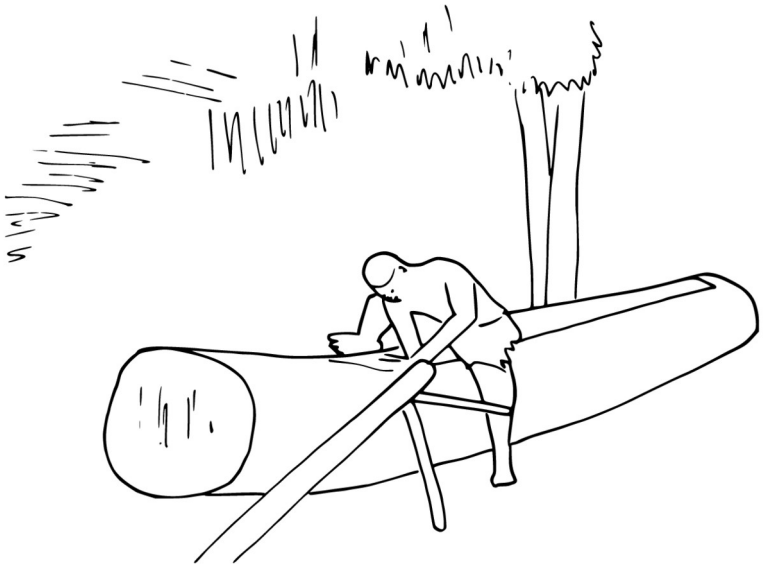


Fig.078 Illustration showing a native man carving a canoe out of a trunk. He might have already marked the right tree for some time and everyone respected his choice leaving this tree alone. When the time comes, he sets to work and with rudimentary tools he is able to make a boat that is much more efficient than those of European colonizers.

Craftsmanship Among the Natives of Lower Asia

Natives make pots by "coiling" moistened clay and then placing inside and around it "pieces of burning wood". The pots can carry a special "wood that smoulder for a long time" and is used for fire or to cook and boil meat and vegetables. Natives also make "netted bags to carry" shells, fruits and roots and "make buckets" of a soft wood that is hollowed out "with a chisel". To build their huts "four posts are erected" and horizontal poles are attached with "strips of cane" before a mat of palm leaves "is placed on the rafters". As sleeping mats are made using bamboo or leaf-stem and keeping part rolled to serve as "a pillow". Bow-strings are made from fibre and are waxed and the bow is "strung" in the reversed position and is placed over a fire. The bamboo arrows have a "fore-shaft" that get "entangled in the undergrowth" when the pig attempts to run and the head has barbs preventing it "from coming out". While adzes are used for "obtaining molluscs and for cutting honey-combs from hollow trees", nets "weighted with stones" are used to capture turtles and large fish. Quartz flakes are used for "shaving and scarifying the skin" and "cutting the finger-nails". A flake is used till its "fine edge" is lost and is then thrown away and another made (Radcliffe-Brown 1922). Above all natives are skilful in building canoes that are credited with "such extraordinary speed" as to distance easily a cutter (Man 1883).