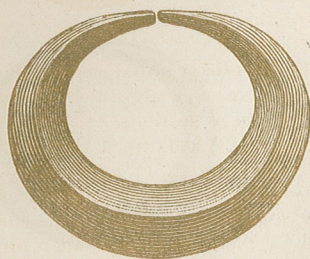


Fig. 33.

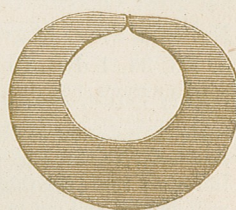


Fig. 34.

38 and 39. NOSE ORNAMENTS. Weight of No. 38, 2 dwts. 10 grains; No. 39, 1 dwt. 10 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

These are also nose ornaments, but not of such fine gold. Fig. 33 has a single rib or ridge, whilst Fig. 34 is quite plain. Actual size. (Figs. 33, 34.)



Fig. 35.

40, 41 and 42. NOSE AND EAR ORNAMENTS of thin stamped gold. Weight of the three, 2 dwts. 6 grains. *District of Angostura, Antioquia.*

Light, and of the purest gold, they are ornamented near the outer ridge by a series of punctations, showing the Indians were familiar with *repoussé* work. They are all of the same size. (Fig. 35.)

43. NOSE OR EAR ORNAMENT. Exquisitely worked of the purest and brightest gold. Weight, 13 dwts. *District of Riosucio, State of Cauca.*

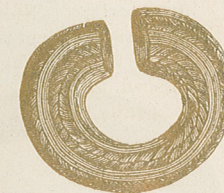


Fig. 36.

A glance at this beautiful and exquisitely worked ornament will prove at once the skill of the Indians in the goldsmith's art. Its rarity not only consists in the workmanship, but in its design, as it proves incontestably the knowledge of effect through design. Recently jewellers have introduced bracelets, called the "puzzle" bracelet, which have had a large sale. They are composed of twisted wires, two twisted to the right, and two to the left, and then placed next to each other. When turned, they present the peculiar effect of being wider at one part than another, and of expanding or of contracting when turned to or from the observer as the case may be. Precisely the same twist, with the same effect, is to be found in this ornament. That the Indians knew of the effect in both its bearings, there can be no doubt, for in the ornament two sets of lines are arranged, one showing the expanding and the other the contracting effect. The drawing gives the exact size and width of the nose ring, which was fastened to the cartilage of the nose by a wire running through. It is half an inch thick, and consists of seven double parallel lines of ornamentation—two lines being plain, succeeded by two of the before-mentioned remarkable twist. It has been cast, and, although heavy, is not quite solid. The inner portion of the ring is of plain gold, and has been soldered on, not forming part of the ring in the original casting. A slight fault has occurred in the making, as on the lower part of the ring is a smooth surface, indicating that a hole or bubble has been soldered up—with gold, however, of the same quality. It is worthy of remark, and it is really somewhat difficult to understand, that this, which is, perhaps, the finest ornament in the collection, should have been made by the Indians of Cauca, generally considered to have been the most degraded of the Central American tribes. (Fig. 36.)



Fig. 37.

44. NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 3 dwts. 16 grains. *District of Supia, State of Cauca.*

This is somewhat like No. 36, but much inferior in workman-

ship. It does not exhibit the peculiar twist, the lines not being double. It consists of ten lines, one plain and one ornamental alternately. It is of a dull light-coloured gold, and, like the previous specimen, hollow although pretty massive. (Fig. 37.)



Fig. 38.

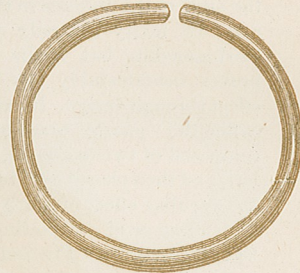


Fig. 39.

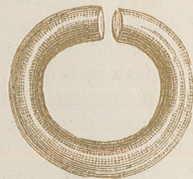


Fig. 40.

