

The General Secretary

Public Library, Museum & Art Gallery of S.A.

Adelaide.

Sir.

In reply to your enquiry 016/1181 re Sword Clubs
These objects are found in the area North West of W.A.
vary from the ^{Forbes} ~~Rockbourne~~ River to Swan Point (King Sound)
both near the coast and inland.

The specimens photographed are no doubt from some
locality in the West Pilbara Goldfield, a club almost
identical in shape ^{and} style of ornamentation in our
collection is stated to have come from Rockbourne, which
may mean the Rockbourne district or the country behind.

^{near} ~~In the~~ Beagle Bay and Cygnet Bay, north of Broome
~~these~~ ^{wood clubs} and allied objects without a defined grip are used
in corrobories and as clubs for fighting, as far as I
am aware the Sword Club of the Rockbourne district is
a weapon only.

As regards literature on the subject I can refer you to

- 1) The British Museum Handbook to the Ethnographical Collection
(1910) fig 92(a) page 110.
- 2) The Evolution of Culture and other Essays Pitt Rivers
Plate XIV fig 61 page 121 from Nied Bay, North-West Australia
(note Nied Bay is not far from Rockbourne.)

^{in his journal}
One of the early Explorers, refers to an unfinished spear thrower
with gum handle but without a peg or projection for the
attachment of the peg, this I take it was a sword club.

I am unfortunately unable to place my hand on the
reference but believe it is in Gregory's book.

I have etc,