

A
PROPER
GUIDE
TO THE
CONSTRUCTION

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION
OF
**DEEP WATER
SHADOW NETTES**

WITH
ILLUSTRATED GESTURES
AND
STANCES FOR FISHERS

H. DEXTER, HAMILTON & CO.
General Agents for the Publishers,
113 NASSAU STREET.

An Instructional Book.

*A Proper Guide to the Construction,
Maintenance, and Operation of
Deep Water Shadow Nettes
with illustrated
Gestures and Stances for Fishers*

TO BEGIN

THE FIVE PRECEPTS

1. Locate and Assemble the pieces of the Dredging Nette as instructed.
2. Stand at the cliff's edge and light the flame.
3. Cast out your shadows.
4. Project a chaste self, free of the seven temptations of the enemy.
5. Conduct yourself nightly thus, and remain chaste, regardless of the vileness and filth of your sin.

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Section One.

The Shadow Nette is a traditional fishing rig used to lure deepwater prey into shallower waters whereafter they are culled or captured by Coastal Fishers.

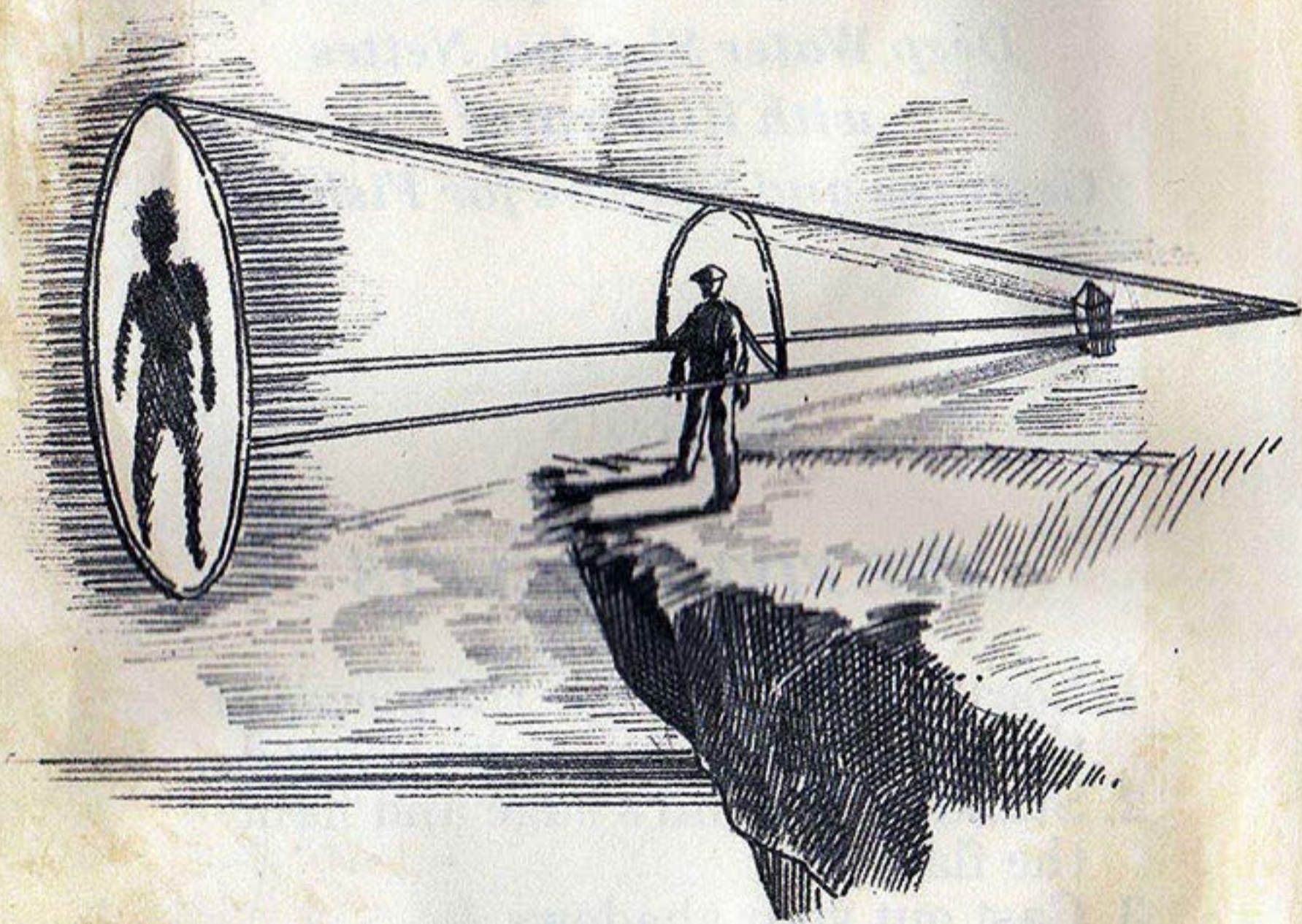


FIG. 1.- MAN WEARING SHADOW NETTE.