45, 46, 47. PLAIN NOSE ORNAMENTS. Nos. 45 and 46 are of copper-coloured gold. No. 47 (Fig. 40) is pale yellow. Actual size. Weight of No. 45, 1 oz. 9 dwts.; No. 46, 5 dwts. 6 grains; No. 47, 2 dwts. 18 grains. *District of Jerico, State of Antioquia.*

These ornaments are all quite plain, but solid. (Figs. 38, 39, 40.)

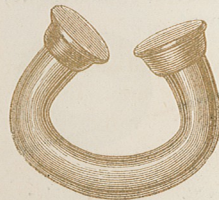


Fig. 41.

48. NOSE ORNAMENT WITH ORNAMENTED CAPS. Weight, 12 dwts. *District of Abejorral, Antioquia.*

This is quite distinct in type from any of the foregoing nasal ornaments, and was probably worn also as a finger ring. The metal is alloyed with copper. (Fig. 41.)

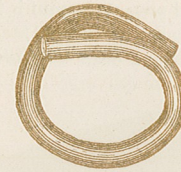


Fig. 42.

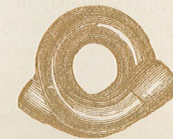


Fig. 43.

49, 50. FINGER RINGS. Weight of No. 49, 6 dwts.; No. 50, 11 dwts. 10 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

These were most probably used as finger rings. Precisely the same types are met with in Ireland. (Figs. 42, 43.)

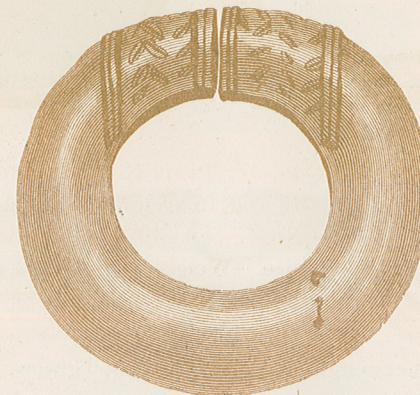


Fig. 44.

51. NOSE RING OR ORNAMENT, of copper-coloured gold. Weight, 15 dwts. 16 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

A circular nose ornament, hollow in the centre and ornamented at the ends, which fit on to the cartilage of the nose. It is unusually thick and massive. (Fig. 44.)

52. CURVED NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 10 dwts. 16 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

Of a copper-coloured gold, this curved nose ornament is fashioned to look like a moustache. It is hollow at the back. Many of the nose ornaments such as No. 44 must have been difficult to fix to

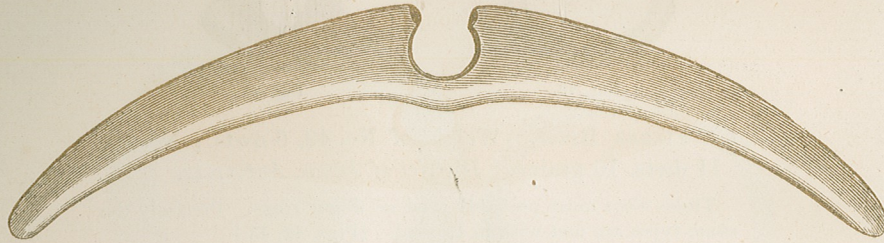


Fig. 45.

the cartilage, and have caused a certain amount of pain; others, such as the one now under consideration, were attached by a thin piece of wire crossing the interstice and piercing through the cartilage. (Fig. 45.)

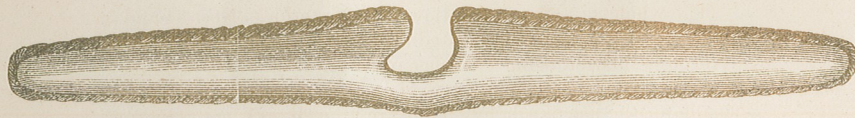


Fig. 46.

53. NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 8 dwts. 10 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This is a straight nose ornament imitating the moustache. It is embellished by a simple cord or twist of gold round the outer edge. The interstice is not regular but distorted, probably to effect a greater hold, the ornament not being attached by a thin wire running through the cartilage as in the preceding specimen. It is of bright gold and hollowed out at the back. (Fig. 46.)

