

Five Effigies with Possible to Probable Cetacean Referent

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Abstract

Five south central coastal California stone effigies are documented. Each may have been crafted to project cetacean imagery. All are curated with the Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, Los Angeles County. The two Logan-Weddington Collection specimens are without site provenance and almost certainly date within the Del Rey Tradition (3500–150 BP). The three Malaga Cove site (CA-LAN-138) specimens from the Thomas Tower Collection likely date no earlier than the Angeles II phase (2600–1600 BP) of the Del Rey Tradition.

Introduction

Recent research revolving on whale/dolphin/porpoise symbology in the plastic arts of south central coastal California (e.g., Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012; Koerper 2012) prompts consideration herein of five additional effigies, four perhaps intended to project whole body cetacean imagery and the fifth a possible dorsal fin mimic. Cetacean effigies previously published are mostly crafted items, but some Native peoples possessed manuports apparently for their cetacean-like shapes (e.g., Koerper and Cramer 2012).

The five artifacts are presently (2013) on display at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC), Rancho Palos Verdes (Figure 1). These specimens arrived to the PVIC via custodians for two family collections, circumstances that recall William Wallace's counsel that new insights into local prehistory might follow from examinations of artifacts held privately or within local museums. Such investigations "though less exciting perhaps than those carried out in the field,

will necessarily play an increasingly important role in southern California archaeology as fewer and fewer sites are left to be explored" (Wallace 1984:3).

Two of the effigies are without site provenance. They were donated to the PVIC and the Abalone Cove Shoreline Park in late 1993 or early 1994 by Charlene Logan, daughter of Hal (Bill) Weddington. In the "early 1900s" Weddington collected from sites in south central coastal California, specifically at Point Mugu, the Palos Verdes area, Wilmington, and Costa Mesa. It is unknown whether the relic hunter ever jotted notes regarding his finds. The section to immediately follow describes and discusses these two artifacts.

The other three effigies were unearthed prior to WWII at the Malaga Cove site (CA-LAN-138) (Figure 1) on a bluff above Torrance County Beach at Malaga Cove and Santa Monica Bay. This location is adjacent to the most northerly extension of those Palos Verdes Hills that run near the coastline. Thomas Peter Tower I was the artifact collector who discovered the three effigies, and he took notes.

In 1992 the Tower family offered these and other artifacts to the PVIC as an "extended loan." The name, "Thomas Tower Collection," refers to the extended loan and not LAN-138 specimens physically retained out-of-state by the family. The section that characterizes the three Tower Collection cetacean-like artifacts and offers information bearing on their time placements will begin with a quick overview

of amateur and professional presence at LAN-138, followed by brief biographical notes on T. P. Tower. Our study ends with a summary. A companion article by Koerper and Peterson appearing in this *Quarterly* double-issue provides detailed information regarding stratigraphy and cultural components at the Malaga Cove site.

Two Logan-Weddington Collection Effigies Lacking Provenance

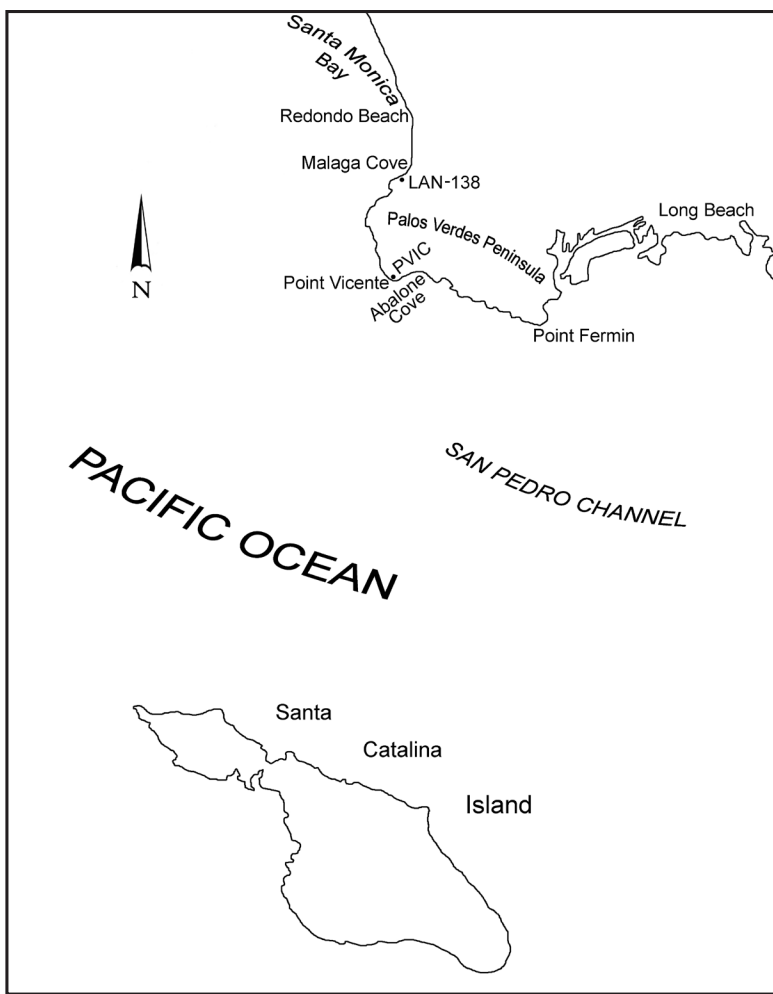
Steatite Effigy

The 421 g Catalina steatite object shown in Figure 2, with its blunt “head” and “hump” (as opposed to

a “dorsal fin”), easily recalls the sperm whale. This effigy was found in the Palos Verdes area but lacks tighter provenance.