The rig itself is strapped to the fisher's body with a leather harness, and is carried horizontally, or floated vertically.

The lightweight device consists of a frame, a shadow screen and a source of illumination. The frame is constructed from hand cut branches of kiln-dried

Section One.

willow that are shaped and fitted with biscuit joints of hard wood. The connections are firmed up with leather strapping*.

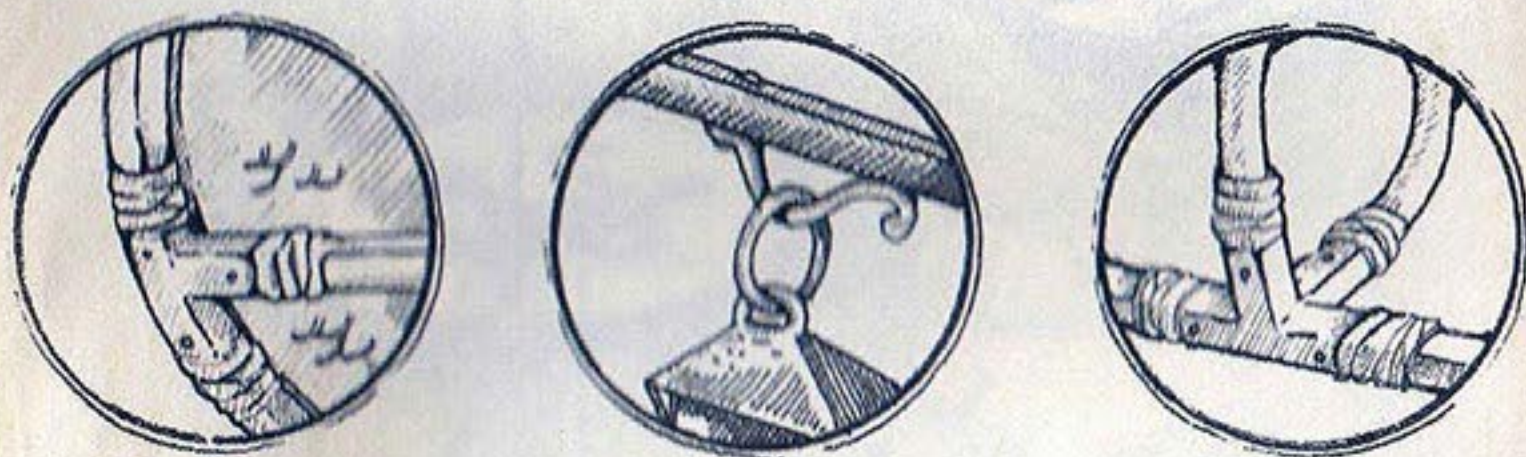
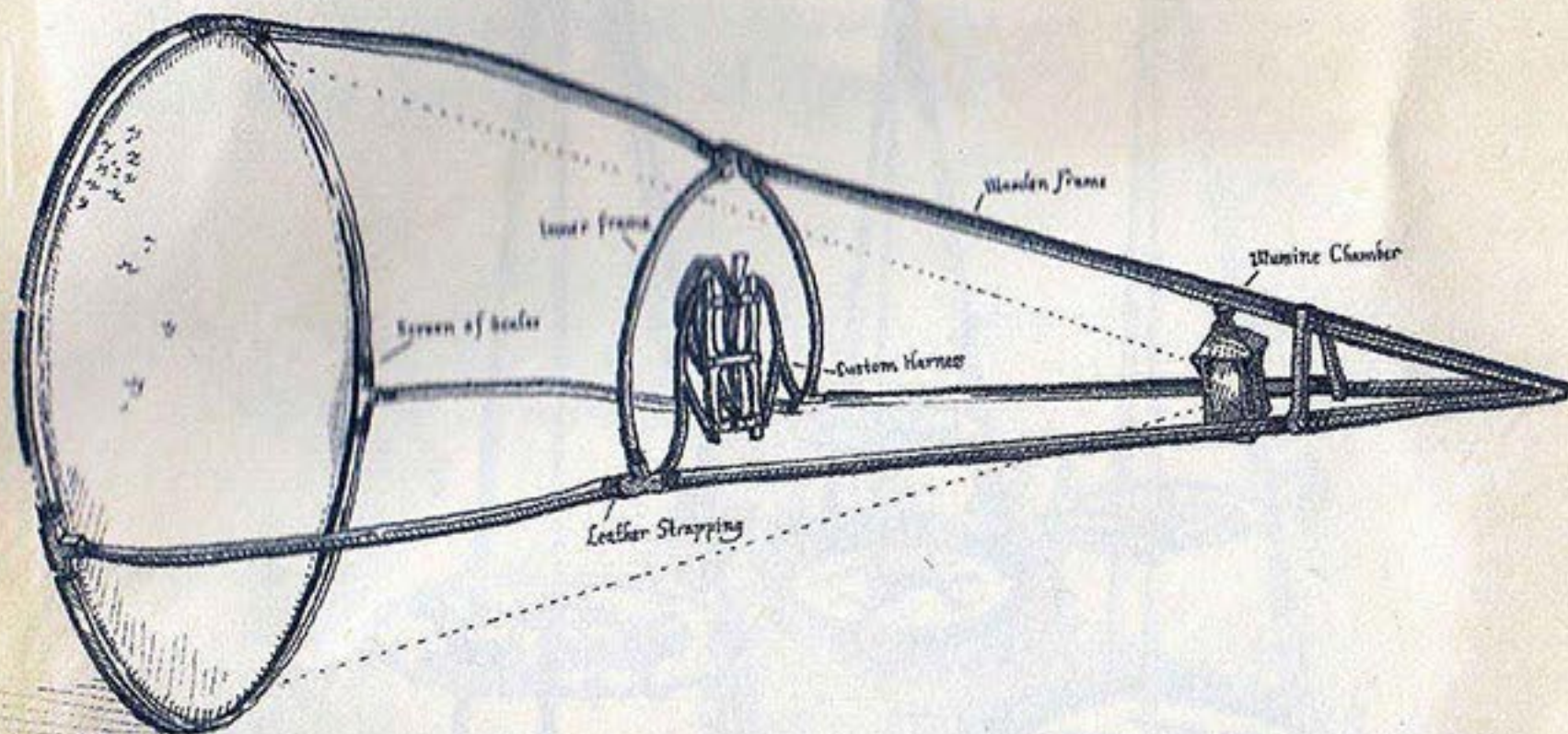


