

article by W. S. Curtis,¹ describing a collection of old baskets obtained many years ago.

The gauges made by these people are somewhat distinctive (Figures 18 *a* and *b*, and 19). One of their characteristics is that the decorations are largely functional, the object in the maker's mind evidently having been to provide a firm grip for the operator and at the same time to produce a decorative effect. This interesting feature is noticeable in the few specimens that were discovered on the reservation, and in several others in the possession of collectors. They are all highly prized by their possessors. In one case there seems to have been an attempt to portray a fish on the handle. Another instrument, a knife used in shaving the splints, is shown in Figure 20.

While we may assume that some influence upon the art of the Connecticut Indians resulted from contact with the Iroquois, there is nothing to show that the former had such symbolic associations in their designs as did the Iroquois.² The general similarity of the Connecticut Indian decorations to those of both the Iroquois and the northeastern Algonkins is really too ambiguous to permit a final decision as to their affinities. Aware of these uncertainties, I feel, however, that the evidence sustains the conclusion that the stamped and painted designs are original to the southern New England Indians, and that they spread from them to the Iroquois.

The occurrence of identical types of splint basketry and similar potato stamp decorations among the Oneida (Plate IX) and Onondaga,³ might lead to the impression, were we to overlook resemblances with northern Algonkin designs, of an Iroquoian origin for the whole technique. In a recent visit, however, to the Cherokee of North Carolina, for the purpose of tracing relationships between northern and southern art motives,

¹ 'Basketry of the Scattacooks and Potatucks,' *Southern Workman*, vol. XXXIII, No. 7, 1904, pp. 383-390.

² Cf. A. C. Parker, *American Anthropologist*, N.S., vol. 14, No. 4, 1912, pp. 608-620.

³ Specimens in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. I also learned of the same decorations among the Iroquois at Oshweken, Ontario, and the Mohawks of Deseronto.