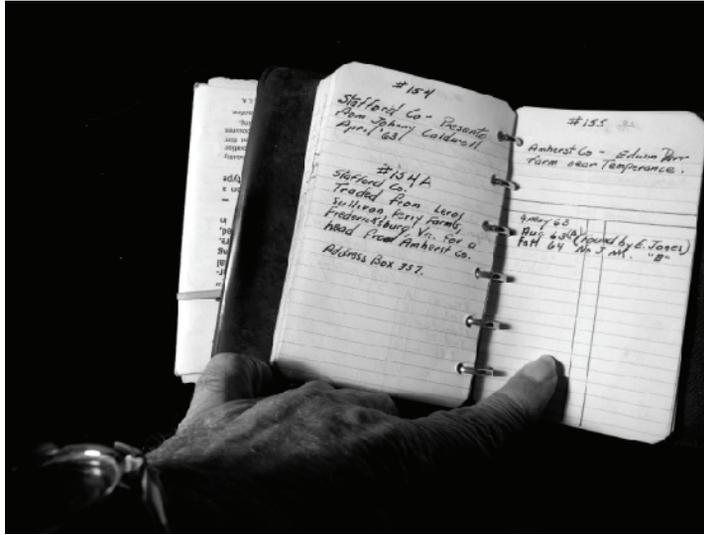


**Prehistoric Projectile Points
Found Along the
Atlantic Coastal Plain**



Example of Collector Keeping Notes (Selvage Collection)

**Prehistoric Projectile Points
Found Along the
Atlantic Coastal Plain**

Third Edition

Wm Jack Hranicky RPA



Universal-Publishers
Boca Raton

*Prehistoric Projectile Points Found Along the Atlantic Coastal Plain:
Third Edition*

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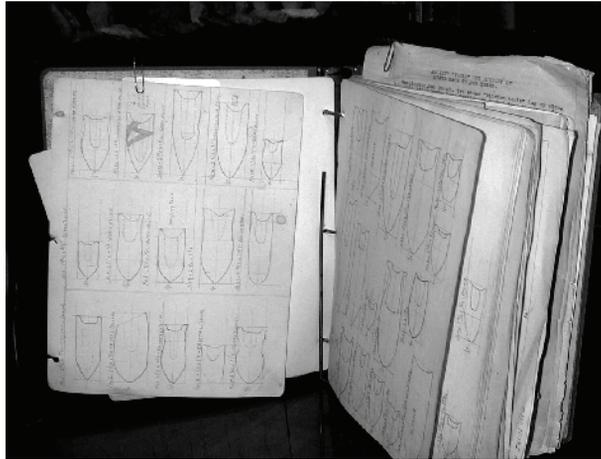
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In Dedication To:
Arthur Robertson

who was the first president of the Archeological Society of Virginia. He collected everything, but mostly prehistoric artifacts from Mecklenburg County, Virginia. His collection has been preserved at the MacCallum More Museum and Gardens in Chase City, Virginia. The collection has been a tremendous study-aid collection for the author.



Arthur Robertson's Notes. He kept meticulous notes on all his finds.

Acknowledgments

The author thanks all the state archaeological societies that he has been associated with for the past 40 years. Their members have greatly assisted the author in learning projectile point types and distributions. Additionally, thanks to the professional archaeological societies for holding all those professional conferences from which the author managed to learn the professional attitude and requirements in studying artifact collections around the country. Special thanks to the National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, San Diego Museum of Man, Jefferson Patterson Museum Park and Museum, and various state archaeological agencies for their assistance in finding study materials for this book and other previously published books. Additionally, thanks to the members of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. and the Archeological Society of Virginia for their long-time support and contributions.

For prehistoric information, the author thanks all the state societies for their quarterly journals on archaeology. The Society for American Archaeology's *American Antiquity*, the American Anthropological Association's *American Anthropologist*, and the Eastern States Archeological Federation's *Archaeology of Eastern North America* were valuable tools in researching projectile point typology.

Foreword note: Wayne E. Clark ... a long time friend, who back in the 1970s was a graduate student with me at American University in Washington, DC. We studied under the great Dr. Charles McNett. McNett's students hold numerous archaeological positions in eastern archaeology.



(University of Florida)

The Americas' oldest known artist may have been an Ice Age hunter in what is now Florida, according to an anthropologist who has examined a 13,000-year-old bone etching.

Discoverer and local fossil hunter James Kennedy only recently (2009) noticed the image after dusting off the bone, which had sat under his sink for a few years.

The carved bone, which depicts a walking mammoth (detail of the bone at top), was found near Vero Beach in east-central Florida.

"I literally went on the assumption that [the carving] was a fake," said Barbara Purdy, who was later convinced of its authenticity after the bone had passed a barrage of tests by University of Florida forensic scientists.

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From North Carolina, this is John White's drawing from which Theodore de Bry made this engraving in 1590. It has become a classic illustration in the Middle Atlantic area.