Its maximum length is about 177 mm, while maximum height measures close to 75 mm. It is 25 mm in maximum thickness. Color is uneven, but with all hues in the grayish range.

If, as we believe, its crafting was meant as a cetacean mimic, the “artwork” can only be characterized as less than accomplished.¹ All the edges have been worked, but the outline is somewhat uneven. Surfaces are somewhat undulating, and there is no decorative incising.



1. Location map. The Point Vicente Interpretive Center is in Rancho Palos Verdes. The Malaga Cove site is in the Hollywood Riviera district of Torrance.

The artifact had broken into two parts and was then repaired. Joining the two pieces involved a dark mastic, asphaltum possibly mixed with vegetal pitch. A modern filler may have been added to further caulk the crack. We infer that because it was fashioned from steatite, the effigy post-dates the arrival of the Gabrielino ancestors to Catalina Island. Sutton's (2010:8) characterization of the Angeles I phase of the Del Rey Tradition (3500–2600 BP) includes trade in small steatite artifacts (effigies, pipes, and beads), and much later during Angeles V (800–450 BP), there occurred “intensive and extensive” steatite trade that included vessels, comals, and larger and “more elaborate effigies.” The artifact shown in Figure 2 is not small, but neither is it “elaborate.” We speculate that it was crafted on the mainland out of steatite that had been part of a bowl or comal transported from the island.

Sandstone Effigy

The 273 g effigy shown in Figure 3 also lacks site provenance. It was created out of moderately coarse sandstone. The ground surfaces retain minimal roughness. The object is 153 mm long and almost 39 mm in height. Maximum width is 37 mm.

At its front end (end facing left in figure), width narrows, and there is a small snout-like protrusion, looking like the “indistinct beak” of certain oceanic dolphins (see Carwardine 2000:194–223). At its “tail” end the narrowing is more noticeable in the vertical rather than the horizontal dimension. There was also side-to-side reduction of mass.

A small swipe of asphaltum appears at the front end, on the side opposite that appearing in Figure 3. The

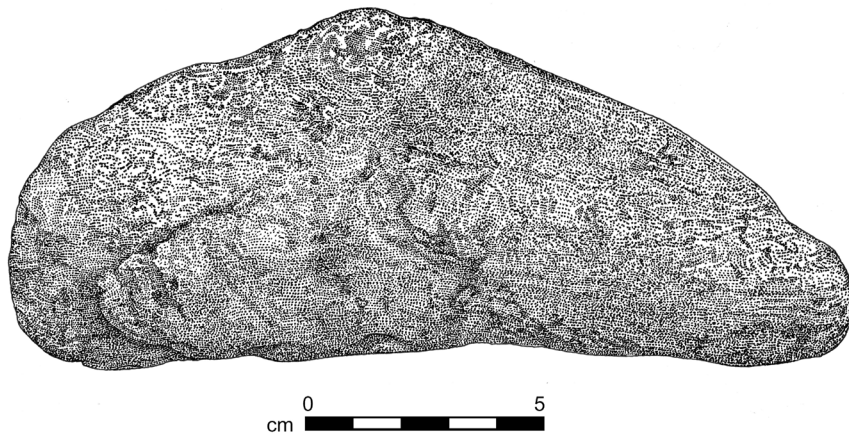


Figure 2. Steatite whale-like effigy. Logan-Weddington Collection, Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.

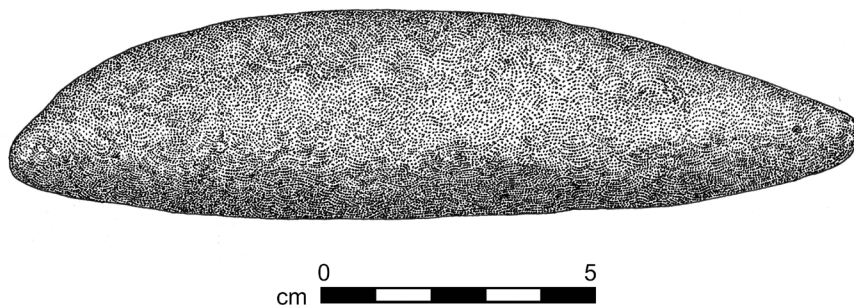


Figure 3. Sandstone effigy. Logan-Weddington Collection, Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.

overall look is that of a swimming animal, but the lack of appendages offers some uncertainty revolving on “fish-like” versus “cetacean-like.” However, the beak-like protrusion supports a cetacean hypothesis over a fish hypothesis.

The great majority of zoomorphic effigies, either whole body or body part, with temporal associations fall to relatively late times. We can offer only an educated guess that this conventionalized representation is of Late Holocene origin.