54, 55, 56, 57, 58. CANOE-SHAPED NOSE ORNAMENTS, with double sides. Respective weights: No. 54, 18 dwts. 22

grains; No. 55, 6 dwts. 12 grains; No. 56, 2 dwts. 6 grains; No. 57, 1 dwt. 6 grains; No. 58, 1 dwt. 10 grains. No. 54 is from the *District of Jerico, Antioquia.* Nos. 55, 56, 57 and 58, from the *District of Angostura.*

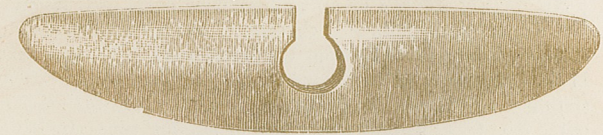


Fig. 47.

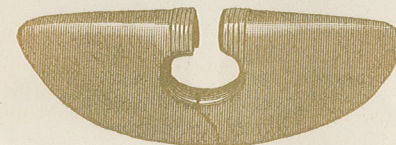


Fig. 48.

The whole of these are hollow in the interior. Nos. 54 and 55 (Figs. 47 and 48) are ornamented with plain lines near the incision. No. 56 is smaller, being $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length; No. 57, $1\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch; and No. 58 only three-quarters of an inch, evidently having been made for the use of a baby. They are all well polished. (Figs. 47, 48.)

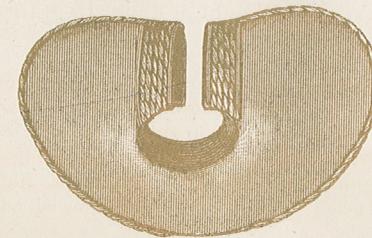


Fig. 49.

59, 60, 61. The two first are broad well-decorated NOSE ORNAMENTS. Weight of No. 59, 10 dwts. 6 grains; No.

60, 8 dwts. 22 grains, and No. 61, 2 dwts. 3 grains. No. 59 is from the *District of Riosucio, State of Cauca*. Nos. 60 and 61, *District of Jerico, Antioquia*. They all have double sides.

No. 59 (Fig. 49) is a broad well-polished nasal instrument, with five single twisted lines each side of the incision and a double twist encircling the whole on the outer edge. No. 60 is smaller, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length, of a pale yellow colour, the ornamentation consisting of two single twisted lines and a plain one each side of the cut. No. 61 is a very small one of similar type, slightly ornamented, about three-quarters of an inch in length.

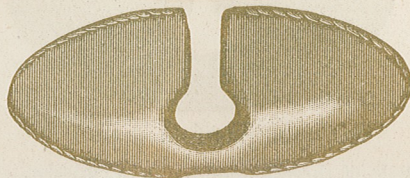


Fig. 50.

32. SINGLE-SIDE NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 7 dwts. 4 grains. *District of Riosucio, State of Cauca*.

This is single-sided, slightly convex, with a much larger opening than any of the other types, and most probably easier to wear. It has a single twist round the outside border, and is well polished on the exterior. (Fig. 50.)



Fig. 51.

63. SMALL NOSE ORNAMENT. Single-sided, convex. Weight, 1 dwt. *District of Jerico, Antioquia*.

This small ornament was made from a flat piece of gold, and simply bent into its present shape. It has no ornamentation, and is polished on the exterior. (Fig. 51.)

- 64, 65. SMALL NOSE ORNAMENTS. Weight of No. 64, 22 grains; No. 65, 2 dwts. 12 grains. *District of Aguadas, Antioquia*.



Fig. 52.

These are quite distinct in type from any of the foregoing, the shape being precisely like the inverted yoke of a milkman. No. 64 is small, as per Fig. 52, but No. 65 is larger, being about double the size. (Fig. 52.)



Fig. 53.

66. NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 3 dwts. 18 grains. *District of Manirales, State of Antioquia*.

This is one of the most interesting objects in the collection. The front side is decorated with a series of spirals, the two large ones each side of the circular part of the incision being formed of single wires, whilst the three small ones at the base are formed of double ones. To the right and left of the centre large ones are two of similar size, but double, and the extremities, still consisting of spirals, are of single wires. The spirals are separated from each other by fine double wires. The workmanship is very beautiful, and reflects the highest credit upon the Central American tribes. It is of bright gold of the purest quality, and has been cast and then worked. The back is plain, but well polished. It evidently belonged to a personage of high rank, perhaps the king or chief of the tribes of the district of Manirales. (Fig. 53.)