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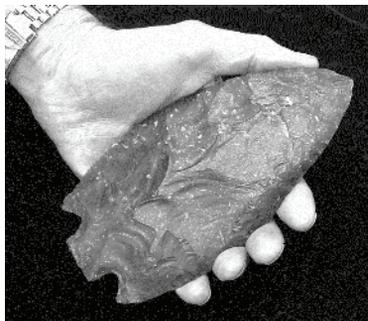
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Adena (Robbins) Point from Delaware. It is made from Knife River flint which is found in the Dakotas. It shows long-range travel for both a technology and its material (see Thomas 1970 and 1976).



Artifacts are put into cultural contexts, not into neat little type boxes.

Foreword

Fifty plus years ago John Witthoft (1953) applied names to formal projectile point types and started a process in Eastern Atlantic archaeology of defining the great diversity of bifacial styles manufactured over thousands of years by a variety of American Indian societies. With each successful detailed site excavation, regional survey and comparative studies, new types from throughout the Gulf and Atlantic Coastal Plain province have been defined, debated, accepted or left to wither from lack of professional or popular acceptance. William Jack Hranicky has contributed to this process by defining new point types, publishing regional point guides, and expanding his analysis to include assessments of stone tool technologies, and lithic types from the Potomac River basin.

This new publication expands his projectile point typology summaries to the entire Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains from Florida to Maine/Canada. The analysis bridges the traditional culture areas of the Southeast, Middle Atlantic, and Northeast. As our understanding of the complexity and cultural diversity of the archaeological record has evolved, professional archaeologists have become increasingly specialized by focusing research within each of these culture areas or time periods. But as pointed out by the author, Indian interaction along river drainages and along the ocean coast spread style, manufacture and functional attributes as well as actual points that can stump the best experts when viewed from a local perspective. This publication is a useful reference tool, a cheaters guide really, for anyone looking at a collection containing a confusing variety of point styles and attempting to assign those points to particular types.

This new summary provides the reader with critical citations to the literature defining original type descriptions or regional type summaries. This is a visual reference, providing you with a picture of a standard type point's shape, sharing some key attributes, and placing the type in a geographic and chronological perspective. It does not provide metrical or other formal type description attributes as such analysis is beyond the stated purpose of providing a subjective approach to typology.

The publication is aimed toward advocational archaeologists and collectors, but it does have ramifications in the professional community. The introductory section provides you with analysis of the various aspects of the coastal area, Paleo-Indian period, blade technology, fluted point surveys, and general aspect of projectile point collections. As he points out, by recording the context and attributes of these early points, numerous interested citizens have greatly contributed to the literature on the important Paleo-Indian period. With the advent of a new century, the challenge of looking for evidence of Pre-Paleo-Indian period occupations has begun in earnest. Advances into understanding the "new" earliest occupation of the continent will probably come from the continued cooperation of sharing new discoveries between advocational and professional archaeologists.

Noel Justice (1987) has become a classic, detailed typological reference for a portion of the point types presented in this publication. His work is focused on well-defined typologies from solid archaeological contexts that have withstood decades of archaeological testing and refinement. In the process, a number of lesser-known point types of importance to culture area studies, were not included in his summaries. Jack Hranicky has included a greater diversity of

Prehistoric Projectile Points

published point type summaries from different regional studies. Some of these types are critical to placing archaeological sites in the proper regional and chronological context. Their inclusion is a welcome addition. Others have not yet been lionized in the professional hall of fame of point typologies, nor is there a juried process for accomplishing such a lofty goal! This report provides you with the classic typology publications that are commonly accepted. It also provides you with less well-known types because these may become the standards of the new century.

Knowledge is cumulative, expands through cooperation and mutual respect of those interested in the past, and changes as new data is shared and published. The dedication of this work to Arthur Robertson, first President of the Archeological Society of Virginia, stresses the importance of archaeological state societies to advancing our understanding of America's Indian past. Jack Hranicky is dedicated to promoting cooperation and communication between collectors, advocational and professional archaeologists. So enjoy this publication as a tool for identification and a platform for greater research. The future of our archaeological heritage is in your hands now and for generations yet unborn.

Wayne E. Clark

Chief, Maryland Office of Museum Services
Maryland Historical Trust



The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) is a state-of-the-art archaeological research, conservation, and collections storage facility located at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in southern Maryland. Nearly 4 million artifacts are curated at the MAC Lab. Almost all of these collections were recovered from archaeological sites in Maryland and represent a priceless part of the State's rich heritage.

The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archaeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted by state and federal agencies throughout Maryland. The MAC Lab also houses a number of major collections acquired through private donation to the Maryland Historical Trust. All of these collections are available for research, education, and exhibit purposes to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators.

For more information on the MAC Laboratory, call 410-586-8550 or send email to: raftery@dhcd.state.md.us

Preface

This publication was written to provide a source for archaeological projectile point typology for a region of the U.S. that over the years has been traditionally divided into:

- Northeast culture area
- Middle Atlantic culture area
- Southeastern culture area.

These divisions are based primarily on lithic technology, ethnography, and settlement patterns. While this focus tends to serve archaeological investigations, most of the prehistoric Indian habitation/occupation requires greater definition and appraisal from other sources within the archaeological community. Even among artifact collectors, there is a tendency to parcel these areas into the classic culture area concepts.

