

NEWSLETTER

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

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William G. Haag, Editor

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EIGHTH SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Eighth Conference met at the University of Florida, Gainesville, November 2-3, 1951. John M. Goggin served as Chairman and John W. Griffin as Secretary. The conference was welcomed to the campus of the University by Dr. John M. Maclachlan, Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

First Session, Friday morning.

The theme of the conference -- chipped stone artifacts and their classification -- was stated by John Goggin, chairman of the first session. The establishment of projectile point types by Krieger, and the extension of the system into the Southeast proper by Ford, was outlined. It was mentioned that the Eastern States Archaeological Federation has a committee for the purpose of examining chipped stone typology, but that this committee had deferred action for a year to permit this conference to discuss the problem and report their views.

After some discussion centering on the desirability of setting up named types and deciding on standard descriptive terms, Gordon Willey suggested that the most workable approach for the conference would be to examine the chipped stone content of defined periods. The triangular points usually termed "Mississippian" were chosen for first consideration.

It was the consensus of opinion that it was immaterial whether the system was binomial or not, and that the individual workers should decide for themselves whether they cared to use binomial nomenclature. It was agreed that period names and culture designations should be avoided in the type names of chipped stone artifacts.

To begin the discussion on a concrete level, John Goggin pointed out that there were at least two groups of triangular points in Florida. James B. Griffin mentioned the treatment of variations in shape and modifications in triangular points at Cahokia as used by Titterington. John Griffin noted that a similar treatment of Fisher site points with comparison to Cahokia yielded different norms for the sites. William Edwards pointed out that once different norms were established they had to be considered in terms of time, space, and cultural variation.

James B. Griffin suggested dropping the term "Mississippi" in relation to these triangular points, and Gordon Willey suggested that a series of regional types be recognized among the points formerly grouped under the term "Mississippian".

In order to set up a standard form for the description of such artifacts,, the long triangular points found at the Safety Harbor site in Florida were chosen, and tentatively termed Phillippi Point. The entire group contributed to the following outline, with Ripley Bullen presenting the data from the specimens. The type description is to be taken as an example rather than as a final type description.

Type Name: PHILLIPPI POINT

Outline: triangular, long narrow.

Cross-section: triangular.

Edges: straight.

Base: straight.

Length: 35-55 mm., average 45 mm.

Breadth: 8-16 mm., average 12-14 mm.

Length-breadth index: 4/1.

Thickness: 4-5 mm.

Technique: Fine chipping, apparently pressure, about 4 chips per cm. Both semi-unifaced and bifaced forms.

Material: (gross description).

Color:

Texture:

Mineralogical identification: (when possible).

Function: Presumably served as projectile points; probably bow and arrow.

Geographical Range:

Temporal Range:

Remarks:

Bibliography:

Projectile points with stems, notches, or other features, will need added categories in the form, such as stem, blade, notches, barbs, etc. Only the categories needed will be entered in any particular type description. There was general agreement that the features which set off any type should be noted in the description, probably in the "Remarks" section.

James B. Griffin mentioned several type names applicable to triangular points which Edward Scully has set up. The familiar un-notched "Mississippi" point becomes the Madison Point. Specimens with one notch on each side become Cahokia Double Notched. Ones with one notch on each side and one in the base becomes Cahokia Triple Notched. Cahokia Multiple Notched covers other variations. (Since the conference these type descriptions, as well as others, have been distributed by the University of Michigan). Another name suggested by Griffin is Feurt Serrated Point for the convex based, serrated sided, point of Fort Ancient context.

Douglas Byers pointed out the differences between three kinds of triangular

points in the Northeast and in Dorset. Robert Wauchope demonstrated a series of triangular points from northwest Georgia which seem to grade one into another. One group of these was tentatively given the name Etowah Point. William Haag discussed triangular points from Mississippi. Some of these, and some of the Florida specimens on hand, were felt by James B. Griffin to qualify as Madison Points.

