

All are round; some are very shallow, others concave and very deep; many quite capacious, ones curve inward at the top, and others are small at the base, flare rapidly, then gradually gather in toward the top, the opening of which are small. There are plaques similar to those farther north—all are graceful and beautiful.

This means endless labor, for birds are snared, that no dainty feather, so artistically used in the weaving, will be marred; the distant mountains yield the grass and the sea shore the bits of shell; beads are obtained by barter.

The Mendocino county and Hoopa valley Indians make cradles for the infants from the peeled stems of tough young trees and shrubs.

One cannot but be impressed by the rare and skillful combination of beauty and utility in these baskets, and the wonderful adaptability to their various needs. The dwellers of the north coast obtain their food from the sea, so they make the loosely-woven cedar bark receptacles for their stores, both fresh and dried. The open mesh of the clam basket, of a coarse grass, which permits the sea water to escape as the weary digger trails home across the sands at dawn, with a breakfast for the waiting ones beside the curling smoke of the campfire. The perfectly watertight boiling and baking baskets of the Alaskans and Shastas.

The Klickitats would retain the luscious juices of the berry, and resist the wear and tear of loading and carrying by pony-back and canoe, without the beautiful ornamentation, which is as enduring as the basket. Though they are savages, they love this bit of beauty in their homely lives of drudgery. The storage baskets of California and Arizona are deep, capacious and strong, mostly of the true classical vase outlines and proportions.

The strong, flexible, round baskets and pouches of those tribes much in the saddle. It is quite impossible to enumerate the thousand and one uses for which these baskets serve, by the campfire and on the march, for the holding of spoil of rod and gun, and their few simple treasures.