67. BELT OR HUARACA, of highly polished gold. Length, $23\frac{3}{8}$ inches; width, $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch. Weight, 9 dwts. 12 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia*.

This band of gold was either worn round the head to support a head-dress of feathers, or was used by the tribes of Jerico in a similar manner to the belts distributed for feats of strength and

skill by the Incas at the festival of the *Umu-Raymi*. On the occasion of this festival the young nobility of the empire, performing feats of arms, contested for prizes, the highest award being a belt

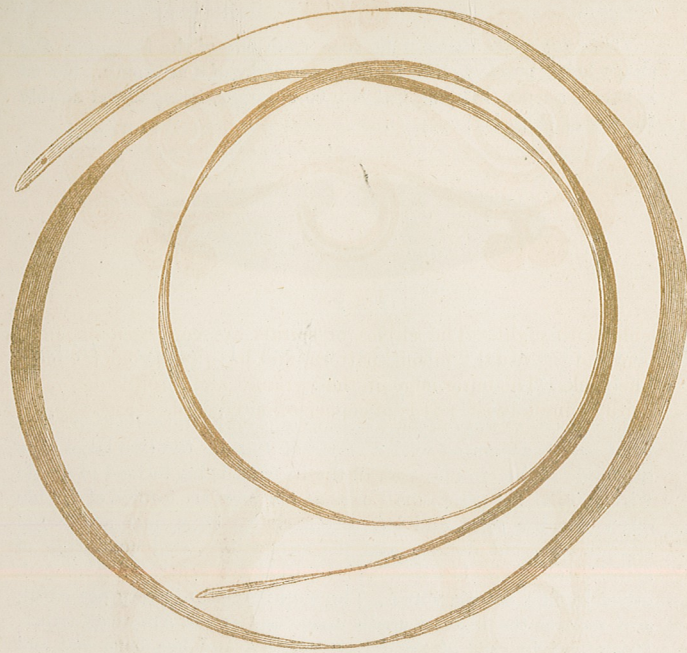


Fig. 54.

or, as it was termed, *huaraca*, the possession of which admitted them among the nobles of the land. It is of the purest gold, and is highly polished. (Fig. 54.)

68. ORNAMENT FOR DECORATING THE FOREHEAD. Weight, 12 dwts. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This is a very beautiful ornament, made with great skill. Its use is said to be for decorating the forehead, but it was probably

used for general decoration upon any portion of the body. It has a kind of pyramid in the centre, with a scroll upon each side, the pyramid being decorated with two spirals, and the scrolls each

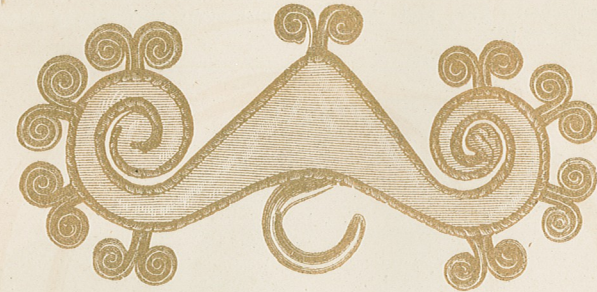


Fig. 55.

side with eight. The circles or spirals are composed of single wires of the usual "moon" pattern, and have been soldered on to the back. The outer edge of the pyramid and scroll is decorated with a single twist. It is of copper-coloured gold. (Fig. 55.)

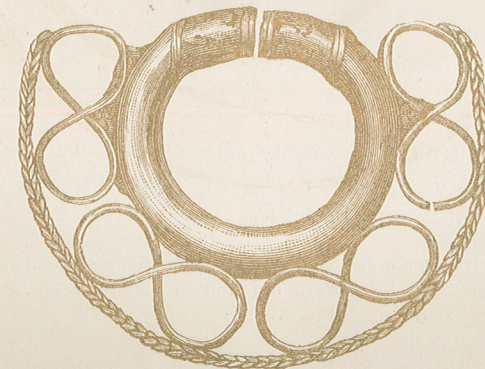


Fig. 56.