John Goggin mentioned that in Florida the larger triangular points appear to be earlier than the smaller ones, although all are relatively late. Philip Phillips discussed certain points of a late Mississippian context from near Memphis which seem to constitute a type; the name St. Francis Point was suggested by Phillips.

In all cases the individuals responsible for defining the types are to describe them in the form presented above, and the results, with illustrations -- which are felt to be of the utmost importance -- will be distributed through the Newsletter of the Conference.

#### Second Session, Friday afternoon.

The second session of the conference, with Gordon Willey as chairman, considered other types of chipped stone artifacts. A list of the more frequently encountered categories was assembled:

Knives	Celts
Scrapers	Axes
Drills	Gravers
Perforators	Adzes
Choppers	Retouched flakes
Hoes	

John Goggin stated that in his observation retouched flakes were found in preceramic horizons and then skipped to proto-historic and historic levels in Florida. He mentioned scrapers of the Santa Fe Complex, which he feels runs from preceramic into ceramic times, and suggested that for these specimens the terms "side scraper" and "end scraper" are unsatisfactory.

William Haag asked whether it was not the complex rather than the individual types that was important in this instance. William Edwards stated that the type of scraper under consideration was widespread both temporally and geographically, and that he had similar material from Paleo-Indian levels on the Florida east coast.

It was decided to use Goggin's scraper to set up a trial form for this kind of artifact:

Type Name: SANTA FE SCRAPER

Form: (1) ovate modifications of flake, (2) unifaced, (3) striking platform often present, (4) steepened edges.

Dimensions and proportions: 6.5 by 5.5 cm. Thickness: .6 to 2.0 cm. (Form to be completed with categories as in projectile points).

Goggin noted that the section on "Remarks" should explain why the type is separated from similar types. Douglas Byers pointed out that profile description, both transverse and longitudinal, should be included.

Ripley Bullen showed large chipped stone tools from the Johns Island site, Florida. These were named Johns Island Adze. Philip Phillips noted that similar, but better made, specimens were found in Tennessee-Cumberland.

James Griffin proposed the name Licking Flake Knife for the trapezoidal Hopewell form. He pointed out that use of the term "blade" rather than "knife" would conflict with established usage in this country, although it would bring it into line with European usage. He mentioned the spad-shaped hoe as a good type, and brought up the subject of the Lamoka Chopper, which is also present in the Southeast.

Philip Phillips described the small chipped celt (or adze) with a finely ground edge that occurs in Mississippian periods in the lower Mississippi Valley. The name Yazoo Celt was proposed for the type.

William G. Haag passed around specimens of the small Jaketown flints of probable Poverty Point context. These may be grouped in two categories: (1) some kind of perforator, uniface, made from pebble cores, (2) small bladelets with no retouching, some with notching. Since these artifacts are from the delta region, where no large pebbles occur, the small size may be a function of the available materials. Considerable discussion of the possible use of these artifacts ensued, but no definite conclusions were reached.

Philip Phillips discussed the distinction between drills and perforators. Drills are chipped on all sides, and can rotate. Perforators are uniface, and are used in a back-and-forth manner. He stated that perforators similar to the Jaketown specimens are found in the European Mesolithic, and are very common according to Movius.

A discussion of fluted points followed. James B. Griffin outlined the growth of terminology of these points, and pointed out the casual way in which terms such as Eastern Fluted and Ohio Fluted are used. Terms dealing with fluted points are too inclusive; actually there is considerable variety in both the East and West, with, however, more variety in the East. Griffin stressed the need for an overall re-evaluation of fluted point types.

John Goggin mentioned that he has called Florida specimens by the term Suwanee Point. William Edwards stated his preference for a generalized term such as Paleo-Indian Lanceolate Point. James B. Griffin stated that in his opinion the Plainview Point is not a type, but, rather, several types which have become lumped together. He also suggested the name Fishtail Fluted to cover one variety of fluted point. The recent discovery of fluted points, together with other artifacts of the complex, by Witthoft, was mentioned.