Three CA-LAN-138 Effigies from the Thomas Tower Collection

Introduction

This section characterizes three effigies, each perhaps projecting cetacean imagery, all collected at LAN-138 over seven decades ago by Thomas Tower. Descriptions of these specimens, TT#15, TT#16, and TT#13, are preceded by a quick overview of relic collecting and archaeological research at the Malaga Cove site and by a cursory portrait of self-described “amateur archaeologist,” Thomas Tower (Figure 4). Readers interested in details of stratigraphy and chronology at LAN-138 are directed to the article, “On the Anatomy of the Malaga Cove Site,” which directly follows the present study.

Relic Collecting and Science at CA-LAN-138

Before its near destruction by residential development in 1955 (Wallace 1984:1), LAN-138 was constantly visited by relic collectors. Excavations that carried the imprimatur of science first occurred in 1903 under the direction of Frank Palmer of the Southwest Society. Palmer, a Redondo Beach dentist, was already familiar with the location, having scavenged for artifacts at the Malaga Cove site as early as ca. 1887. In his turn of the century explorations at LAN-138, Palmer (1906) provided no ordering of cultural events. Richard Van Valkenburgh led

the 1931–1932 Van Bergen-Los Angeles County Museum Expedition’s field investigations at LAN-138 (Van Valkenburgh 1931; Wallace 1984:1). Van Valkenburgh’s field notes are available, but he produced no formal report on discoveries at either this site or the Palmer-Redondo site in Redondo Beach. Delbert True (1987) shared his data from LAN-138, which informed on the uppermost cultural stratum, what Walker (1937, 1951) designated as Level 4. True’s observations derive from his collecting (“no more than pothunting,” he confessed) in the mid- to late 1930s, both preceding and concurrent with the Southwest Museum efforts directed by Edwin Walker (1937; 1951:27–69), who provided a synthesis of cultural events at the site.

Between Walker’s Depression era efforts and Bill Wallace’s 1955, last-minute rescue efforts aided by volunteer diggers (Wallace 1985), relic hunting continued, seemingly unabate. Among the collectors are familiar names such as Willy Stahl (Tower; Feb. 5, 1941, letter to E. Walker), H. F. Racer (Walker 1951:65), Joseph Barbieri (Walker 1951:64), and Joe Cote (Pond 1968). Racer, a physician, collected from both Palmer-Redondo and Malaga Cove, and he cataloged his finds; sadly, after his demise in 1961, his specimens went to an antique dealer and were then widely dispersed (Wallace 1984:1). A not so familiar name, until the present article, is Thomas Tower (Figure 4).

Thomas Peter Tower I

The Thomas Tower Collection is a varied grouping of artifacts curated by the PVIC. The Center’s archives offer testimony to the relic hunter’s activities at the Malaga Cove site; in addition to a copy of a 1942 typed manuscript by this card-carrying member of the SAA (Figure 5), there are copies of Tower’s handwritten missives (1940–1941) to Mark Raymond Harrington and Edwin Walker, both scholars then associated with the Southwest Museum (Curator and Research Assistant, respectively). These documents

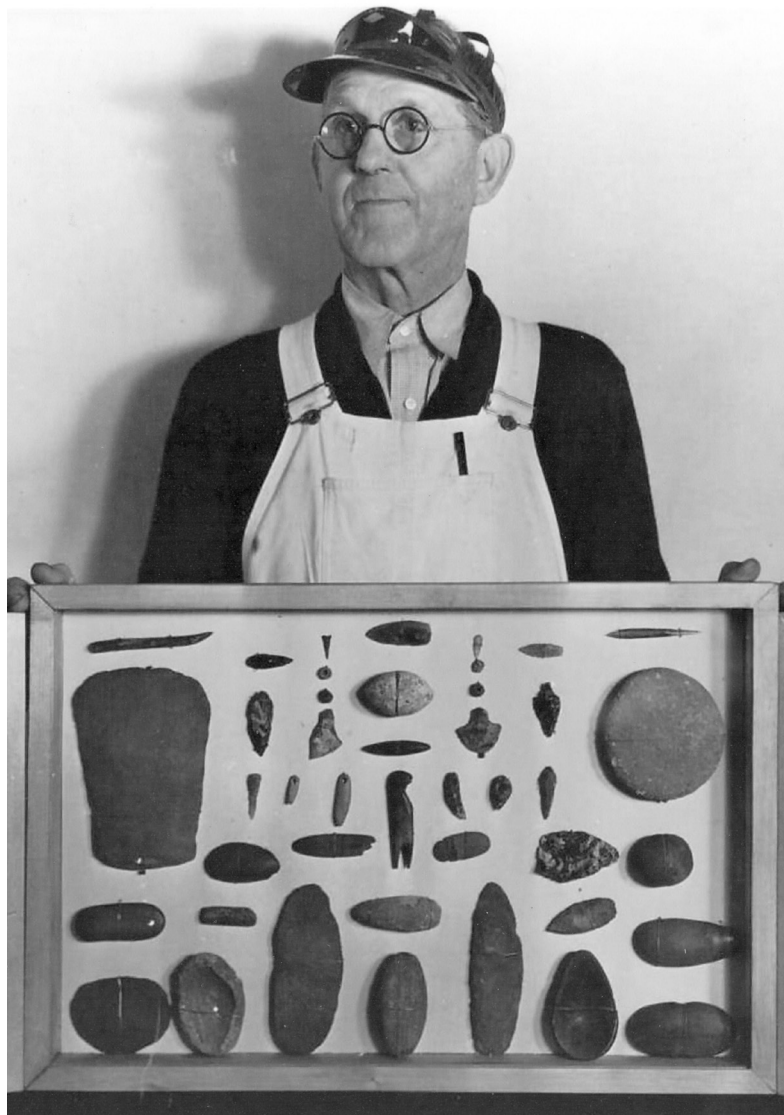


Figure 4. Thomas Tower posing with some of his discoveries from the Malaga Cove site (CA-LAN-138). Courtesy Thomas Tower III.

