

# Historic Metal Plummet Pendants

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## HISTORIC METAL PLUMMET PENDANTS

John M. Goggin

Contact between two different cultures often results in one losing many of its distinctive features. Less common, but occurring sometimes in the field of technology, is a cross-fertilization of ideas resulting from the impact of new materials and new techniques. This often happened in Florida when the Europeans had contact with the Indians. One interesting result can be illustrated.

A distinctive artifact type of aboriginal Florida was the plummet form pendant. It was usually made of local materials, such as limestone, coral, and shell, as well as from exotic stones like quartz, pumice and various metamorphic rocks. During one early period, at least, the Santa Rosa-Swift Creek, when copper was being traded into Florida in abundance, that metal was extensively used for making plummetts at Crystal River.

Many hundreds of years later, in the sixteenth century, when the Spanish introduced metal, it was eagerly used again, and stone forms were copied in gold, bronze, lead, and copper. Figure 1 illustrates various types of these ornaments found in the middle and southern part of the state.

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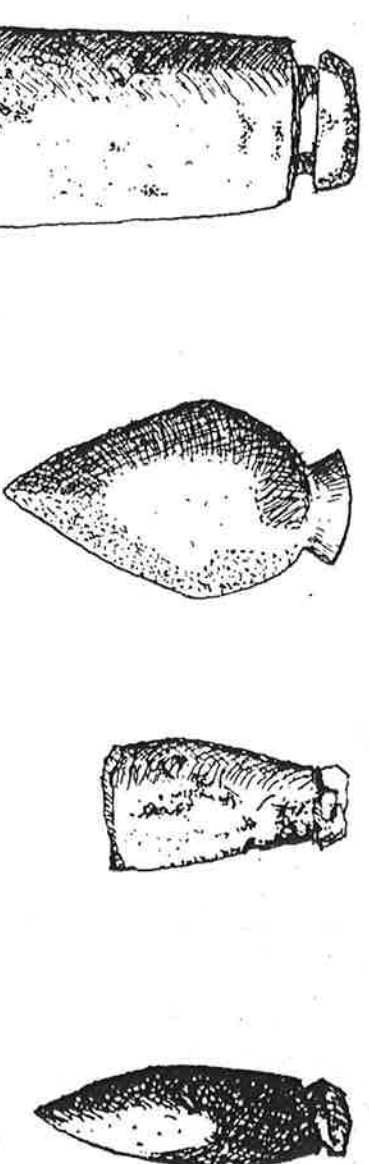


Fig. 1. Metal Plummet Type Pendants (approximately full size). A, West Apopka (La 62), gold (American Museum of Natural History, 1/4662); B, Seven Oaks (Pi 8), bronze (Florida State Museum, 2850); C, Punta Rassa (L 7), copper (University of Pennsylvania Museum); D, Punta Rassa (L 7), lead (University of Pennsylvania Museum, 8229). Drawings by Ted Davidson.