



EDMUND MILNE,

late Deputy Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways, New South Wales, &c.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

MEMOIRS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

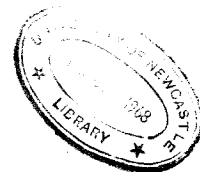
R. H. GAMBAGE, UNDER SECRETARY FOR MINES.

ETHNOLOGICAL SERIES, No. 3.

THE DENDROGLYPHS, OR "CARVED TREES"

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES.



BY

R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR.

DIRECTOR AND CURATOR OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, SYDNEY.

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## PREFACE.

ON the completion of this Memoir, I was afraid its publication would be delayed, if not rendered impossible, from the existing state of affairs. Through the interest, however, taken by the Under Secretary for Mines (Mr. R. H. Cambage), and the Government Geologist (Mr. J. E. Carne), all difficulties were overcome, and my sincere thanks are due to the gentlemen in question for their efforts and interest.

The subject, although touched on in a more or less casual way by several writers, has not, to my knowledge, been treated of as a whole before. It is an exceedingly interesting one, a custom, like so many others practised by our almost extinct Aborigines, of which we know but little. At no distant date dendroglyphs will have ceased to exist; greater, therefore, is the necessity to record what is known of them before they become things of the past.

To one who has now passed away, the appearance of these pages would have been a source of keen delight. I refer to my friend and co-investigator Edmund Milne, Deputy Chief Commissioner for Railways and Tramways of New South Wales, who never missed an opportunity during his extensive travels throughout the State, of increasing our dendroglyphic knowledge. So far as the facts recorded in the following pages are concerned, they must be regarded quite as much Mr. Milne's as mine, and in many instances more so.

R. ETHERIDGE, Junr.

Sydney

June, 1918.

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

Department of Mines,

Geological Branch, 6th June, 1918.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for publication Memoir No. 3 of the Ethnological Series, by Mr. Robert Etheridge, Junr., Director and Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney, and formerly Palæontologist to this Department.

The Memoir deals with the Dendroglyphs, or Carved Træes of New South Wales, and discusses in detail the various types and patterns of curvings, the distribution and suggested significance of these markings.

This, the work of many years, will prove of the greatest value to those interested in the customs and history of the Aborigines of Australia.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH E. CARNE,

Government Geologist.

R. H. CAMBAGE, Esq., F.L.S.,

Under Secretary for Mines.