This publication makes no attempts to refocus archaeology, but to show the vast overlaps of numerous point technologies. This is especially true over time; so that, for lithic point technology in general, there is a Panindian focus that can be applied to almost every tool type along the Atlantic Coast.

This publication has become part of the author's national publication which will list most of the type names and their references from the last century. As of major importance, this publication describes eight pre-Clovis point types. And, it provides insights to blademaking technologies of early Native Americans living along the Atlantic coast.

In accessing a typology for a specific set of artifacts or those for a given geography, there are no published standards within archaeology. The collector world does have a system of evaluating artifacts, namely the dollar value assigned to each type. Even then, both of these processes rely on subjective appraisals for time, culture, artifact condition, and tool function.

The major source for projectile points in this publication (and in archaeology) is private collections. While often lacking in site-specific data, they provide distributions, frequencies, and morphological variations within type populations. Additionally, metrics are easier to obtain than going to museums and checking out specific collections. However, if the private collector does not maintain accurate and complete records on his/her collections, the value of the collection is lessened in both terms of its monetary and knowledge values.

This publication provides most of the published types from along the Atlantic seaboard. Each type has a basic description and the illustration is an ideal point for that type. There is always variation within each type, so the reader should consult other point book references in order to obtain a basic consensus of the type's morphology. A set of point references is provided; these make excellent (and needed) sources for the study of projectile point studies.

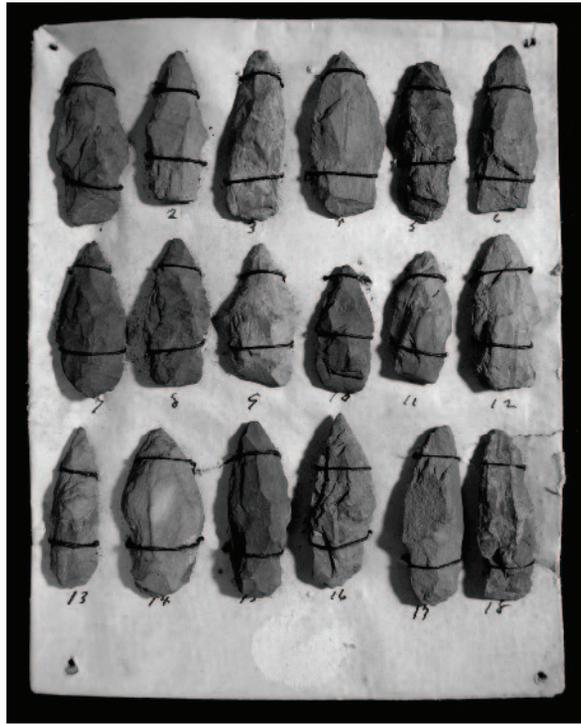
One major addition to the artifact world is the Internet. Ebay and other relic-source websites offer artifacts for sale. This is strictly a buyer beware approach to collection Indian artifacts. Because of fakes on the market, this medium destroys local collection integrity.

Wm Jack Hranicky RPA

Prehistoric Projectile Points



Acheulian Handaxe (200,000 years) France



Collection dating August 4, 1890 from Dirkerman's farm, Priston, Connecticut.

Thomas Jefferson - America's first amateur archaeologist...

"I know of no such thing existing as an Indian monument; for I would not honour with that name arrow points, stone hatchets, stone pipes, and half-shapen images. Of labour on the large scale, I think there is no remain. . . unless it be the barrows of which many are to be found all over this country. They are repositories of the dead, has been obvious to all: but on what particular occasion constructed, was matter of doubt. Some have thought they covered the bones of those who had fallen in battles fought on the spot of interment. Some ascribed them to the custom, said to prevail among the Indians, of collecting, at certain periods, the bones of all their dead, wheresoever deposited at the time of death. Others again supposed them the general sepulchers for towns, conjectured to have been on these grounds; and this opinion was supported by the quality of the lands in which they are found (those constructed of earth being generally in the softest and most fertile meadow-grounds on river sides) and by a tradition, said to be handed down from the Aboriginal Indians, that, when another died a narrow passage was dug to the first, the second reclined against him, and the cover of earth . . . replaced and so on. There [is] one of these in my neighbourhood. . . .

But on whatever occasion they may have been made, they are of considerable notoriety among the Indians; for, a party [of Indians] passing, about thirty years ago, through the part of the country where the barrow is, went through the woods and directly to it without any instructions or inquiry and having staid about it sometime, returned with expressions which were construed to be those of sorrow, they returned to the high road, which they had left about half a dozen miles to pay this visit, and pursued their journey. There is another barrow, much resembling this in the low grounds of the South branch of the Shenandoah . . . and another on a hill in the Blue Ridge of mountains, a few miles North of Wood's gap, which is made up of small stones thrown together. This has been opened and found to contain human bones, as the others do. There are also many others in other parts of the country. "

Source: Thomas Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1787), ed. William Peden (NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1954), pp. 97-100.