FIG. 2.- SHADOW NETTE DEVICE.

The rig is attached to the fisher at mid-frame, where the weight is distributed equally. A carrying harness is custom fitted and bound to the fisher at the shoulders, the waist, and an optional forehead strap.

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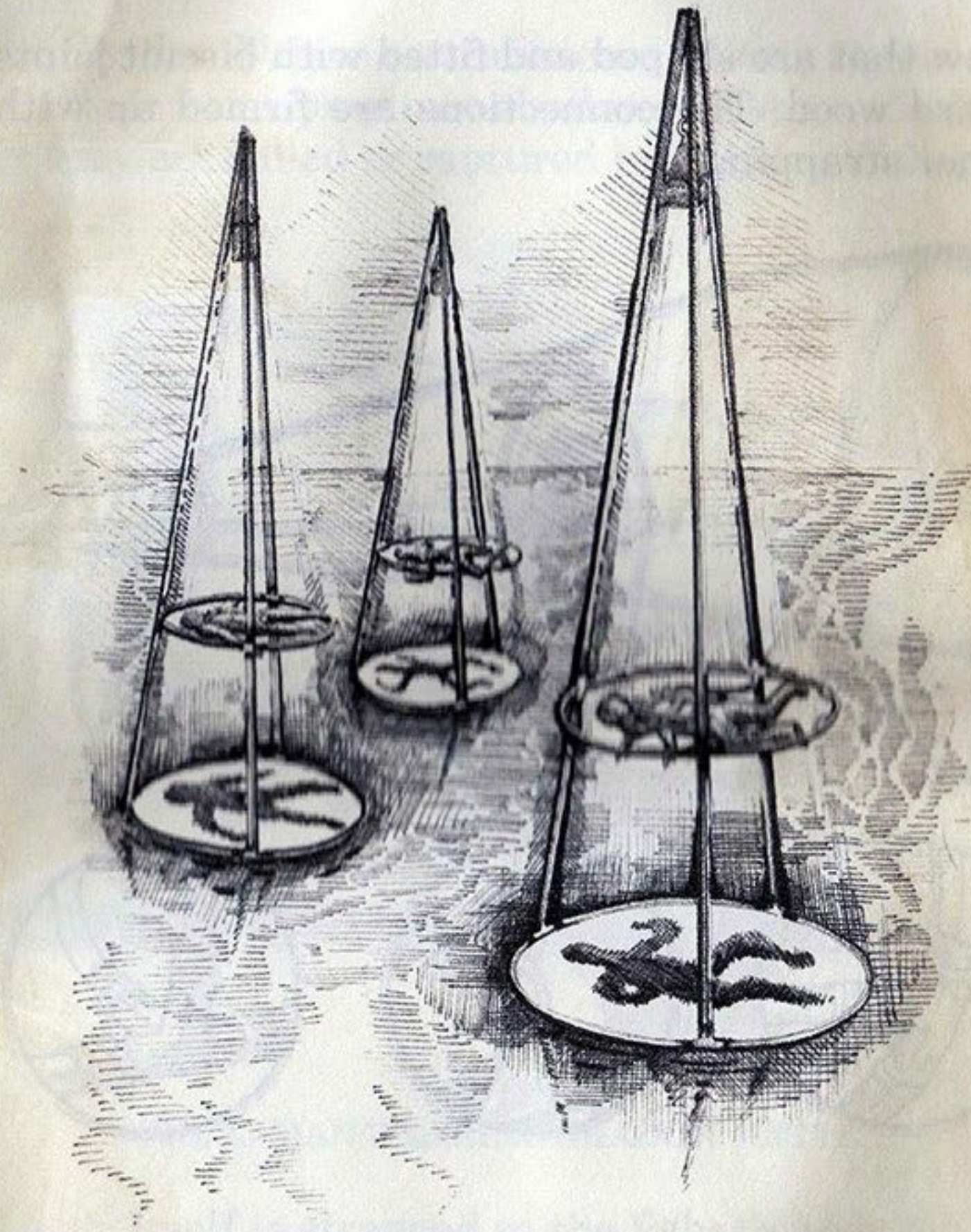