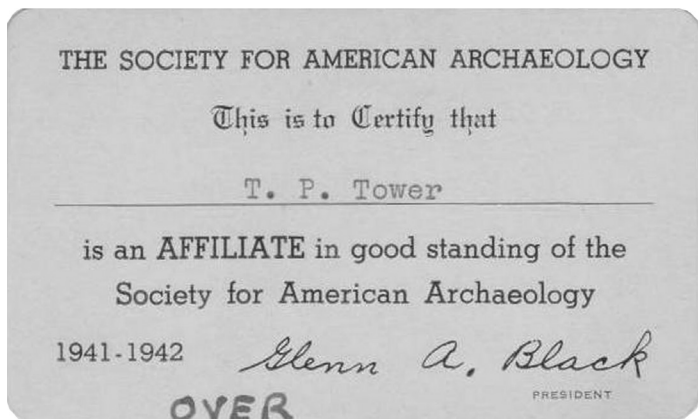


Figure 5. Thomas Tower's 1941–1942 Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Affiliate card. Photograph courtesy of grandson Thomas Tower III.

are also available from Edwin Walker's notebook archived at the Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, Los Angeles. Copies of Tower's manuscript and letters accompany William Wallace's file, which is also held by the Braun Research Library.

In one of his communications to Walker, Tower wrote that as per Walker's request, he was sending along photographs of some of "the best of the artifacts at Malaga Cove." He added, "I can't brag on this picture but guess it will have to do until I can come over [to the Southwest Museum] with the real artifacts" (T. Tower to E. Walker, letter, no date [1940], E. Walker notebook, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, Los Angeles). Two photographs conveyed to Walker are shown in Figures 6 and 7. Tower carried these same images in his wallet so that he might better engage people with enthusiastic descriptions of searches at Malaga Cove. From scrutiny of Tower's typed manuscript and his communications to Mark Harrington and Edwin Walker, it is possible to recognize particular specimens in these and other photographs as having derived from particular named features. Many of the PVIC holdings can be identified in the photographs. Also, LAN-138 specimens yet held by the Tower family but not part of the extended loan to the PVIC can be recognized in the pictures.

Further, on file at the PVIC are catalog documents for the Thomas Tower Collection; they were created by PVIC volunteer docent Earle Castler (1992). Each specimen was given a catalog number, all with the prefix "TT" for "Thomas Tower." Specimens TT#13, TT#15 and TT#16 are described below. This documentation is housed in a wooden storage box that contains Riker-like displays, especially projectile points, that had been collected by Tower. At least two of these glass-covered, framed displays are easily identified in a photograph (Figure 8) snapped in the relic hunter's backyard. This photo was also recently removed from Tower's wallet.

Interesting tidbits about the collector emerge from his typed document (Tower 1942). In it, Tower demonstrated familiarity with some of the anthropological and historical literature that had bearing on his interest in local prehistory. Tower emphasized that he neither purchased nor sold artifacts, thus supporting his claim to "amateur archaeologist" status (T. Tower to E. Walker, 5 February 1941, E. Walker notebook, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, Los Angeles). Further bonafides involved his recognition of the necessary roles of stratigraphy, provenience, and association in archaeological science. For instance, in one communication (T. Tower to M. Harrington and



Figure 6. Thomas Tower carried in his wallet this photograph of a display of artifacts he had collected from CA-LAN-138. At least eight items appearing in this display are from a feature that Tower named "Find No. 3—The Sunken Dwelling of the Chumash." Edwin Walker received a copy of this image. Photograph courtesy of Thomas Tower III.



Figure 7. The great majority if not most or all the objects seen here were dug from CA-LAN-138 by Thomas Tower I, who carried this photograph in his wallet; he gifted Edwin Walker a copy of the photo. Courtesy of Thomas Tower III.

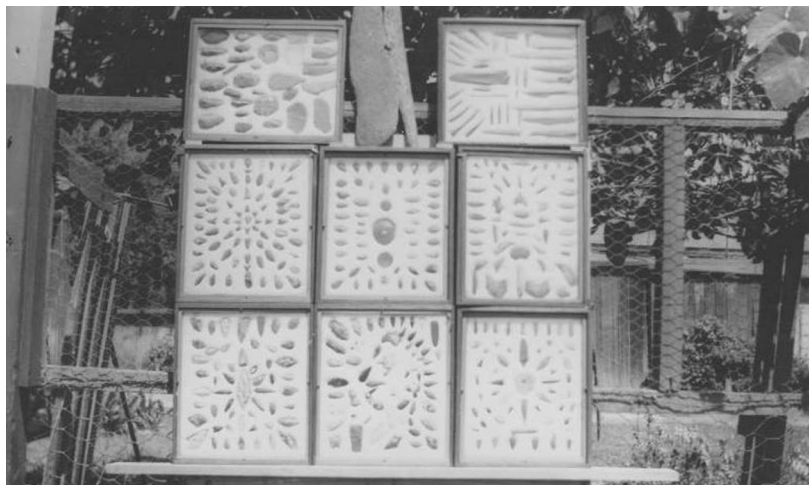


Figure 8. Eight Riker-like displays in the backyard of Thomas Tower I, who carried this photograph in his wallet. Some of the displays are on extended loan to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. Circa 1940 photo courtesy of Thomas Tower III.