69. BREAST OR NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 15 dwts. 9 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

The centre ring of this ornament, which is of the purest and brightest gold, is of the same type as the nose ornaments, and is hollow. The outer circle of a double twist of gold is soldered to the inner by four ornaments resembling the figure eight. The twist is extremely fine, and the whole ornament particularly elegant. (Fig. 56.)

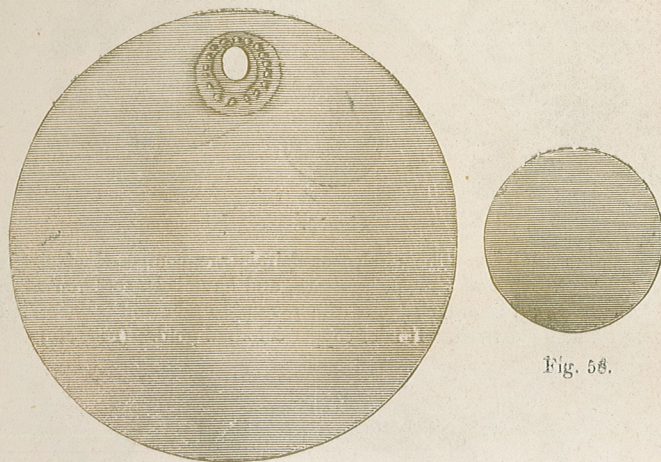


Fig. 57.

Fig. 58.

70, 71. ORNAMENTS, probably suspended round the neck. Weight of No. 70, 5 dwts. 2 grains; No. 71, 2 dwts. 6 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

No. 70, a pendant, is evidently symbolical of the full moon, and was hung round the neck. It is highly polished on both sides, and the hole at the top ornamented with a circle of punctuations. The surface is so smooth that it might have been used also as a mirror.

No. 71 is similar in shape, but has no hole. It is polished only on one side. (Figs. 57 and 58.)

EARRINGS.

The Collection is very rich in earrings, there being no less than eleven distinct types represented.

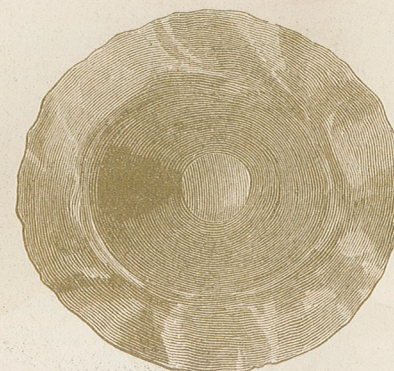


Fig. 59.

72. EARRING, of very bright gold. Weight, 5 dwts. 4 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

From the lowest tribes of savages to the highest types of civilization, the earring has always been the favoured and most predominant ornament. In Central America they were extensively worn, both by men and women, and as a rule singly, not in pairs. No. 72 is in shape not unlike a manila or sombrero hat. It has been beaten out, and is polished upon the outside as well as upon the inside of the rim. It has a hook in the interior to fasten it to the ear. (Fig. 59.)

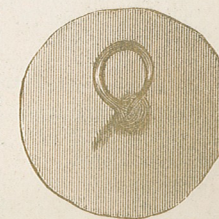


Fig. 60.

73, 74, 75, 76. EARRINGS WITH SCREW FASTENINGS. Weight of No. 73, 3

dwts. 7 grains; No. 74, 3 dwts. 4 grains; Nos. 75 and 76, 40 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

These earrings are quite plain, and slightly convex. It will be noticed by Fig. 60 that they were attached to the ears (which were necessarily pierced), in precisely the same manner as many of the modern earrings by what is termed the corkscrew fastening. (Fig. 60.)



Fig. 61.

76, 77. SMALL EARRINGS. Weight of No. 76, 10 grains; No. 77, 10 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

These are extremely small, and were probably worn by children. They have the single-twist corkscrew fastening. (Fig. 61.)

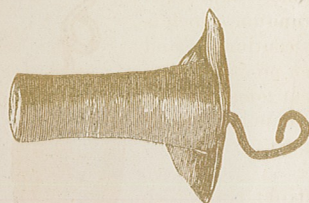


Fig. 62.