FIG. 3.- USING SHADOW NETTE HORIZONTALLY.

Stirrups are also used for the fisher to assume horizontal gestures, when the Shadow Nette is floated in an upright vertical position. These stances are normally used for night floating and trawling.

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At the rear of the frame, behind the carrier, is the Lumen Chamber, that houses the source of light and two lenses that focus the projected light upon the screen. Light is procured from the burning of a large wick made from either horsehair or moss impregnated with fish oil (Oil of Herring).**

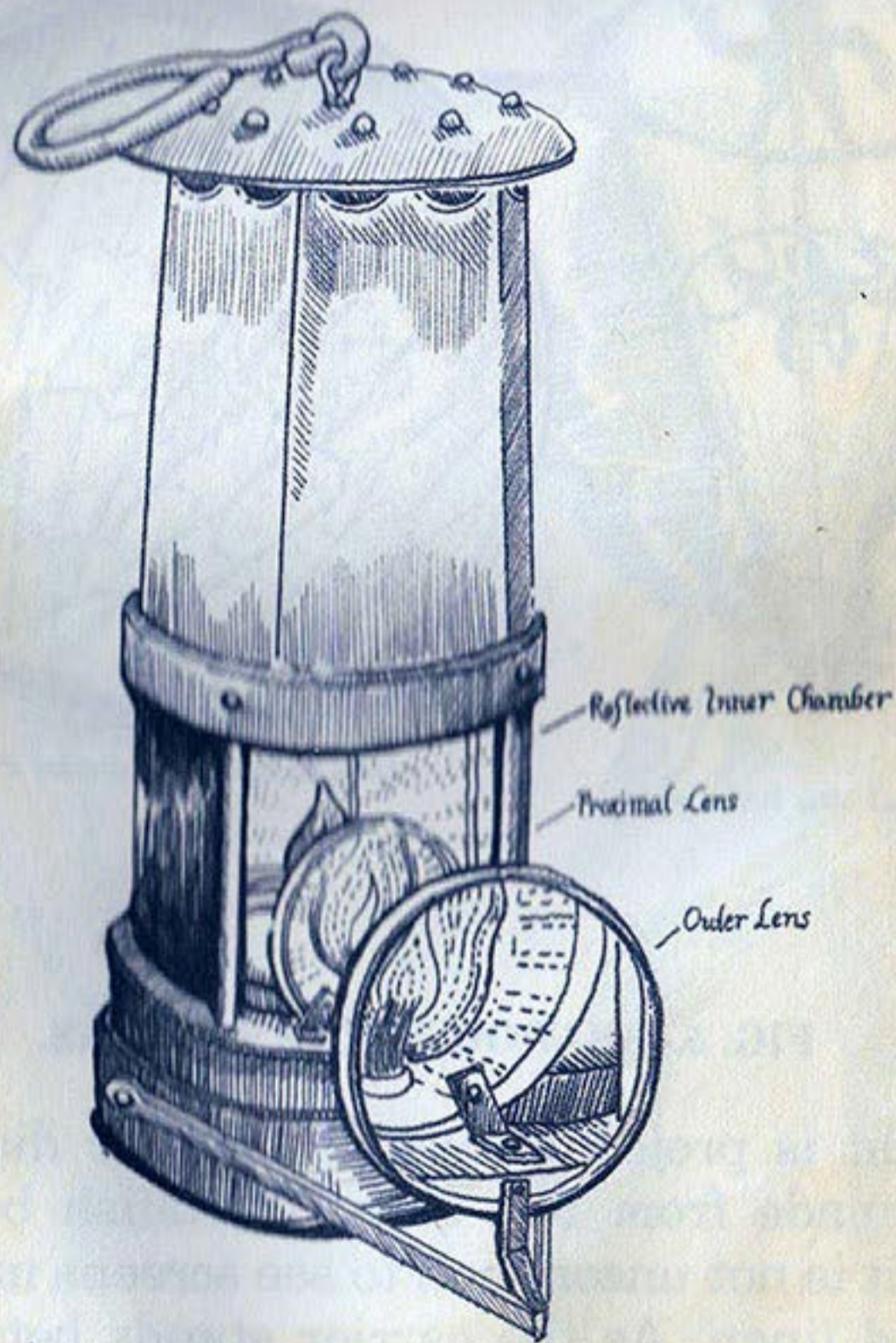


FIG. 4.- SHADOW NETTE ILLUMINATION.