Introduction

The projectile point, commonly called the arrowhead, is among the most numerous artifacts from prehistoric America. Its variety, beauty, and style attract collectors, is popular in museum displays and, of course, a major topic in American archaeology. Each projectile point tells a history of someone who lived, in some cases, 10,000 years ago. When each point story is combined using scientific methods in archaeology, a history can be composed about early Americas. These people migrated into the Americas around 30,000 to 25,000 years ago, and through the eons, migrated to all parts of this continent.¹ Regardless of the entry date, these early Americans developed into the Indian culture which was found by early European explorers. Within this culture, while overall it is Panindian, there are regional variations that are basically tied to environmental adaptations (Figure 1). When this culture is coupled with linguistic variations – there is *the Indian* and there are Indians.

Figure 1 – Clovis/Cumberland found at Point of Rocks, Maryland in the 1950s

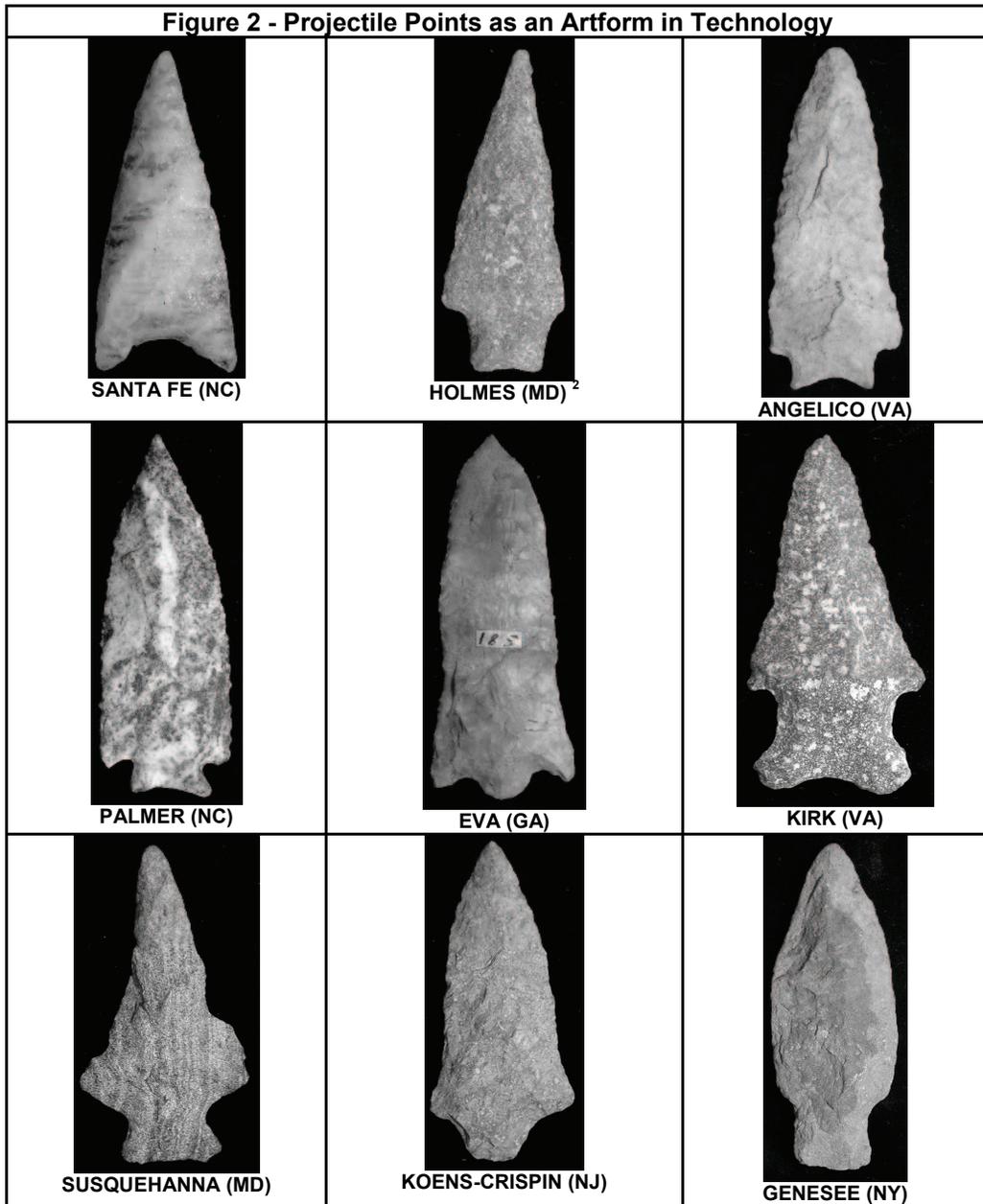
Their culture started with a nomadic lifestyle and came down to a sedentary village lifestyle. Their food sources started with hunting megafauna and changed to stable food supplies via horticulture. Their culture became socially/politically/religiously complex and multilingual. No country in the world has more prehistoric languages than found in the United States. Within this culture, they invented the axe and celt, bow and arrow, and numerous tools which they used for their daily livelihood. The atlatl (spearthrower) was brought into the New World. This tool is found all over the prehistoric world and was used against the Spanish in their first invasion of Mexico. Furthermore, the tool/weapon was present at Contact for the Atlantic coast.