78, 79, 80, 81. EARRINGS. Weight of No. 78, 2 dwts. 22 grains; No. 79, 2 dwts. 12 grains; Nos. 80 and 81, together, 8 grains.

The shape of these earrings, which are of the purest gold, is very remarkable, resembling a very tall Welsh hat, or some of the Mexican hats. They are very bright, and have been hammered into their present form. From the interior springs a gold wire of "corkscrew" pattern. They were worn by both men and women. Nos. 80 and 81 are very small—in fact, miniature representations of Nos. 78 and 79. (Fig. 62.)

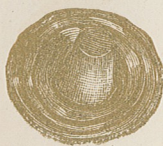


Fig. 63.

82. EARRING, in the form of an Alpine hat. Weight, 16 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

The rim of this earring is stamped out, producing two rings, and a beading round the outer edge. It was fastened by the "corkscrew" pattern. (Fig. 63.)

83, 84. SOLID EARRINGS, with tapering points. Weight, 5 dwts. the two. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

Of unusual pattern, these were worn only by women. They are quite solid, and were suspended from the lobe of the ear, not screwed in. (Fig. 64.)



Fig. 64.

85. EARRING, of carnelian. *District of Angostura, Antioquia.*

A very beautiful specimen of bright red carnelian (a variety of silica) has been made in this instance into a bead, the perforation having been most adroitly drilled. The carnelian has a hardness of 7.5, so that nothing but the topaz, sapphire (corundum), or diamond, in the shape of stone, would touch it. The Indians may have used corundum, which is found in Central America; or by continuous and prolonged labour it might have been produced with sand, but it must have been a great *tour de force*. The wire running through it is of the purest metal, and was twisted into the ear. (Fig. 65.)



Fig. 65.

86. EARRING, consisting of two distinct rings like finger-rings hooked together. Weight, 3 dwts. 17 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This would seem to be two finger-rings hooked for convenience, but it is said to be a true type of earring in Central America. (Fig. 66.)

87. EXTREMELY RARE EARRING, with enamelled eyes. Weight, 15 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

Although very small, this is, perhaps, the most interesting earring of the series, for it is of a purely Greek type. Many specimens precisely the same are met with in Cyprus. It represents a snake with its



Fig. 66.

mouth wide open; but the rarity is in the eyes being enamelled, probably the only known instance of enamelling in gold ornaments from this locality, with one exception. It seemed doubtful at first whether the colour was not produced by a small species of *lapis lazuli*, cut with a ring of white matrix round it, but on submitting the piece to close examination, the matter was set at rest—it is undoubtedly enamel.



Fig. 67.

Upon examining the top of the snake's head with a very high magnifying power, it appears as if it had been prepared for enamelling (even if it had not already been enamelled, and the enamel knocked off) by a slight ridge round the edge, and the rough surface chiselled, which is indispensable in assisting the flux to hold.

Another ring with enamel is in the possession of Sir Joseph Hooker. It is in the form of a lizard, with a green enamel on the body, and was found in a tomb in the north-east of Antioquia. (Fig. 67.)



Fig. 68.

88, 89. ORNAMENTS, perhaps used as earrings or bosses. Pure bright gold. Weight, 2 dwts. 6 grains each. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

These are in general shape very much like the earrings (Figs. 59, &c.), and have a hole in the centre which may have contained the wire for fastening into the lobe of the ear; or they may have

been used as bosses upon an ornament or shield; or, again, they may have been placed upon the body to cover the mamillæ, or even used upon horse trappings. They have been stamped out, are convex, and are ornamented with three raised rings and a beaded edge. (Fig. 68.)

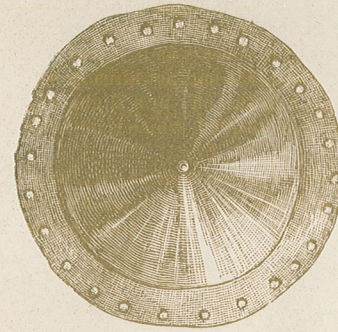


Fig. 69.