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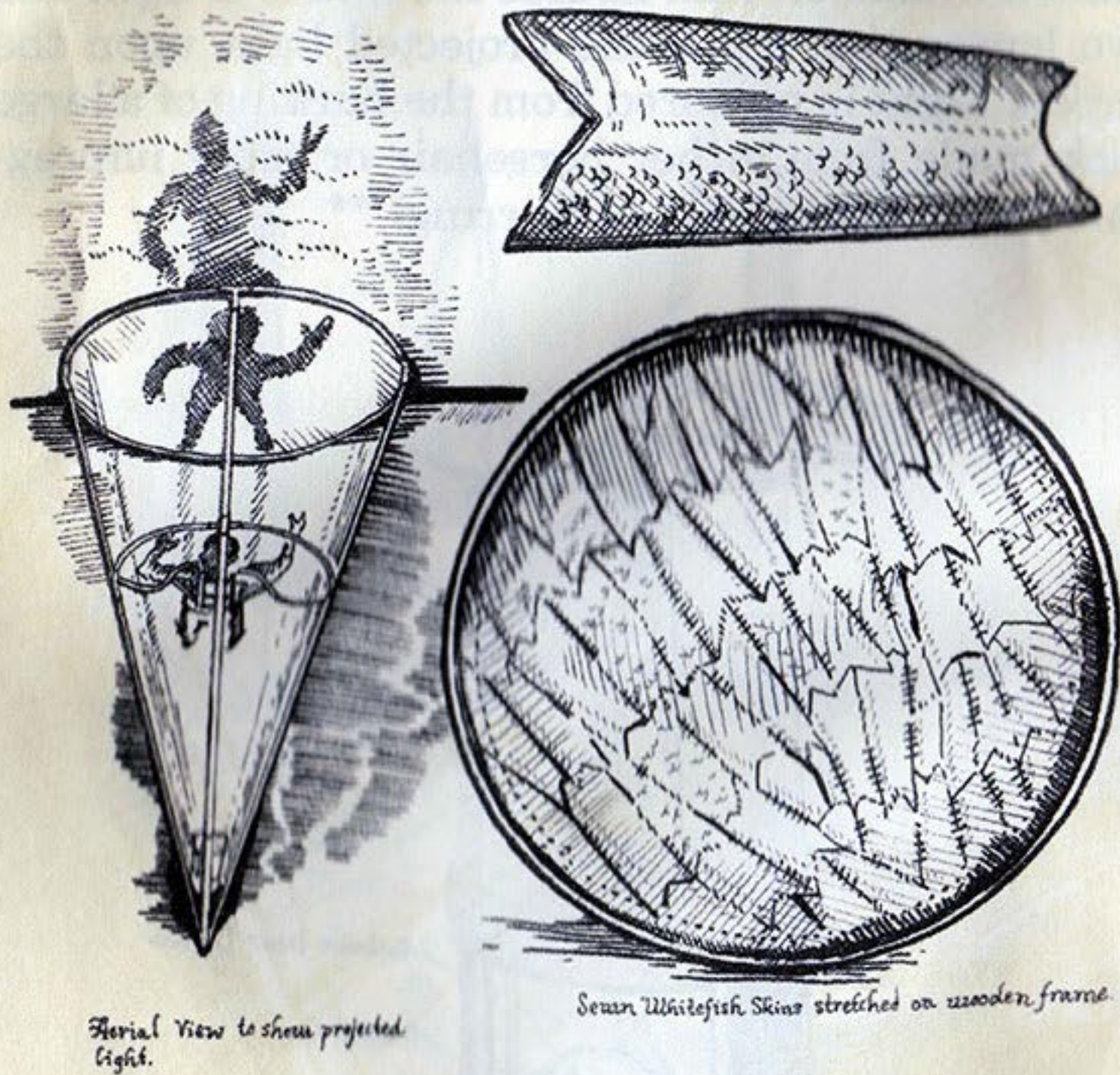


FIG. 5.- SHADOW NETTE SCREENS.

The light is projected upon a circular diaphanous screen made from fish skin. Whitefish being preferred, it is not uncommon to see screens made from bleached linen. As the carrier stands between the light source and the nette, his image is cast upon it.

Section Two.

Included in this booklet is a field guide of gestures and movements for the fisher to create a wide variety of shapes. Each pose has a corresponding choreography designed to target specific prey. Although these movements are based on original figurative shapes found in early drawings and nautical diaries, many movements are thought to have been lost.

