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OHIO FLINT TYPES

By Robert N. Converse

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Object of the Society

The Archaeological Society of Ohio is organized to discover and conserve archaeological sites and material within the State of Ohio; to seek and promote a better understanding among students and collectors of archaeological material, professional and non-professional, including individuals, museums and institutions of learning; and to disseminate knowledge on the subject of archaeology. Membership is open to all persons of suitable character and interest. The annual dues are payable either the first of January or the first of July each year. Dues are as follows: Adults (18 and over) $4.50, Juniors (under 18) $2.25, Husband and Wife (one copy of publication) $5.50; Sustaining, $25.00. Funds are used for publishing "Ohio Archaeologist" and for other necessary expenses of the Society. The Archaeological Society of Ohio is an incorporated non-profit organization, and has no paid officers or employees.

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Table of Contents

The Editor's Page

The material presented in this issue of the "Ohio Archaeologist" should prove useful to all of our members. Each of us has had occasion to consult other publications from different areas when attempting identification. Often we've been disappointed because of unfamiliar cultural associations or type names. Sometimes even the Table of Contents has been of no help because many types of flint artifacts carried the owners' names for identification rather than the descriptive names or cultural affiliation. When this occurs, the entire contents of an issue must be looked over and each illustration scrutinized. Occasionally the descriptive material still isn't sufficient to identify the artifact in question.

Robert Converse, the author of "Ohio Flint Types" has made a distinct effort to avoid any ambiguity in the use of terms. Except for those few proper names that have become entrenched throughout the literature, the names listed are descriptive terms. A quick check of an artifact in question will indicate into which category it will fit best, whether it be "stemmed lanceolate," "beveled," "Pentagonal," or one of several other types. In addition each point is classed in the probably major cultural period.

At irregular intervals, types have been described in the "Ohio Archaeologist" in the past. This practice will be continued in the future. However, these photographic illustrations are offered from time to time as they become available and so are scattered through several back issues. As a complete reference work, these former issues are difficult to use. Some of our more recent members may not have them at all.

The Archaeological Society of Ohio is pleased to publish this "Ohio Flint Types" issue. Mr. Converse has presented up-to-date information on the various types and in each case, cites his reference sources. His illustrations, drawn from Ohio specimens, are excellent in their own right and are intended to show the typical range of each type. The Publications Committee and the Executive Board wish to thank Mr. Converse for presenting the membership with this helpful reference material.

Leonard H. Brown, Editor

Preface

It has been said that three-fourths of the history of mankind has been written in flint (1:43).* The non-perishable nature of flint, and its use by man from his earliest beginnings, makes it the most important of all material used by aboriginal peoples. Indeed, without flint, it would be utterly impossible to trace early man in the New World, since it is with a few exceptions, the only material to have survived the toll of time. By sheer weight of numbers alone, flint artifacts must be placed at the top of the list of American Indian archaeological remains.

While possibly not as sensitive to cultural change as pottery, the manufacture of flint tools covers a time span roughly ten times as long as that of pottery, and reflects economic and cultural changes found in no other material. Variations in form and chipping technique were the result, not of whim or fancy on the part of the flint craftsmen, but of a need for improving then existing forms or inventing new forms to adapt to changes which arose as new cultures were established and old ones disappeared. The positive sameness of projectile and tool types indicates the basic similarities between prehistoric cultures separated by hundreds of miles.

While most of the information in this issue is drawn from, and based on archaeological publications, professional and amateur alike, there have been, in some cases, personal opinions introduced. These opinions, while held to the minimum, are the result of both the examination of the artifacts and close association with collectors and students. Many of these collectors with whom I have exchanged opinions and ideas have had years of experience with prehistoric Indian material.

This publication undoubtedly is not and cannot be the final word on the age and cultural distribution of Ohio flint artifacts and is not intended as such. But it is hoped that it will benefit those interested in archaeology to the extent that it may lead to more extensive work in the typing of Ohio flint forms.