This publication discusses and illustrates one form of Indian technology – the projectile point (Figures 2 and 3). The point, which is basically a biface, is only one tool found in the prehistoric toolkit. Other tools include scrapers, axes, drills, celts, perforators, shavers, mauls, hammerstones, knives, etc. These tools are generally divided into:

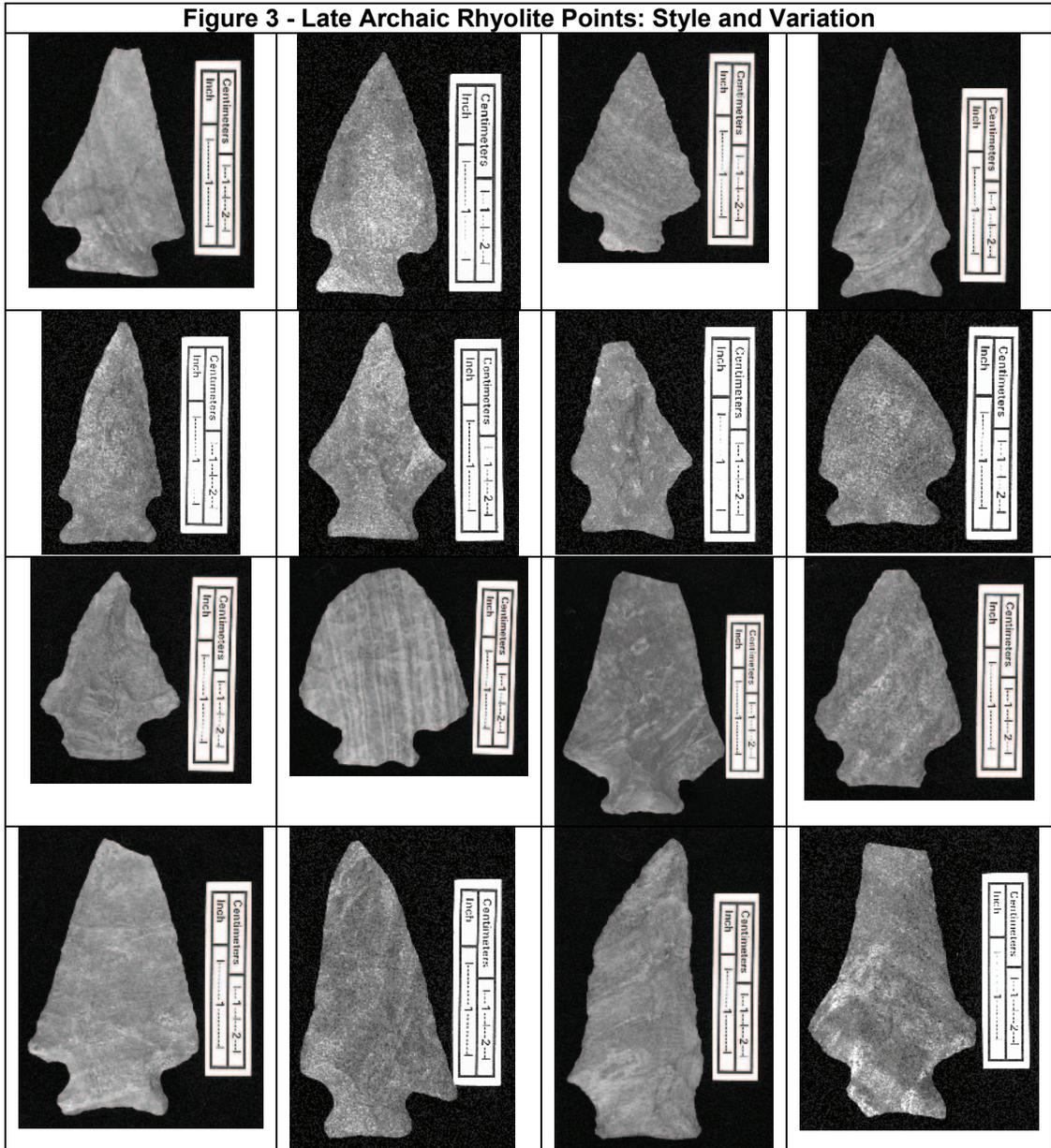
- **Microtools – small tools, such as drills, knives, scrapers, etc.**
- **Macrotools – large tools, such as axes, celts, hammerstones, etc.**

¹ This entry time varies among archaeologists, but sites in Virginia, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania have produced radiocarbon dates which argue for this entry date. On the other hand, South America has dates of 20,000+ years for human occupation.



² Point was named after Smithsonian archaeologist, William Henry Holmes, who worked in the Potomac River valley during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

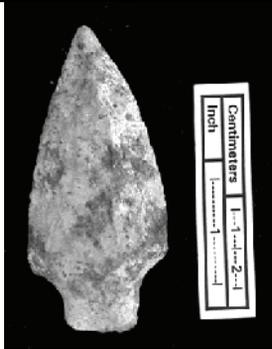
Figure 3 - Late Archaic Rhyolite Points: Style and Variation



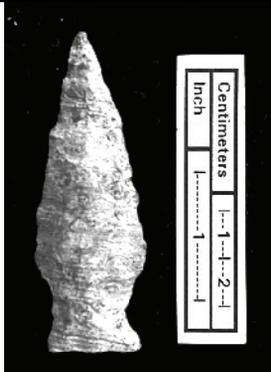
These projectile points are called the Susquehanna type which is found in the Middle Atlantic area. These points are all made from rhyolite, show different sizes, blade reshaping, and minor morphological differences; however, all are easily assignable to a specific type.

