ARCH NOTES

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MONTHLY MEETING

The May meeting of the OAS will be held on Wednesday, May, 20, at 8:00 P.M. in the archaeology laboratory, Room 561, Sidney Smith Building, University of Toronto, 100 St. George St., 2 blocks north of College Street.

Speaker: Dr. F.J. Melbye, Professor of Physical Anthropology, University of Toronto.

Topic: Physical Anthropology in the Upper Great Lakes: A Summary of Research on Skeletal Material from Prehistoric Populations in the Region.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

A New Look at Selected Paleo-Indian Complexes, by William B. Roosa, Waterloo University(abstract of speech in conjunction with an unpublished paper by W.B. Roosa has been compiled by D.M. Stothers. Any errors or misleading statements are solely the fault of the editor).

"An evaluation of data from Paleo-Indian sites in the West, especially the Southwest, and in the Northeast, especially the Great Lakes area, suggests that some of our current ideas about the nature of these early cultural complexes need to be re-examined. The best existing surveys are those of Wormington, Mason and Haynes."

On the basis of reconstructed climatic conditions, many sites of the Clovis complex, which is the oldest well documented complex in North America(dating circa 11,300 years ago) were probably in ecotones or ecological edge environments. Environments at the time of the Clovis occupation probably ranged from desert grasslands through mixed grassland and pinon juniper woodland to ponderosa pine forest.

"Animal remains recovered from excavations at Clovis sites now include: mammoth, camel, bison, horse deer, antelope, ground sloth, Felis

Clovis "kill sites"....are limited to mammoth and possibly bison and horse. Such direct evidence of kills would logically be preserved only in the case of animals too large to be easily carried to camp."

"Based on a very few unfinished Clovis points, it appears that the Clovis fluting technique did not utilize the carefully chipped and ground striking platform which is characteristic of Folsom and several Eastern fluted point types. The rarity of Folsom type fluting on finished Clovis points supports the data obtained from the few unfinished Clovis points".

Careful study of Clovis points from the Naco mammoth kill and the Lehner site points to the fact thatcertain attribute clusters occur on points made of the same material, and these points are usually associated with one of the artifact cluster areas on the site. These attributes and material types are distinct from those associated with other artifact clusterings on the same site. These facts would seem to point to manufacture by different individuals, and if theseindividuals were males each of whom represented a nuclear family comprising 3-5 people, population size of these paleo-Indian communities can be estimated. Similarily, it has been suggested that it would be proper to call them either patrilocal extended families or small patrilocal bands. Thus, on the basis of four clusters involving material and minor attributes at the Naco site, 12 to 20 people would have constituted the band.

The Folsom Complex: "With an antiquity of ca. 10,800 to 10,400 years B.P., the Folsom complex followed the Clovis complex.Strong similarities in basic flint technology, tool types and general way of life indicate a close relationship between the two. It is usually assumed that the Folsom complex developed out of Clovis; however, transitional sites are rare. While the northern and eastern limits of the Clovis complex are not clearly defined, it appears to center in the southwest. In contrast, the Folsom complex extends north and east of the main Clovis area."

"Using a rough estimate similar to that used in reconstructing Clovis environments, it would appear that the Folsom site environments varied from mixed grassland...to ponderosa pine...Many were probably in or near pinon juniper woodland and were probably also in ecological edge environments. Apparently the commonly held concept of Folsom as a plains culture needs to be re-examined".

"Animal remains recovered from known Folsom sites include bison, deer, antelope, wolf, fox and rabbit. Bison occur mainly in kill sites, while the smaller animals show up primarily in campsites. Thus, our stereotype of Folsom as a specialized bison hunting complex is probably inaccurate."

"The Folsom fluting technique is more sophisticated than that of Clovis, being in fact a special case of the ground edge biface technique. It produces longer, wider flutes than the Clovis technique. Many Folsom points were given a very fine pressure retouch after fluting, which is not present on Clovis points."

"Known Folsom sites are much more numerous than known Clovis sites. Many of them are larger. This is partly due to the fact that many Clovis sites are kill sites, while many Folson sites are campsites and workshops."

Northeastern Comolexes--Great Lakes

"In the past few years it hasbecome obvious that there are several types of fluted points in the Great Lakes area. Many writers refer to these as Clovis points or as varieties of Clovis points. After examining points from sites from Wisconsin to New England, I(W.B. Roosa)am convinced that there are few, if any, true Clovis points in the area. Use of the term "Clovis" to designate Great Lakes points is therefore misleading."

"Using fluting techniques, finishing techniques and other attributes including metrical data, it is possible to identify at least four

Paleo-Indian point types in the Great Lakes area. These are Bull Brook, Barnes, Enterline and Holcombe points. Bull Brook and Barnes points have a modified Folsom fluting technique and a distinct basal finishing technique. Enterline points have another finishing technique. Holcombe points are occasionally fluted but are usually basally thinned. All differ from Clovis points in various attributes."

"While it is possible that some of these Great Lakes fluted point types have an antiquity in excess of 12,000 years, a post Valders antiquity of around 11,000 years ago seems more likely for most if not all of them."

The Bull Brook Complex: "The type site of this complex is the Bull Brook site in Massachusetts. Other sites which appear to have the same point type are the Aebischer site in Wisconsin, the Welling site in Ohio, the Potts site in New York and possibly the Greene County, New York, site. The Davis site in New York may also be in this category; however, this identification is very uncertain."