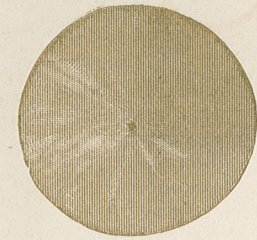


Fig. 70.

90, 91, 92, 93. GOLD ORNAMENTS, similar to Nos. 88 and 89. Weight of Nos. 90 and 91, 2 dwts. 12 grains, each; of Nos. 92 and 93, 1 dwt. 6 grains, each. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

Nos. 90 and 91 are generally similar to those previously described, the only difference being in the outer rim, which is punctuated instead of having concentric rings. Nos. 92 (Fig. 70) and 93 are similar, but perfectly plain. (Figs. 69, 70.)

94. ORNAMENT PROBABLY USED AS AN EARRING. Weight, 2 dwts. 3 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This consists of a bell-like disc, embellished with four sets of punctuations, each set containing sixteen, arranged in a square pattern. It is suspended by two wires with a ball at each end, one passing through the top. Most probably used as an earring. (Fig. 71.)



Fig. 71.

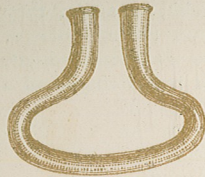


Fig. 72.

95. RARE TYPE OF NOSE ORNAMENT. Weight, 3 dwts. 12 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This nose ornament is very peculiar in shape, and also very rare, only one or two others being known. (Fig. 72.)

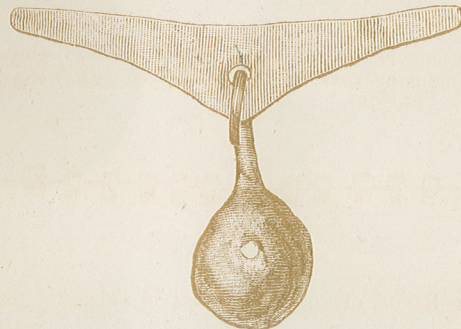


Fig. 73.

96. ORNAMENT, of bright gold. Weight, 2 dwts. 15 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

The use of this peculiar ornament is doubtful, but it most probably has been worn as an earring. The bar from which the kind of ladle is suspended, shows signs at either end of having been fitted into a socket. (Fig. 73.)



Fig. 74.

97. ORNAMENT, in gold, worn by the priests and nobles. Weight, 10 dwts. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

This ornament was worn only by a few of the most powerful priests, and was really a badge of office. It is ornamented in the centre by ten spirals attached to four twists of gold wire, and is of copper-coloured gold. It is pierced through. (Fig. 74.)

98. ORNAMENT. Most probably an earring. Weight, 2 dwts. 11 grains. *District of Riosucio, State of Cauca.*

An ornament consisting of four small balls of solid gold hanging by wires, the top ornamented with circles of gold. (Fig. 76.)



Fig. 76.



Fig. 77.

99. SMALL RINGS, of gold. *District of Tarumtal, Antioquia.*

These are made out of a flat piece of gold termed by goldsmiths "plate," rolled over and then soldered. (Fig. 77.)

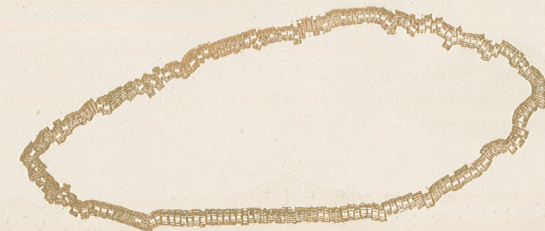


Fig. 78.

- 100, 101. RINGS of gold strung upon a gold wire (the latter modern). Weight, No. 78, 1 dwt. 17 grains; No. 79, 1 dwt. 8 grains. *District of Tarumtal, Antioquia.*



Fig. 80.



Fig. 79.

Made in the same manner as No. 99, but of different width and size.

102, 103, 104, 105, 106. HAIRPINS of various sizes. Weights respectively, 1 dwt. 4 grains, 16 grains, 15 grains, 15 grains, 11 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

These are of quite the same type as ladies' hairpins now in use, with the exception of being flat. In Central America the modern women used them to fasten their combs by as well as to keep up the hair. (Fig. 80.)