Prehistoric Projectile Points

**Plates 1 - Examples of Regional Occupation (Potomac River Fall Line)
Spencer O. Geasey Collection
Myersville, Maryland**



Bare Island



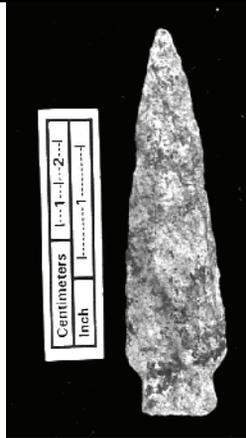
Halifax



Fox Creek



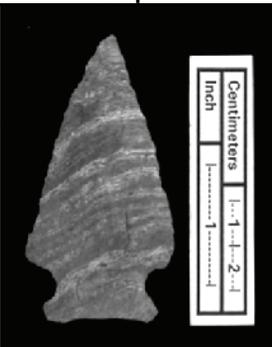
Pequea



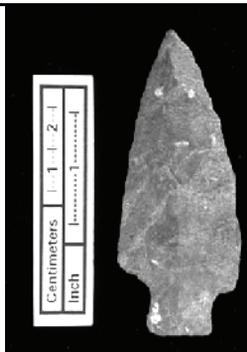
Duncan's Island



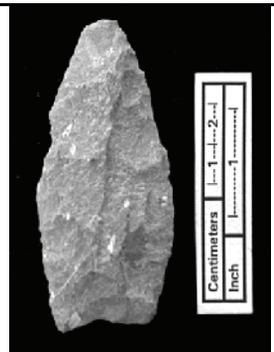
Fox Creek



Susquehanna



Duncan's Island

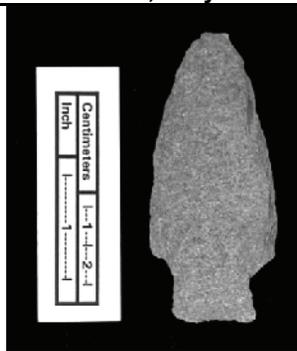


Whites Ferry

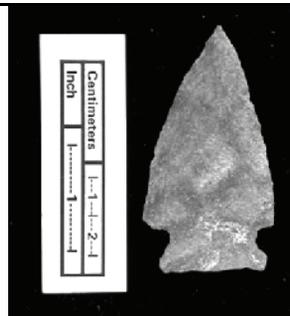
Plate 2 – Potomac River Valley Rhyolite Projectile Points
Charles W. Merry Collection
Rockville, Maryland



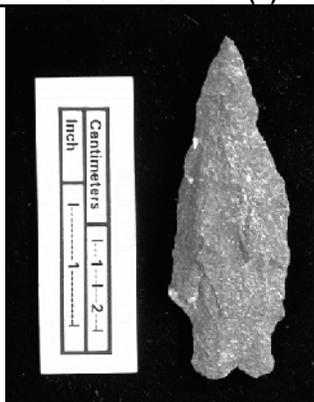
Morrow Mountain (?)



Genesee



Vosburg



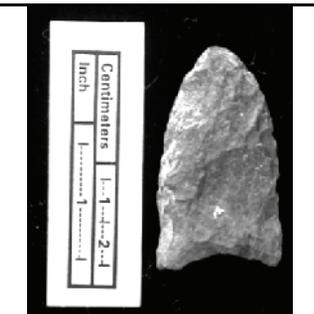
St Albans



Savannah River



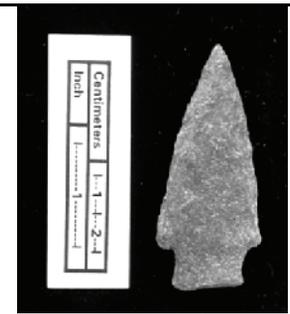
Madison



Clovis (?)