"Bull Brook(and Barnes) points have a fluting technique which is a modification of the Folsom technique. The pre-fluting guide flakes on Bull Brook(and Barnes) points are larger than those on Folsom points. In some cases they are so wide as to overlap, thus destroying or making it difficult to form the striking platform for removal of the large central flute.Thus some Bull Brook points have short double or triple fluting which looks like that on Enterline points. On the better Bull Brook points the two pre-fluting guide flakes were followed by a wide central flute removed from a carefully chipped and ground Folsom type striking platform."

The Barnes Complex: "This complex is known from the type site in Midland county, Michigan, the Dobbelaar site in Kent County, Michigan, and isolated finds of Barnes points in Michigan, Ontario, and New York. The points are very similar to Bull Brook points and probably represent a local variation or subtype of Bull Brook points. In contrast to Bull Brook points, which are usually only partly fluted, Barnes points tend to be fully fluted on at least one face. Some have pronounced fishtails and this plus the long wide fluting gives them a strong resemblance to Cumberland points of the Ohio and Cumberland River drainages."

"It is possible that the fluted point found with caribou bones in Dutchess Quarry Cave in Orange County, New York, is a Barnes point rather than a cumberland point as reported."

The Enterline Complex: "The type site of this complex is the Shoop site in Pennsylvania. The Lux site near Chesaning, Michigan, has also yeilded Enterline points. Isolated Enterline points apparently occur as far west as Wisconsin. The Williamson site in Virginia may also represent this complex."

"On the average, Enterline points are notably smaller than Bull Brook or Barnes points. The fluting technique differs from that used on these points. Whereas Barnes and Bull Brook points utilized two striking platforms for fluting the two faces, the Enterline technique used essentially the same platform for flutinf both faces. Enterline points usually have short double or triple fluting with the central flute(if present) removed after the two side flutes. Fluting on Enterline points is usually not as good as that on Barnes or Bull Brook points. Witthoft's report on the Enterline industry is an excellent description of the stone tools and the methods used to produce them."

The Holcombe Complex:"The Holcombe site and its three satellites are located along a sand ridge in Macomb, County, Michigan. Isolated Holcombe points occur in other areas of Michigan, in northern Ohio, in New York and in Ontario."

"Fittings report on the Holcombe site contains the first extensive publication of the ground edge biface technique and of heat treating in a Great Lakes Paleo-Indian site. It also includes the first good published report on the actual layout of a Paleo-Indian campsite. Holcombe points

were made from biface blanks or preforms which had ground edges in an early stage of manufacture."

"Holcombe points are quite thin(4 to 5 mm) and are usually basally thinned, occasionally fluted. They tend to be smaller than Barnes or Bull Brook points. They do not have the fishtail basal outline often found on Enterline(as well as Barnes and some Bull Brook points)."

The Debert Complex: "To date, this complex is represented only by the type site near Truro, Nova Scotia.Debert points are partially fluted and use the same fluting and finishing techniques as Bull Brook and Barnes points. They are most notable for their very deep basal indentations. In general size they are similar to Bull Brook points and probably represent a localized variant of this type. They have been dated at 10,600 years ago by carbon 14."

"The ground edge biface technique is part of the complex and has been described in detail by MacDonald.....MacDonald's monograph includes what is perhaps the most extensive description of Paleo-Indian chipping techniques published so far."

Comparison of the Southwest and Northeast; "Flintworking techniques in the two areas are very similar with tabular cores and ground edge bifaces being widespread. Tool types are also very similar with many being widespread. Minor differences, many of them probably stylistic, occur in point types. To all intents and purposes, many of the larger, thicker fluted points (Clovis, Bull Brook, Barnes and Debert) are functionally equivalent. They were probably used as spear points and as knives on occasion."

"Drills are unknown in Clovis and are rare in Folsom; however, they are common in some Northeastern complexes, especially Bull Brook and Debert. Gravers are found in all complexes."

"There is evidence that many scrapers were used to work wood or other hard substances. After studying scrapers from both major areas, Wilmsen has concluded that scrapers in the Northeast have steeper angles on the working edge, which he associates with more woodworking."

"There is a wide variation in site size in both areas. In the Southwest there are kill, camp and workshop sites. There are no known kill sites in the Northeast. All known sites in this area are camp and/or workshop sites."

Conclusions: "The use of the term "Clovis" is not justified for Paleo-Indian complexes in the Great Lakes and Northeast. Fluted points found in this area are distinct from Clovis points. From what we know of Northeastern complexes(especially Bull Brook and Debert), they are more like Folsom than Clovis, especially in fluting techniques and general range of tool types."

"The concepts of Clovis man as a specialized mammoth hunter and of Folsom man as a specialized bison hunter are unrealistic. Available data show that they hunted a wide variety of game ranging from mammoths, bison, deer and antelope to peccaries and small game. There are no data to support the popular idea of a specialized mammoth or mastodon hunting complex in the Great Lakes and Northeast. The very scanty data indicate that caribou and deer-sized animals were hunted."

"Environments in the two areas probably had some resemblances. Most Southwestern sites apparently were located in pinon juniper parklands, while those in the Northeast apparently were in spruce or pine parklands. In both areas ecological edge environments may have been preferred camping spots."

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NOTE: Mrs. Astrid Maak of Oakville,Ontario, has set up 2 display cases of Indian artifacts during the past 4 months at various Oakville schools. This month her material is on display at Morden School, Oakville. BRAVO Mrs. Maak-you have set a good example in putting material that is otherwise worthless(if it just sits packed away in a closet or basement)to valuable educational use.