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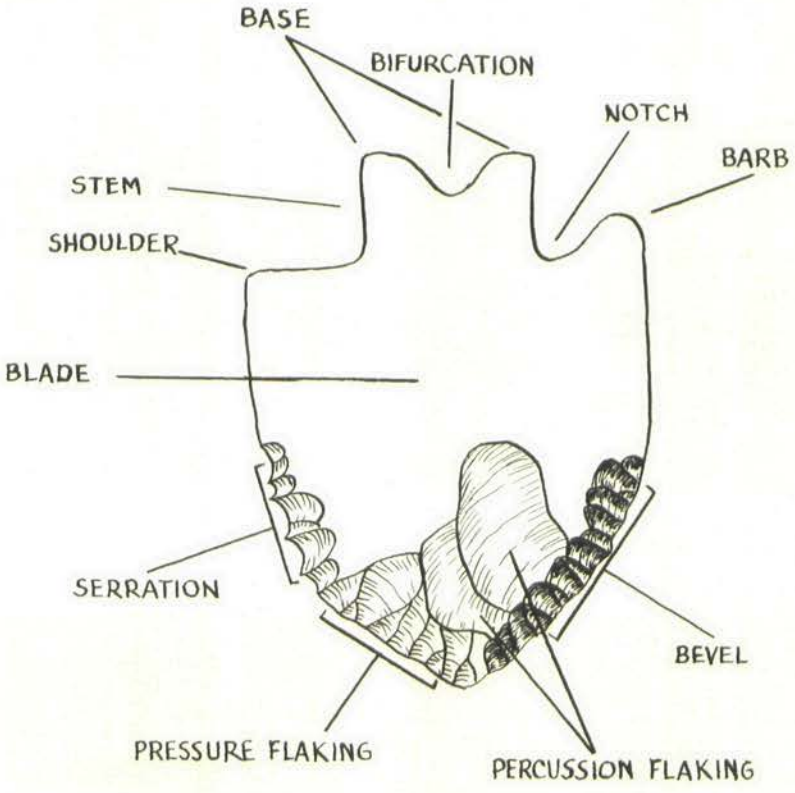
*First number in parentheses refers to reference cited and the number folowing the colon refers to the page. See References.

Chronology

For the benefit of those not familiar with archaeological time periods of the Midwest, the following graph (2) shows the generally accepted dates of the beginning and ending of cultural sequences in the Ohio area.

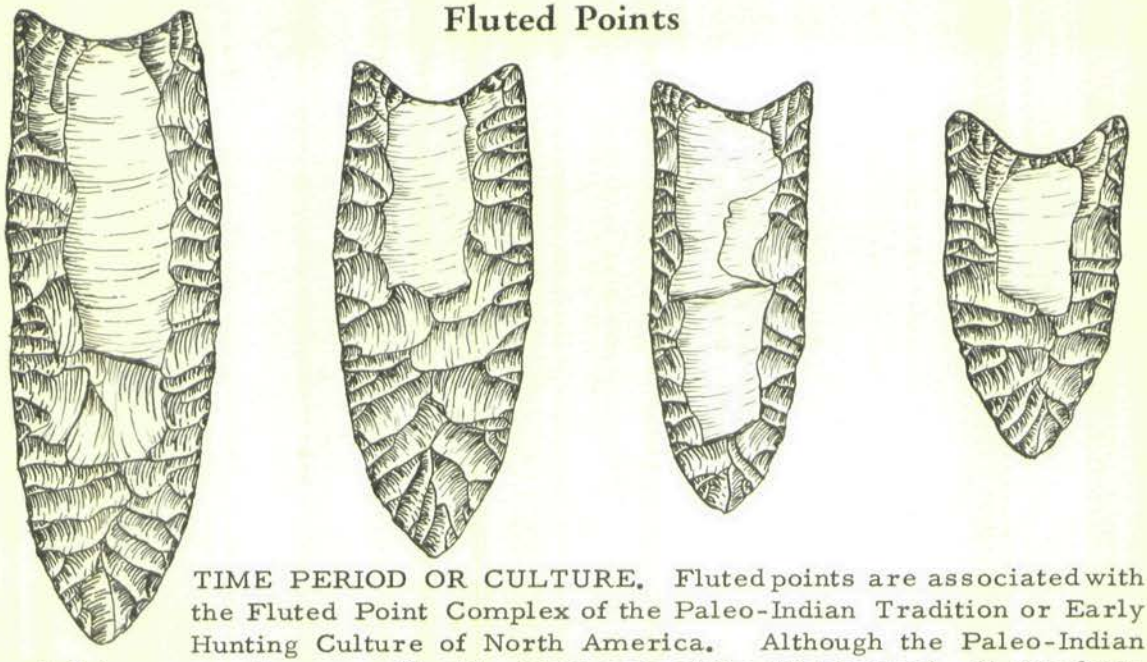
10,000 B.C.			
9,000 B.C.	PALEO-INDIAN	FLUTED POINT COMPLEX	
8,000 B.C.			
7,000 B.C.		PLANO COMPLEX	
6,000 B.C.	ARCHAIC		
5,000 B.C.			
4,000 B.C.			
3,000 B.C.			
2,000 B.C.			
1,000 B.C.			
0	WOODLAND	EARLY	ADENA
		MIDDLE	HOPEWELL
1,000 A.D.		LATE	LATE WOODLAND
	MISSISSIPPIAN	FORT ANCIENT ERIE	
PRESENT			