107. PORTION OF AN ORNAMENT. Weight, 16 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*



Fig. 81.

Whatever the ornament may have been of which this was a part, it was very beautiful, as the fragment shows not only extremely fine work, but a very graceful design. It is made of fine gold wires so skilfully and adroitly worked that it would compare not unfavourably with the finest goldsmith's work of the present day. The wire has been drawn to one gauge, and is $21\frac{3}{8}$ fineness. It has a very fine plait upon the outer edge, then a series of radiating straight wires, and a small plait upon two galleries made of twelve double circles. (Fig. 81.)

108, 109. SQUARE FLAT ORNAMENTS, punctured. Weight, 10 and 7 grains respectively. *District of Jerico.*

These are simply square pieces of fine flat gold with a hole at the top and punctured round the edges. Most probably used for decoration. They might have been weights, but there is no evidence to support the proposition. Highly polished upon the surface. (Fig. 82.)



Fig. 82.

110. SERIES OF CHARMS. Used for making necklaces. *District of Jerico, State of Antioquia.*



Fig. 83.

These singular charms are made of an admixture of silver and some base metal, and are strung into necklaces. They are all stamped out. (Fig. 83.)

MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS.

111. FISH HOOK, in gold. Weight, 4 dwts. 5 grains. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

Angling, as one of the modes of supporting life, has naturally been universal, so it is no matter of surprise that fish hooks are found in gold in this country, a locality known and remembered for its lavish use of the precious metal. The hook is solid, and resembles precisely in type those of bronze found in the lacustrine habitations of Neuchatel and other Swiss Lake dwellings.¹ (Fig. 84.)



Fig. 84.

¹ See Lee's translation, Kellers' "Swiss Lake Dwellings."

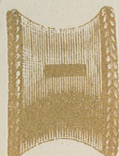


Fig. 85.

112. PULLEY (?), in gold. Weight, 8 dwts.
District of Manirales.

Senor Arango calls this a pulley, but it is difficult to see upon what axle it could work, as the sides are quite plain. Might it not be, perhaps, a whistle or musical instrument? It is of bright gold, well polished, with long oblong holes in the groove, and a double twist at each edge.

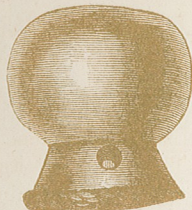


Fig. 86.

113. HANDLE (?), OR WHISTLE (?), in gold.
Weight, 17 dwts. *District of Jerico, Antioquia.*

What this knob is it is very difficult to say. It consists of a base with a shank, which is hollowed out, and may have been used for pressing needles or pins through skins in the same manner as a thimble, or as the instrument called a *palm*, used by sail-makers in pressing a needle through the sails. The ball is hollow, but the shank is solid, to bear, as it were, pressure. It has two holes in the groove, which are more in favour, perhaps, of its use as a whistle. (Fig. 86.)



Fig. 87.

114. SHELL (*Solarium Solaris*), in gold. Weight, 5 dwts. 22 grains.
District of Manirales.

This is a very faithful representation of the shell *Solarium Solaris*, so called from its shape. (Fig. 87.)

115. NUGGET OF GOLD. Weight, 1 oz. 4 dwts. 5 grains.
District of Jerico, Antioquia.

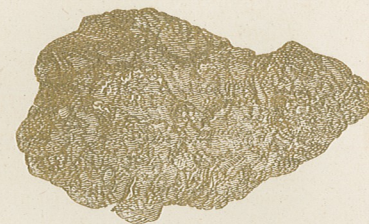
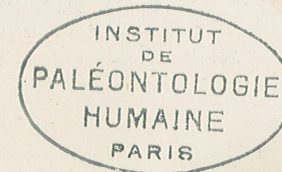


Fig. 88.

A very bright nugget of the purest gold, with scarcely any matrix. It illustrates well the quality and appearance of the precious metal from Central America as found *in situ*.

This example completes the descriptive list of this exceedingly rare and interesting Collection. The mystery and obscurity enshrouding the history and symbolical meaning of the objects have rendered them a difficult study, although at the same time increasing their interest, and tending, perhaps, to forward our knowledge of the civilization and development of mankind.



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