



Fig. 2.1 'Clubs, Boomerangs, Shields and Lances': Pitt Rivers' scheme for Australian weapons showing forms emerging in series from the centre outwards, from a hypothetical single form (from Pitt Rivers 1875).



Fig. 2.2 'Zulu wooden vessels from the Museum of the Berlin Mission', from Ratzel 1897 (vol. 2), p. 413.

The introduction by Tylor to Ratzel's very richly illustrated volume—containing some 1,160 illustrations—captured the confidence of this late nineteenth-century conception of the study of artefacts (Figure 2.2). Describing the richness of these illustrations, Tylor argued that they

are no mere book-decorations, but a most important part of the apparatus for realising civilisation in its successive stages. They offer, in a way which no verbal description can attain to, an introduction and guide to the use of museum collections on which the Science of Man comes more and more to depend in working out the theory of human development. Works which combine the material presentation of culture with the best descriptions by observant travellers, promote the most great object of displaying mankind as related together in Nature through its very variation.

Tylor (1896: v)

Tylor contrasted biological and linguistic approaches to 'the classification of peoples' with the 'fuller though less technical treatment of the culture-side of human life': 'the material arts of war, subsistence, pleasure, the stages of knowledge, morals, religion, may be so brought to view that a compendium of them, as found among the ruder peoples, may serve not only as a lesson-book for the learner, but