E. Walker, letter, 12 June 1940, E. Walker notebook, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, Los Angeles), Tower supplied a description of cultural strata at the Malaga Cove site (see Koerper and Peterson, this *Quarterly* double-issue).

The broader perspective of the man's collecting should acknowledge that Tower's "rescue" of certain artifacts and maintenance of them under a Malaga Cove site label kept the specimens out of the hands of those many collectors who scoured the bluffs above Malaga Cove, never recording anything of their discoveries (see Wallace 1984:1; True 1987; Sutton and Grenda 2012:124). Mr. Tower related in his manuscript (1942) that it had been only a short time since "several acres of land broke loose and slowly slid into the ocean 500 feet below taking with it all the land that had previously held my collection, and again diminishing in size this vast vanishing village site." Without Tower's "intervention," much of this article as well as others presently in draft development could not be possible.

Another contribution is this: Tower's observations, and we suppose those of other relic collectors, were apparently drawn upon by Walker for his treatment of cultural development at LAN-138; such is explained in the companion piece to this article. Tower's stratigraphic scheme for the site is likely to have influenced Walker; this is another subject addressed in Koerper and Peterson (this *Quarterly* double-issue).

Tower's typed manuscript (1942) and letters (1940–1941), wherein various finds are revealed, his attentions to stratigraphy, and two recent radiocarbon assays are the basis for interpreting some of Walker's Level 2 materials as relatively late, that is, embracing some phase or phases of the Del Rey Tradition (see Sutton 2010), although manifestations of some phase or phases of the Topanga Pattern of the Encinitas tradition (see Sutton and Gardner 2010) were evident in Level 2. This is a new "wrinkle" in the story of LAN-138, the initial breakthrough of which rests on equating

Tower's Stratum 3 with Walker's Level 2. Again, check the Koerper and Peterson article that follows for details.

Prior to our study, there were no C-14 dates from Level 2 materials. They will be mentioned just below in the text. It is in Koerper and Peterson (this *Quarterly* double-issue) that the reader can find discussions of all C-14 dates derived from LAN-138 samples and other information relevant to temporal placements.

TT#15

Found at the Malaga Cove site by Thomas Tower, Specimen TT#15 (Figures 9 and 10) bears some resemblance to a sperm whale. It appears to have a large blunt "head" and a small dorsal "hump." It was fashioned out of local Altamira shale (see Reiter 1984:19–21; Conrad and Ehlig 1987; Brown and Ehlert 2000). It weighs 387 g. Length measures 250 mm, and maximum width is just under 79 mm. Maximum thickness is about 16 mm.

The edges were crafted to effect a comparatively even running outline. Both sides were ground to a pleasing smoothness, perhaps to prepare surfaces for decorative incising. For whatever reasons, one side received most of an artisan's attention, while the side opposite seems rather an accommodation to minimalist expression.

At the busy side (Figure 9) each contiguous parallel panel running longitudinally at the front half of the artifact contains hachures that run on the diagonal. The directions of the hachures alternate between panels (top down, left to right, and then right to left). The symmetry is somewhat uneven, yet a pleasing balance is maintained. Three parallel lines running at right angles to the stacked panels establish a boundary between the heavily incised area and the back end which is smooth and absent decoration.

The other side shows little incising (Figure 10), the lone geometric device being a ladder-like design. It is

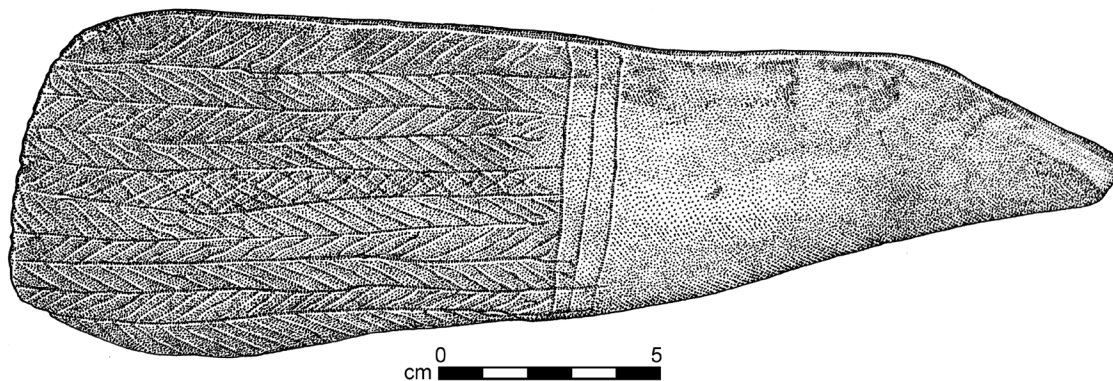


Figure 9. Whale-like effigy from the Malaga Cove site. Thomas Tower collection, Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.