Identification of Descriptive Terms



Illustrated is a composite flint point which contains most of the basic components found in projectile points and other flint tools. These components are identified by terms usually accepted by archaeologists and collectors.

Fluted Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Fluted points are associated with the Fluted Point Complex of the Paleo-Indian Tradition or Early Hunting Culture of North America. Although the Paleo-Indian period has never been specifically dated east of the Mississippi, it may have begun about 11,500 years ago and lasted until about 8,000 years ago. (3)

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Because of the nomadic life of its makers, the fluted point is one of the scarcest of all projectile points. It is seldom found in any quantity, with most finds consisting of scattered and isolated pieces.

As a rule, fluted points are superbly flaked and show a fine pressure retouch on all edges. The distinguishing feature of course is the longitudinal channel, or flute, which may run the length of the blade or may be quite short. Some specimens are fluted on one face only while others may have multiple flutes. Invariably they will show basal and lateral grinding for about one-third their length. Variations of this type may be fish-tail shaped -- sometimes called Cumberland points -- or pentagonal in outline, but these forms are scarce in Ohio.

The name Folsom has sometimes erroneously been applied to the eastern fluted point. Ohio specimens are undoubtedly older than the true Folsom point and are practically indistinguishable from the older Clovis point of the West which has been found in association with the extinct mammoth. (4) Some archaeologists draw a comparison between the Folsom and the Clovis by saying that the Clovis and eastern fluted points are more crudely made. A casual look at eastern forms will show a crisp functional appearance that could hardly be called crude. (See cover)

SIZE. Fluted points range in size from one inch to slightly over six inches. A majority are from two and one-half to three inches in length. (3)

MATERIAL. The materials used to make fluted points vary as much as the locations in which they are found. Flint Ridge material was used but Early Hunters seemed to prefer some of the fine black flint found in eastern and southeastern Ohio. They also used river pebble chert and unidentifiable flints, or even quartzite. An occasional Ohio point may be made of Onondaga chert, the New York flint which was so highly prized by the Paleo-Indian craftsmen.

End Scraper With Graver Spur

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Paleo-Indian -- Fluted Point Complex.

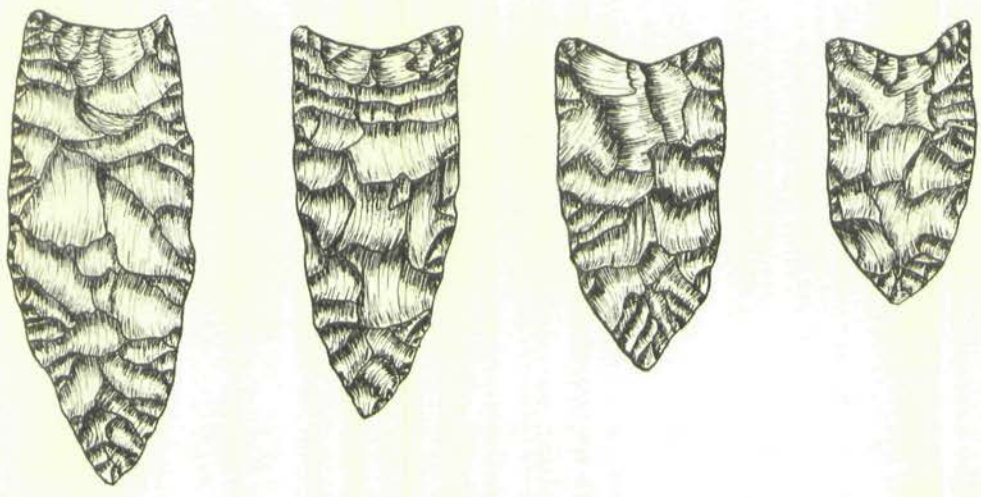
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Like many tools of the Paleo-Indian Tradition these served a double utility purpose. The beveled edge was used for scraping and the tiny spur was for incising bone.

