

# Aboriginal Woman Wins Art Prize

## New Textile Design

It is interesting to hear that a 48-year old primitive aboriginal woman living at Yirrkala Mission Station at the north-east tip of Arnhem Land, N.T., has been awarded a prize for a design which will be used as a print for summer frocks in Australia, to be released in time for the Olympic Games.



The artist, Mawalan, was awarded £25 first prize in the Leroy-Alcorso textile design competition, and will receive royalties of threepence a yard on all sales.

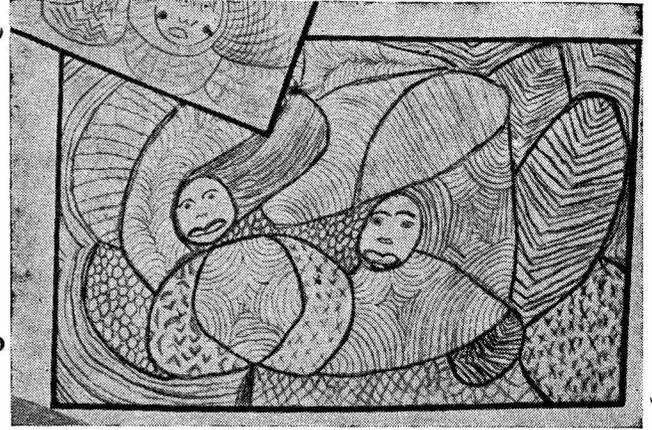
Different examples of this pictorial art are still being discovered, and some are outstanding in design and colour treatment.

Aboriginal art has almost become a craze in the last few years, many white artists practising a kind of pseudo-aboriginal art which is quite popular among people unacquainted with the real thing.

Recent examples of genuine aboriginal art, such as that of Mawalan, show that the natives of to-day have not lost the art practised by their ancestors in decorative cave art and rock engravings, even if they have lost the reasons behind some of the latter examples which have been found in Central Australia.

These carvings are believed by some to have a certain significance regarding past association with the world of the ancients.

The carvings, which are quite a different form to the pictorial art of the aborigines, are of rude circles sometimes alone, and sometimes crossed by from one to four lines, drawn parallel. Sometimes it is a circle within a circle.



These carvings are considered similar to tablets discovered by archaeologists in the old world, believed to be 12,000 years old and to represent the Sacred Four. The Four Great Primary Forces said to emanate from the Creator are represented by circles and lines, the same as these aboriginal examples in Central Australia. This is how they go: First the Creator created Man. Man then became two. The Two produced Three. From these, all Mankind descended.

If this reasoning is correct there may be a link somewhere between our aborigines and the ancient world, either unknown or forgotten by the present day aborigines, for they appear to show no inclination to offer any information regarding this theory.

### NOTES FROM TABULAM

An old and well-respected resident of Tabulam Aboriginal Station, Mr. George Walker, passed away at Casino Memorial Hospital recently. The funeral which was held at Tabulam, and attended by most of the station people, was conducted by Mr. Frank Roberts, of Cubawee. George was well-known in the district for his interest in mining, and his wonderful sense of humour.

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A boy, David Greville, was born to Adelaide and August Torrens recently, while Patricia and Bobby Robinson are the proud parents of Julie Anne, born a week later.

At a service in the station church on 26th August, the Reverend Hilliard baptised David Greville, Julie Anne and little Vondda Baker.