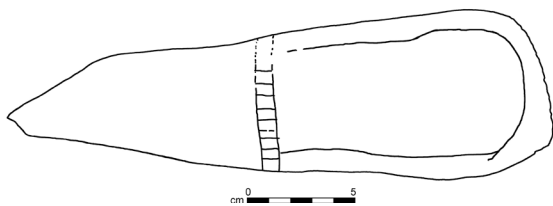


Figure 10. Minimally incised surface of specimen TT#15 on side opposite that shown in Figure 9.

vertical to the long axis of the artifact and is located a bit over halfway down from the “head” of this probable cetacean representation.

Artifact TT#15 is not seen in any of the available Tower photographs. It is not identifiable among Tower’s listings of artifacts in his manuscript or letters. Each listing of specimens was specific to one of what Tower called his “grouped finds.” There were 12 “grouped finds.” “Find No. 1” was not a feature, but all the others were, some being mortuary features. Very little descriptive information attends listed artifacts. Also, Tower noted for each “grouped find” only specimens that he deemed “perfect pieces.” Nearly every “grouped find” can be assigned to Tower’s Stratum 3, or what Walker (1937, 1951) identified as Level 2.

Tower’s favorite digging area, Stratum 3, was clearly Walker’s Level 2; so on this alone there is a good chance that TT#15 was retrieved from Del Rey

Tradition midden. Two “grouped finds” (“Find No. 6— Chumash Burial” and “Find No. 12”) each contained two specimens that were described as flat rocks/stones that were “finely lined” (incised with geometric designs rather than haphazard incising). Specimen TT#15 easily answers to that general description and thus may have been sequestered among the burial furniture of “Find No. 6” or among the mortuary offerings of “Find No. 12.”

With “Find No. 6” there were no less than 34 beads, described by Tower (1942) as “beads made of the center portion of Olivella shells.” None appeared in the 1940s photographs, however they were located with grandson Thomas Tower III who sent the authors his own photo of the Barrel Type (B3) specimens (see Bennyhoff and Hughes 1987:121–122, 149; also King 1990:107; Gibson 1992:27). When informed that the type was not particularly time sensitive, Thomas Tower III graciously provided barrel specimens for radiometric assay. Beta Analytic Inc. generated a

determination using a single bead. The measured radiocarbon age, or uncorrected age, is 930 ± 30 BP. The conventional radiocarbon age is 1360 ± 30 BP. Adjusted for local reservoir correction, the date becomes Cal BP 1580 ± 50 (D. Hood to H. Koerper, letter report, 24 May 2013) (see also Koerper 2013).

There is no surviving organic material from find “No. 12” that we know of that could be used to run a radiometric date. Besides, there is no way to know whether TT#15 had actually belonged to one or another of these two burial features. Indeed, the effigy might have derived from outside of Tower’s “grouped finds,” being one of the isolated discoveries that Tower did not bother to write about.

TT#16

Specimen TT#16, illustrated in Figure 11, was crafted out of a thin slab of slate. It may also be seen in the photograph of Figure 7, second tier from the bottom, at the upper left, just above two bowls.

TT#16 weighs 164 g and has a maximum thickness of 10 mm. It is 212 mm long, and maximum height measures 58 mm. Considering its material and dimensions, especially thickness, the effigy is somewhat delicate.

The side illustrated is medium gray, and the few dark splotches appear to be asphaltum stains. The side opposite is a light gray, and there are fewer splotches. Both surfaces were ground very smooth but not

to the point of being polished. The edges all around were likewise carefully ground. Roughness observed at some edges resulted from minor breakage (small chips missing). Looking down the length of the piece, whether from the top edge or the bottom edge, the body undulates just a bit, both horizontally and vertically.

The large rounded end might remind one of certain cetaceans as well as some fishes. Roughly 70 percent the distance down the length of the body (in the direction of the more constructed end) at what is the object’s upper border in Figure 11, there is a raised area that is the result of crafting, not breakage; it is not pronounced, leaving one to wonder whether a hump, such as occurs on the gray whale and the sperm whale, had been intended.

Tower (1942) supposed that the object was a “finely made slate knife.” However, no edge would have been sharp enough for a cutting function. Tower reported its length, “eight inches.”

