

A Portfolio of Photographs of Mocotaugan Art

INTRODUCTION TO THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The 35 photographs in this portfolio provide a fairly comprehensive picture of the nature of the embellished mocotaugan. They provide an opportunity, within the limits of two dimensions, “to examine the object whole,” to note closely those physical elements — originality, composition, workmanship and signs of antiquity — that determine the quality of the knife as an art object.

The photographs are grouped according to the nine design categories outlined on the opposite page. The knife in each photograph is introduced with a brief comment, and a more detailed description is provided on pages 163-166.

Animal Effigies

These figures can represent everything from a newly discovered and interesting form, such as a horse, to an object of some personal appeal, such as a camp dog, to any one of a number of forest creatures that are revered traditional clan symbols.



PLATE # 1

An intriguing story unfolds on this "House of Beaver" knife. The importance of the beaver trade is brought to life in a wonderfully conceived and executed mocotaugan.



PLATE #2

This ambiguous form could be an alligator or snake or another reptile that was possibly the carver's personal manitou.