### Third Session, Saturday morning.

The third session, with James B. Griffin as chairman, returned to the

problem of projectile point types, dealing primarily with those other than the triangular points discussed in the first session.

William G. Haag proposed the type name Motley Point for the relatively long point with deep side-notching found in Poverty Point context. Wauchope noted that similar specimens occur in Piedmont, South Carolina.

James B. Griffin suggested that type descriptions, illustrated, should be circulated either in the Newsletter or in individual mimeographed releases. The types should be allowed to "simmer" awhile before final publication. Ripley Bullen brought up the problem of illustrating the range of variation within types, and it was generally agreed that it was desirable to indicate the range.

A. R. Kelly mentioned the recent finding of a cache of Stallings type points. It was suggested that he work up the Stallings material and the quartz industry of Georgia. John Goggin suggested that he, John Griffin and Ripley Bullen work out the types of Florida triangular projectile points.

James B. Griffin suggested the name Grimes Point for the so-called Adena Point of Early Woodland horizons. Gordon Willey mentioned a distinctive long stemmed point of southeast Louisiana, which he proposed as the LaSalle Point. J. B. Griffin expressed the opinion that this was probably a regional variant of the Grimes Point.

Willey brought up the triangular headed, stemmed type found in Tchefuncte and Marksville periods, but felt it might be too simple and widespread to deal with at the moment.

A. R. Kelly stated that the "spinner" was earlier than pre-pottery Stallings Island in Georgia. This type is rather small, corner-notched, and beveled. Goggin mentioned a beveled type in Florida which possesses a definitely "hooked" base. Wauchope stated that beveled points are fairly early in the South Carolina Piedmont region.

James B. Griffin discussed Synder Notched, a large blade of Hopewell times in Illinois. The type tends to die out in the latter portions of Hopewell. It is sometimes broken and reworked into scrapers. Gordon Willey mentioned a barbed type of Troyville-Coles Creek times in the lower Mississippi Valley; J. B. Griffin thinks it a probable variant of Krieger's Alba Barbed. John Goggin mentioned a triangular point with basal notches as the commonest type in the Glades Area of Florida; it occurs in north Florida too. J. B. Griffin felt this to be a variant to Tennessee (Eva) forms. Steve Williams proposed the name Dalton Point for large, eared, triangular points of probable Archaic context from central and eastern Missouri.

The Copena Point was discussed by J. B. Griffin. The name has been applied in the literature to a long, beautifully made point found as a burial offering. It is really a relatively rare specialty. The more basic point of Copena is a stemless form with straight sides which contract to a triangular point.

J. B. Griffin mentioned that small triangular points have been found in eastern Tennessee in a Hamilton context, and appear to be with pre-Etowah ~~Complicated~~ stamped. Haag found the same type points with cord-marked pottery in his last excavation in Kentucky; probably equating with the Hamilton level.

Robert Wauchope outlined the projectile point sequence in North Georgia, discussing a number of types. The consensus of opinion was that the sequence as outlined fitted very well into knowledge of surrounding areas.

A. R. Kelly described a quartzite industry stratified beneath pre-pottery Stallings Island material on the Savannah River.

The discussion of projectile point types drew to a close with the participants being agreed that many types can be defined, but also that many specimens are not amenable to such treatment. However, the feeling was that the mass of the material need cause no worry, and that the purpose was to classify well-marked types which possess significance in time and space.

An invitation to hold the next meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference at Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia, was unanimously accepted. Charles H. Fairbanks was elected Chairman, and Gustavus Pope, Jr., was elected Secretary. Subject for the meeting will be historic archaeology, with particular reference to the Muskogean peoples. It was suggested that ethnologists and historians be invited to join with the archaeologists at this meeting. Results of the application of typology to chipped stone artifacts are to be presented at the first session of the next meeting.

John W. Griffin, Secretary  
Eighth Southeastern Archaeological  
Conference