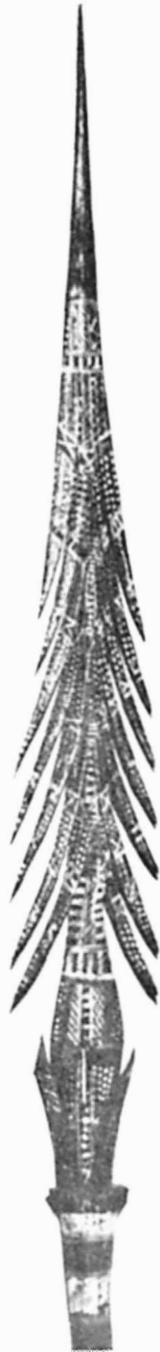


# the art of the aboriginal australian



Ceremonial spearhead, Melville Island.

*In 1973-74 a large exhibition of Aboriginal arts and crafts is touring nine Asian countries. Photographs of some of the works are illustrated in this twelve page section. We reprint below the Prime Minister's foreword to the catalogue of the exhibition "The Art of the Aboriginal Australian".*

"This Exhibition of crafts provides a unique demonstration of the indigenous culture of the Aboriginal people of Australia. I am proud that our friends and neighbours in South East Asia will be able to see at first hand these products of a rich heritage of mythology and ritual. The culture of the Australian Aboriginal is one of the oldest and most remarkable in the world. It has been developed over 30,000 years; it is expressed in a wealth of art and song. I want the rest of the world to experience and understand it. Just as I believe, and my Government believes, that by Australia's treatment of her Aboriginal people will the rest of the world come to judge Australia in the greater perspective of history, so I believe that by these timeless products of an ancient culture will the world come to know and love the values of the Aboriginal people — these proud, serene and gifted inheritors of a pre-historic land."