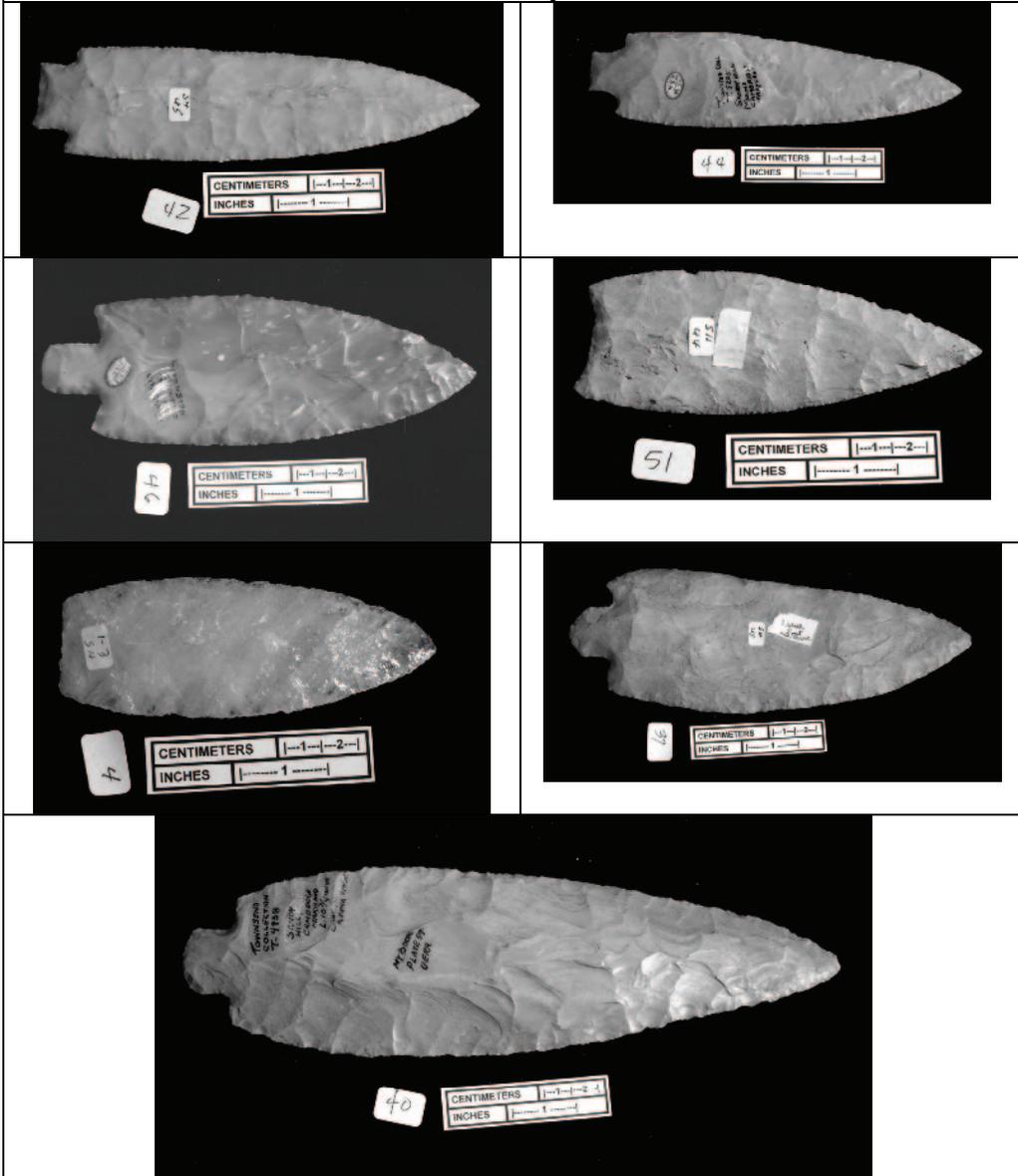


Bipoint



Brewerton

Plate 3 – Adena Artifacts from Sandy Hill, Dorchester County, Maryland
Charles Clough Collection
Easton, Maryland



See Appendix Q.

Plates 1, 2, and 3 are from collectors who assisted the author many years ago getting started in archaeology. They typify the golden days of collecting. Most fields are not plowed any more, and only few artifacts are found in them.

As a microtool, the point was incorporated into every phase of culture. It was used not only for all utility functions, but also was used ceremonially. The point ranges from high-quality to crudely-shaped specimens that might not be recognized as tools. Generally, all stone tools have a natural lifecycle from initially manufactured to expended (throw away) tools. The expended tool is referred to as the process of expention – the cultural process at which the tool was considered useless by its owner. In some cases, a point would be discarded when it resharpened down to 75 mm (example, Savannah River points) and others would continue to use the point down to 25 mm (example, LeCroy points). One of the finest expended points is Clovis, which averages for the East around 50 mm (Figure 4). Archaeologically, large partially used points are normal in prehistory, but surface collectors have skewed these data. Naturally, stone tool breakage was common in the Indian’s toolkit and constitutes the majority of *found* artifacts.

	<p>Point expention is the process of determining when a point no longer served its user. When this stage occurs, the user discards the point and starts the process of manufacturing its replacement (Hranicky 2002).</p>	
<p>McCary Fluted Point Survey Point Number 1002 (Face A)</p>	<p>Figure 4 - Expended Clovis Points</p>	<p>McCary Fluted Point Survey Point Number 1002 (Face B)</p>
<p>³Metrics: L = 30 mm, W = 21 mm, T = 4.5 mm. Flute A. H = 25 mm, W = 12.5, Flute B. H = 22 mm, W = 12.5. It is made from blackish flint.</p>		

Lithic material was always a consideration among the various populations in prehistory. Some groups would travel great distances to obtain high-quality flints and cherts. Other groups simply used field and river cobbles to make their various tools. Material usage and determinations varied over time and space. Still, it was always a variable in their tool lifecycles and curation. Raw material is not a major concern in flintknapping; all skilled knappers can work with any metamorphic or igneous stones found on the East Coast. For example, there is a Clovis basalt point found in Virginia (Hranicky and McCary 1995).

