

NC 0010

Miwok Single-rod Bottleneck

I first saw slides of this basket about 10 years ago. At that time it was owned by a friend of the person who sent me 35mm slides of it, asking me my opinion of the piece. They had told the photographer that the basket came from the Jackson area, which is where the photographer lived. I saw no reason to doubt their claim that the basket was from Jackson. The basket (at that time) still had remnants of the braid-like rim finish that is so distinctive of many of the Jackson area baskets. I believe that the background material is split bull pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) branchlets. The pattern is dyed bracken fern root. Bottleneck baskets were seldom made by the Miwok, and those that were made were late copies of Western Mono or Yokuts forms. I'd suspect that your basket mostly likely dates from the 1900-1930 period. If it was made before 1900 (for which there was no documentation for this basket ten years ago), I would not think it was made before 1890. There are very few Miwok-made bottlenecks and, curiously, most of them are in collections made near Jackson, rather than at the southern end of Miwok territory as one might suspect.

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