

A

ENT.

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

16-21

No 8177

Country

Br. Guiana

1-15

People

Locality

Name

Fire sticks used in

Collection

producing fire  
Quelch - Tch. N. G. E.  
(over)

Where Placed

3 in Hall 16

- Balance Ex Storage

Notes

12 Sent Nat. Mus. Wash. ex.

(1-5, 8-12, 14, 15)

Acc, 757, April, 30, 1901

ac.

14

12 Exchanged 1901  
3 ex 1918

Cat# B177/1-15.

Fire seldom has to be made anew as it is always kept burning in the houses and smouldering brands are carried on journeys.

When required, fire is generally made today by striking jasper and steel or by the friction of two pieces of wood. The latter was doubtless the primitive method. Different kinds of wood are used by different tribes, but the essential factor is that the woods shall be of different degrees of hardness. A stick of soft wood is taken and a small pit dug in it through which a groove is made encircling the stick. This is put on the ground, pit upwards, and held in position by the foot. Another stick of harder wood is taken, the lower end rounded and rested in the pit of the first stick while the upper end is held between the palms of the hands. This stick is twirled by rubbing the palms to and from with a downward pressure, the friction of which causes heat to be engendered and wood-dust to fall out. After awhile the dust becomes ignited by the heat of the friction and is blown into a blaze.