Due to the high number of point types found along the Atlantic coastal plain, the only logical organization for them is an alphabetical listing. Each published type contains:

³ An official report will be published in the Quarterly Bulletin of the Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV). The Survey has published 1055 fluted points.

Prehistoric Projectile Points

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 - Name | 2 - Namer and source of name |
| 3 - Short description | 4 - General type date and distribution |
| 5 - Quote by a specialist or namer | 6 - Major attribute |
| 7 - Reference(s) | 8 - Photograph |
| 9 - Comment. | |

All point descriptions are considered by the author to be valid types. However, some of them may still be conditional types in archaeology. No scale is used; illustrations are shown as representative samples and are not intended to show range or variation of a type. The reader should consult other publications for definitive point type discussions and illustrations. Also, projectile point references are listed in the back of this book. If the reader is intending on becoming involved in archaeology, actual copies of these references should be added to personal libraries.

In 1941, Dorothy Cross' *Archaeology of New Jersey* set the groundwork for naming eastern point types. Within her arrowpoints and spearpoints divisions, she defines numbered types.⁴ They were simply called Type 1, Type 2, and so on. John Witthoft's (1953) *Broad Spearpoints and the Transition Period Cultures in Pennsylvania* started naming points. This would be followed by William Ritchie's (1961) *A Typology and Nomenclature for New York Projectile Points* which set standard typology for the Northeast. And, this would be followed by Joffre Coe's (1964) *The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont* which set standard typology for the Southeast. Other typologies would follow, but these publications are the classic references for Atlantic coastal plain typology and have withstood the test of time. For an overview of point types, see Justice (1987), Hranicky (2011), Bullin (1968), and Dragoo (1991 and 1993).

It's All Archaeology

Finding a few arrowheads offers you the opportunity to become involved in archaeology as a professional or amateur archaeologist. You can become skilled in the practice of this profession by attending college for a degree or joining state archaeological societies where amateur (para-professional) training is often provided. Appendix x lists an example college curriculum. State societies, such as the Archeological Society of Virginia and the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. offer amateur certification. Numerous professional archaeologists started with memberships in state societies. Search the Internet for your state society.

Like the Medicine Man of the Old West, anyone can claim to be a professional archaeologist – almost. When approached by someone claiming to be an archaeologist, ask if he/she is certified and listed in the Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). Even with a PhD in anthropology/archaeology, if this person is not registered as a RPA, then he or she is like the Old West's Medicine Man(Women) and probably full of quackery. You might even ask someone claiming to be an amateur archaeologist if he or she is certified by a state society.

⁴ The division was set at 2¾ inches. This division remains today even though both categories are not flyable on the end of a wooden shaft (Hranicky 2003). Points under 15 grams and less than an inch were probably true arrowpoints. As will be argued, most projectile points served as knives.

And, if you collect, please do not dig on prehistoric sites. You will destroy information that your grandchildren will likely want to know. Appendix H defines public archaeology in the U.S. Appendix K gives an overview of Federal laws relating to archaeology.

Atlantic Geography

The geography covered in this publication is a generalized area from the eastern piedmont to the ocean, namely the coastal provenance. The northern limit is Maine and to the south, Florida (Figure 5). During the early prehistoric years, the Atlantic coastline was approximately 12 to 50 miles further east than it is today. Quite literally, this coast was a super highway that ran north/south on the eastern part of the continent.



Figure 5 - Map Showing the Atlantic Coastal Plain

From Early Indian time to European Contact, the Atlantic coast shows cultural diversity, but at the same time, the total time period shows a Panindian continuity. Paleoindians used the corridor to move northward from the Southeast.⁵ Ceramic technology also spread northward from the Florida coast.

Another set of corridors was the riverine systems that provided drainage from the mountainous areas that created geographical boundaries. While uplands were accessible in prehistoric times, their environmental conditions often restricted human migrations and long-term habitations. As for the Atlantic plains, the north/south path offered a free wing of technology influences, from which technology then spread inland. A classic example is the early ceramic dates in coastal regions versus later dates for the same technology in the mountainous areas.

The maps shown here defines a true coastal plain for the U.S. The northern states were added to complete a coastline study. The interior mountainous areas are applicable when shoreline types are found (or originate) in the uplands areas. The Gulf Coast states are used only if their types extend into the Atlantic coastal plain.

Viewing the Atlantic Coast

Lots of land – most of the study area for Before Clovis into the Paleoindian is under water (Figure 6). This is a vast area which contains numerous sites that would hold keys to understanding early American prehistory. Teeth and tusks of mastodons and mammoths have been recovered by fishermen from at least 40 sites on the continental shelf as deep as 120 meters. Also present are submerged shorelines, peat deposits, lagoonal shells, and relict sands (Whitmore, et al. 1967 and Wylie 1978). These and other large mammals ranged this region

⁵ Clovis technology is argued here, as elsewhere, as originating in the Southeast.