It is associated with “Find No. 3—The Sunken Dwelling of the Chumash,” or “a headquarters of importance.” This Level 2/Stratum 3 feature contained an incredible number of artifacts within an “eleven foot circular depression.” No skeletal remains were recorded. Most notable were varied steatite objects, including two small paint bowls, a three-ringed pestle, pendants, a pipe, a shaman’s tube, several figurines (one representing a whale), several beads,

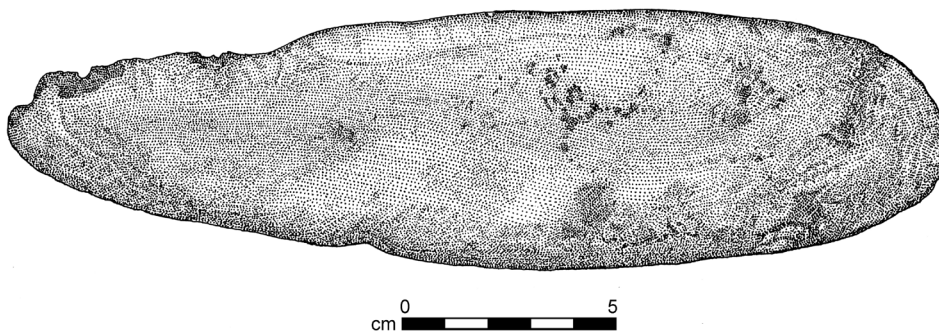


Figure 11. Slate effigy from the Malaga Cove site. Thomas Tower collection, Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.

a spoon, three comals, at least one of Tower's donut stones, and the large, handled asphaltum crucible seen in Figure 7 (center, bottom row). Several of these artifacts, including what Tower called a "whale charm," some only recently located, are anticipated subjects of future draft articles. The steatite "whale" from "Find No. 3" is unmistakably cetacean.

The inventory indicates that the "sunken dwelling" was a relatively late phenomenon, consistent with what we now understand about Level 2, or Stratum 3. Tower also listed six manos and one large square metate.

In Walker's (1951:39) presence-absence table recording categories of materials recovered from each of his four levels, manos and metates are absent from Levels 4, 3, and 1. Level 2, however, was for Walker (1951:53) the level of the "metate people." In Walker's Figure 13 showing multiple Level 2 cairns, there is seen a burial in which there had been placed a discoidal and two manos at one side, and at the other side were five manos and a metate. Additional Level 2 manos are seen in Walker's Plates 13 and 14. The discoidal may signal a Topanga phase presence, or perhaps it had been scavenged to use as burial furniture.

Perhaps some sampling phenomenon caused Walker to miss any milling equipment in Level 3. Wallace (1985:142), citing the work of Van Valkenburgh (1931), emphasized that "mills and mullers were by no means confined to a single depth zone or area."

In Sutton's (2010:8, Table 1) material trait characterizations for his six phases (Angeles I–VI) of the Del Ray Tradition, it is Angeles V (800–450 BP) that witnessed steatite trade expansion, with many kinds of soapstone items being relatively large (e.g., bowls and comals); "Find No. 3" is a good fit to this phase. Also, Tower's (1942) notes give this "veritable goldmine" (see also T. Tower to E. Walker, 20 June 1941, E. Walker notebook, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, Los Angeles) a position near the "top

three feet of soil [of Stratum 3] which had been previously well worked over." Tower saw Stratum 3 as 4 ft. to 6 ft. thick. We tentatively place specimen TT#16 in or around the AD 1150–1500 time slot.

TT#13

A 70 g granular slate artifact seen in Figure 12 may represent a dorsal fin. Specimen TT#13 took final shape through grinding using a fine grained medium. The surfaces are only slightly textured; they do not feel or look polished.

Height measures 126 mm, and maximum width is 52 mm. Maximum thickness is slightly over 9 mm. The edges encircling the piece were carefully rounded. The two opposite ends terminate in gentle arcs; the larger end offers a slightly imperfect symmetry. There is a

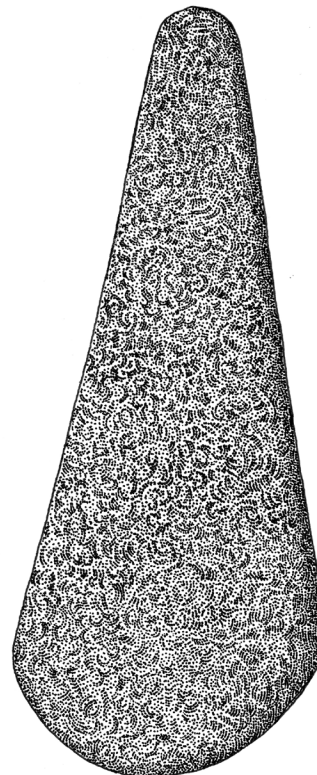


Figure 12. Granular slate effigy. Possibly representing a killer whale dorsal fin. Found at the Malaga Cove site. Thomas Tower collection, Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes.

small smear of asphaltum near the lower border (not visible in the illustration).

There are similar published isosceles-like specimens, more than enough to recognize a particular kind of motif, but no formal type name has yet been proposed. Some of them were found at the Malibu site (CALAN-264). Those illustrated in Koerper and Desautels-Wiley (2012:Figure 8) were previously shown in Cameron (2000:Figure 12.19). See also specimen #1751 in Cameron (2000:Figure 12.12).

The TT#13, fin-like artifact is not recognized in any of the available photographs, and it is not apparent within either Tower's typed manuscript or his letters. On the basis of cross-dating information (see e.g., Cameron 2000:38, 40–42, Figure 12.12), such triangular objects are deemed late in time, and this object would have belonged to one of the Angeles phases of the latter half of the Del Rey Tradition.

Concluding Remarks

At some time during the Del Rey Tradition, cetacean imagery became well embedded in the iconography of south central coastal California. An extensive literature search failed to identify marine mammal effigies that clearly antedated the Late Holocene.