FIG. 6.- SHADOW NETTE POSES.



FIG A.



FIG B.

Section Two.



FIG C.



FIG D.



FIG E.



FIG F.

Section Two.



FIG G.



FIG H.



FIG I.



FIG J.

Section Three.

Although the prey favoured by Shadow Nette Fishers is often human scale and therefore plentiful as a food source, tradition has it that the act of fishing them was originally done for pleasure.

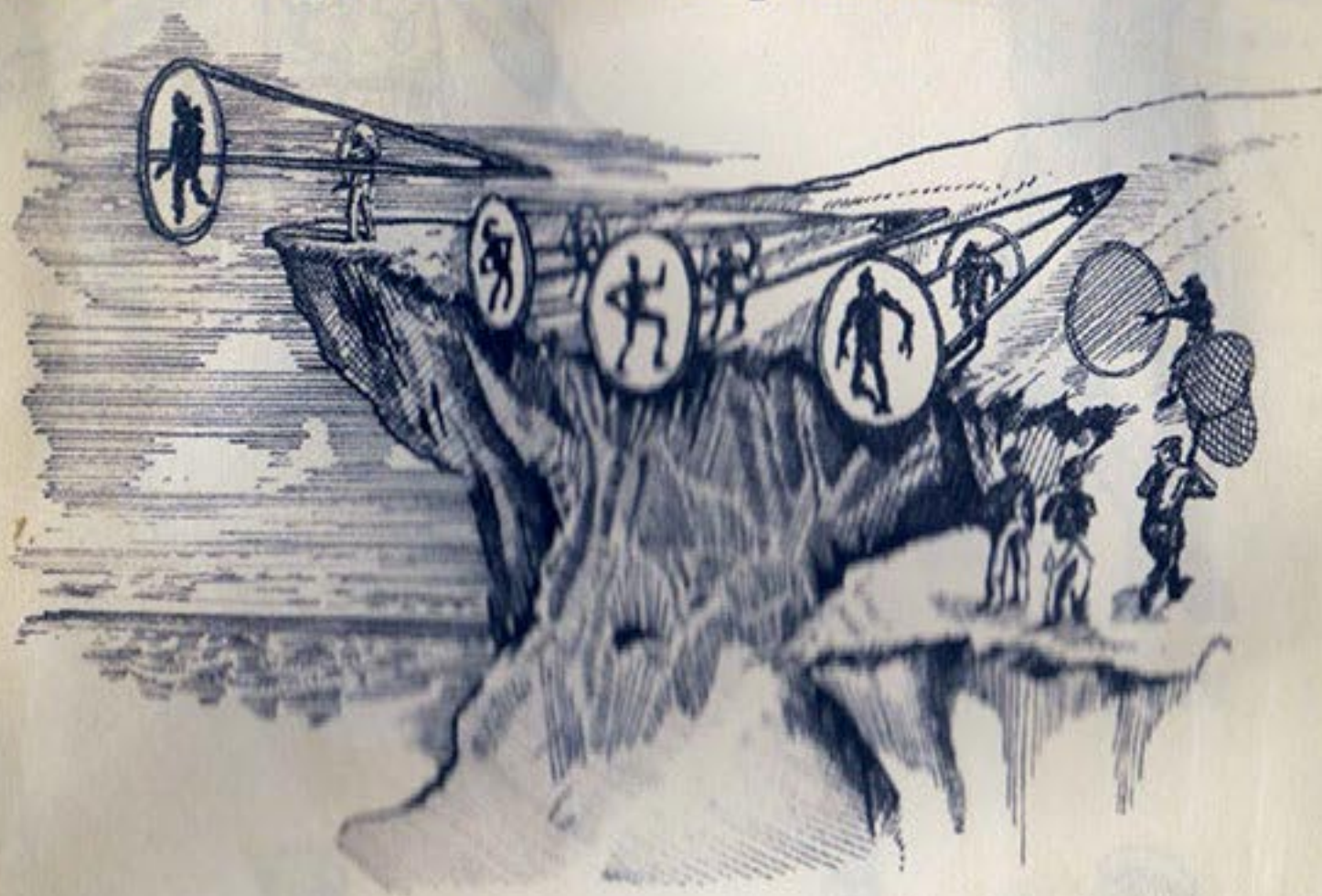


FIG. 8 - WIFMAID FISHING!

The use of Dredging Nettes became popular amongst single men and widowers, and those husbands left behind when the first industrial movement drew many wives and single ladyes to the major cities. It was around this time when Shadow Nette Fishing became known as Wifmaid Fishing. Agents were dispatched from the same industries to gather proof to support stories that the men were 'fishing for a wife', but as no proof surfaced, eventually the stories were written off as completely mythical.

Section Three.

*a version of the Shadow Net exists in the Far Eastern Hemisphere that is made from bamboo and heavily starched rice paper.

