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Indian Baskets.

Basket weaving among the Indians of California and other western states has been developed into a rare art and some beautiful specimens have been perfected by these people, says Mrs. M. Burton Williamson in the Los Angeles Times.

It is remarkable that these people, without the various appliances of art, should develop an industry that appeals to the most esthetic taste.

As we are aware, collecting Indian baskets as a fad finds its votaries not alone among people of abundant means, but lovers of artistic handicraft will forego many so-called necessities in order to purchase these specimens of the Indian woman's skill.

As a diversion, collecting fine specimens of Indian basketry requires more taste, critical acumen and knowledge of what should constitute a "choice specimen" than the average person would conjecture. Dr. J. W. Hudson, who lived for 20 years near the Pomo Indians in Mendocino county, California, and made a rare collection of their basketry, says there are "10 graded rules" the basket expert must be cognizant of if he, or she, would obtain the best samples;

these are: "Weave, symmetry of outline, of stitch, or thread, delicacy of thread, material, pattern, ornamentation, general effect and size."

We are beginning to see that the finest products of basketry are the outward expression of admiration of beauty in the heart of the weaver. Nature revels in variation, so these simple children of nature unconsciously follow in her lead and give textile expression in endless patterns of basketry. For adepts in discerning and collecting baskets tell us there are no duplicates.

Besides furnishing her own pattern—being limited only by tribe distinctions of technique and ornamentation—the Indian woman must needs collect her own material, searching the woods, mountains and canyons for the particular plant her fastidious taste requires for her own creation, whether these be Sitka spruce, three-leaf sumac, willow, tule or other plant.

We are also surprised to learn that the finest specimens of basketry was not made for barter and exchange, but for the delight of the maker.

The expert specializes in judging the merits of a basket, while the novice mere-