The great majority of Native cetacean and cetacean-like mimics originated within the area where the Angeles and Island Patterns of the Del Rey Tradition first developed following arrival of Takic speaking ancestors of the ethnographic Gabrielino. There, artisans crafted not only whole-body, ground stone mimics of cetaceans but also fashioned what appear to be dorsal fin effigies (e.g., see de Cessac 1951; Wallace and Wallace 1974; Hudson and Blackburn 1986:174–199; Koerper 2012; Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012). Occasionally, a natural stone bearing some cetacean resemblance became a manuport (e.g., Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012:64–65; Koerper and Cramer 2012).

The five PVIC artifacts shown in Figures 2, 3, and 9–12 were described and discussed partly in anticipation that such treatment would promote even greater interest in cetacean contributions to coastal and island economies and stimulate more curiosity regarding cetacean-based symbologies in Native world-view (see e.g., Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012). This article's expansion of the inventory of regional effigies appearing to stand for cetaceans followed perusal of artifact collections within a museum setting, a circumstance that portends similarly interesting discoveries presently hidden away on curation shelves or even hiding in plain sight in display cases on public view. When such objects are donations or loans from long-ago privately built collections, new attention could lead to yet additional artifacts and perhaps photographs and other documentation yet held by a descendant or descendants who might be pleased that modern archaeological science could advance by drawing on the past efforts of a departed family member.

Reconsideration of effigies already published and purported to represent fish should also expand the inventory since some such specimens possess dorsal elevations that reasonably belie piscine interpretation. To illustrate, readers might ponder artifacts appearing in Figure 318.9–36 in Hudson and Blackburn (1986:199) (see also Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012:84, Figure 44); consider, for instance, the object posed in Hudson and Blackburn's Figure 318.9–36 at the far left in the middle row, which almost certainly stands for the orca, or killer whale. At bottom left of the same figure, a holed pendant immediately recalls a frolicking dolphin or playful porpoise launching itself above water's surface. Readers might also consider some effigies illustrated in a certain *Masterkey* article (see Meighan 1976:25, Figures 1a–d).

With regard to artifacts now hidden away but holding opportunities for future study, we remind the archaeological community that half of the LAN-138 collection excavated by Walker was turned over to Clifford F.

Reid, who managed the property where the site once existed. Reid offered use of this land for scientific excavation by the Southwest Museum “if [the museum] would submit all [its] findings to us and let us divide the relics, half to you and half to us” (C. Reid to Southwest Museum, letter, 17 November 1936, E. Walker notebook, Braun Research Library, Autry National Center, Los Angeles). The museum quickly accepted these terms (E. Walker to C. Reid, letter, 24 November 1936, E. Walker notebook). Receipt of Reid’s share was acknowledged two years later (C. Reid to E. Walker, letter, 31 October 1938, E. Walker notebook). Reid’s motivation was to secure specimens useful to teaching school children in the south Santa Monica Bay area. Efforts are presently underway to gain access to those artifacts turned over to Reid.

At the very moment the senior author was attempting to turn out one last note to wrap up the present section and close out this article, serendipity struck. The Spring 2013 issue of *News from Native California* arrived carrying a short piece by Tongva artist L. Frank Manriquez (a.k.a. L. Frank) and Carly Tex. L. Frank related that she had recently adorned invitations to a conference on Native California languages with a drawing of a stone whale effigy. Furthermore, L. Frank related that she herself fashioned “many, many stone whales,” adding, “I believe I understand [the traditional stone whales]. These effigies were to attract food to the shores, little shadows of the big whales” (Manriquez and Tex 2013:37). Interestingly, the name of the conference’s workshop to aid language revitalization at the 2012 get-together was “Shadow of the Whale” (Manriquez and Tex 2013:38). Clearly, then, some descendants of past regional Native peoples foster a special relationship uniting man and whales.

End Note

1. Effigies recovered over two decades ago during the Newport Coast Archaeological Project (NCAP) in

Orange County share some similarities with this Logan-Weddington steatite specimen. Among four CA-ORA-662 artifacts believed to be “effigies of marine (?) animals” (Mason et al. 1993:158–160, Figure 52), the most notable, specimen #82034, shows a roundish head and an “accentuated dorsal hump (fin)” that displays some amount of “soft orange/brown ochre.” This ORA-662 piece is unusual for its lithic material, crystalline quartz. Despite the fact that another NCAP artifact, specimen #34207, shows a blunt front end and a humped area, Mason et al. (1993:160) proposed it might have represented some kind of fish. The vast majority of calibrated radiocarbon determinations for ORA-662 fall within the last 1,000 years.

From CA-ORA-667, specimen #26343 appears to have a “dorsal hump (fin?)” (Mason, Brechbiel, Singer, Bonner et al. 1992:76, 78, Figure 29). Its front end is rounded, and the smaller tail end is also rounded. The two other images in their Figure 29 (Cat. Nos. 13928 and 14303) show, they write, effigies “possibly representing fish,” but we would add that one or both could easily have been cetacean mimics.

From CA-ORA-1205, specimen #13748, while not so similar to the steatite effigy of Figure 2, is called out as possibly representing “an orca or a dolphin” particularly for what Mason, Brechbiel, C. Singer, P. Singer et al. (1992:70, Figure 65) saw as a “high dorsal fin.”

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