**A recent resurgent interest in Shadow Nette Construction has seen the introduction of electric light bulbs powered by a series of leaden batteries. Although less combustible, this modification makes the Nette heavier, and it's usage is the subject of recent debate by the North American Society of Shadow Nette Conservators.

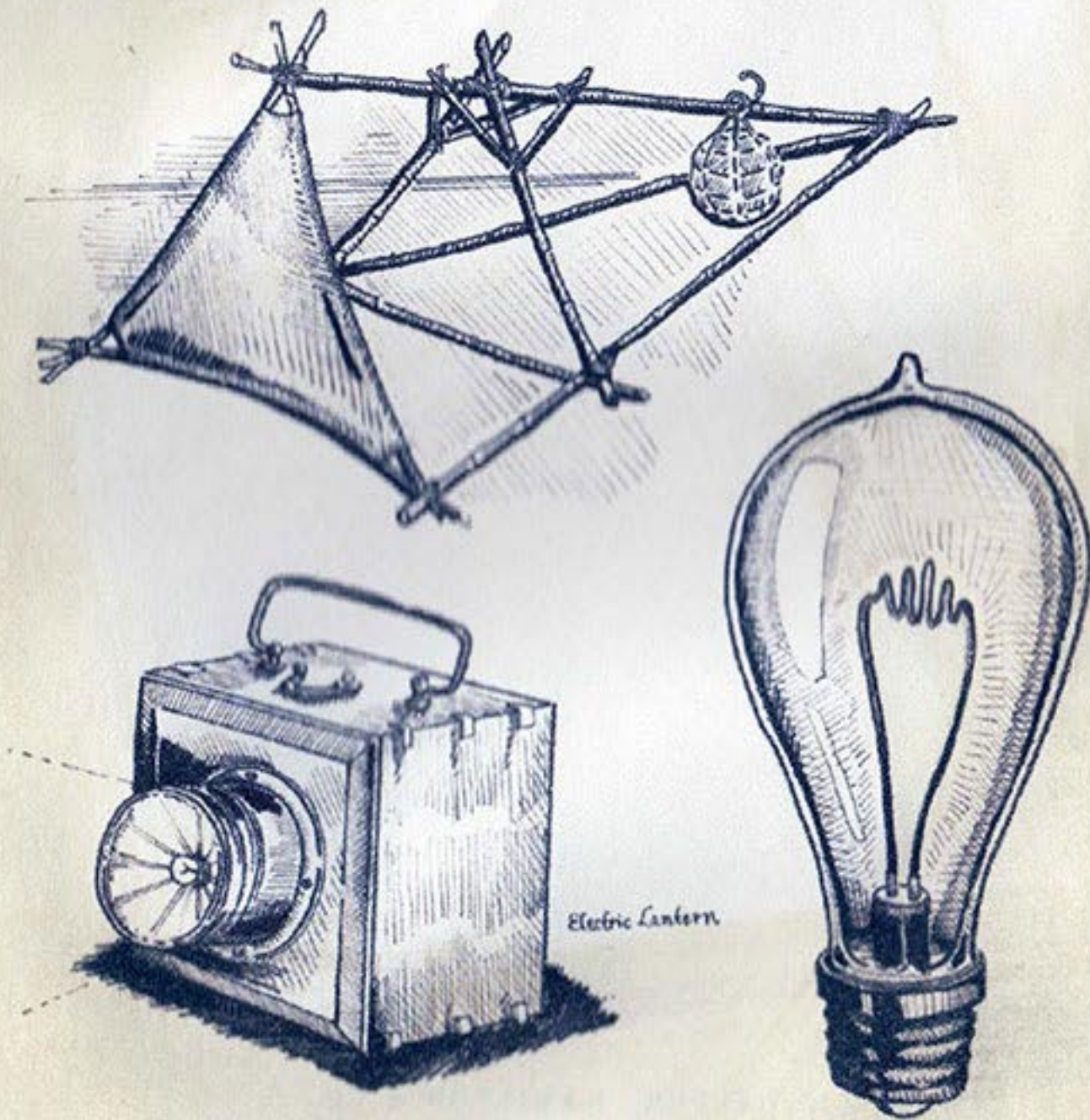


FIG. 9 - NEW FORMS OF SHADOW NETTES.

Many of the less profitable fisheries from the South Huron coast northwards redirected their efforts to octopus vulgaris that became increasingly important in landings along nearshore waters (Fig. 6). A shift in gear was simultaneously observed, from the more traditional clay pots, to new varieties of pots and traps and even some dedicated trawling, mostly employed north of Erie Valley.

Pot Traps differ greatly in materials and decorative detail and some of the variants are shown in Fig. 7. At their apex of popularity, the vessels were bated with fresh meat such as lamprey eel and farm placenta wadded with field grass. Research has shown that none of these methods increase prey-attractiveness of a baited pot over an empty one. Eventually it was discovered that prey were lured into the traps by aroused curiosity and fascination alone. They were often found swimming in circles as if mesmerized, making for an easy cull.

Third phase trap development saw the fishers decorating the interiors, festooning them with attractive objects of bright hue and shiny surface, such as colourful deities, imitation jewelry, and lucky charms.

At the prelude of the Felting Decade, the younger Shadow Nette Fishers quickly abandoned the Pot Trap and Clay Cray methods of their ancestors.

Presently, many clay vessels remain abandoned on the ocean floor. Those millennial fishers still engaged with suboceanic fishing believe the traps contain the souls of drowned wifmaids that fled the cities during the Post Industrial Age, the Years of Abandonment.

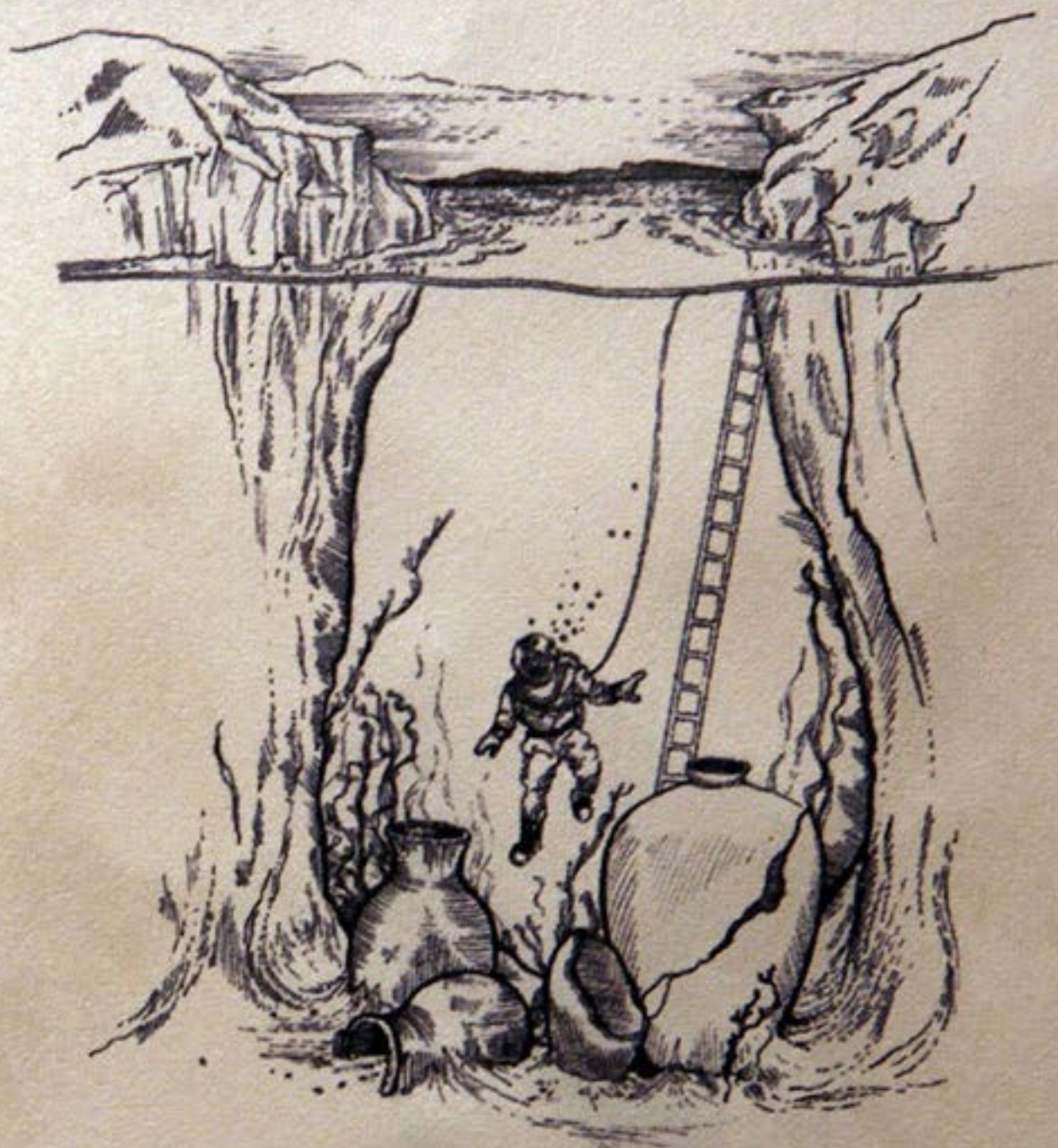


FIG. 8.-CLAY CRAYS AND POT TRAPS

These millennial fishers believe that if a pot trap is brought to the surface and dried to the air, the sound of the expanding fissures of the broken pots mimic the song of the siren, the wantone, and the wail of the birthing frale as she gains her freedom and independence.