These tools were usually made from a thick flake or part of a uniface blade. The graving spur is often at the corner of the scraping edge. (3)

SIZE. About one or two inches.

MATERIALS. Any grade of fine flint or chert found in fluted points.

"Unfluted Fluted" Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Paleo-Indian. Late Fluted Point Complex or Early Plano Complex.

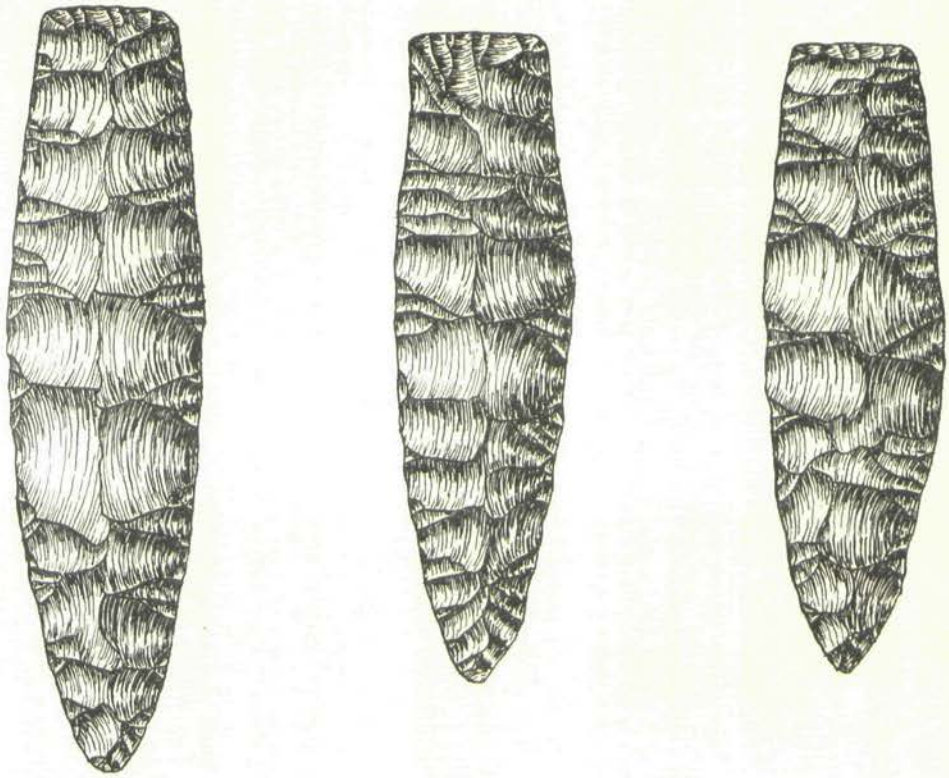
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. These points possess nearly all the characteristics of true fluted points except flutes. They have been found on sites which produced both Paleo-Indian and Plano material. (3)

Although they may belong in a type by themselves, they appear to be fluted points on which the fluting process failed. Since fluting must have been subject to a high degree of failure it is likely that not all points made by Paleo-Indians were perfectly fluted. Flaws in the material or thinness of the point itself may have been contributing factors to the absence of flutes.

MATERIALS. See fluted points.

SIZE. See fluted points.

Parallel-flaked Lanceolate Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Paleo-Indian -- Plano Complex.

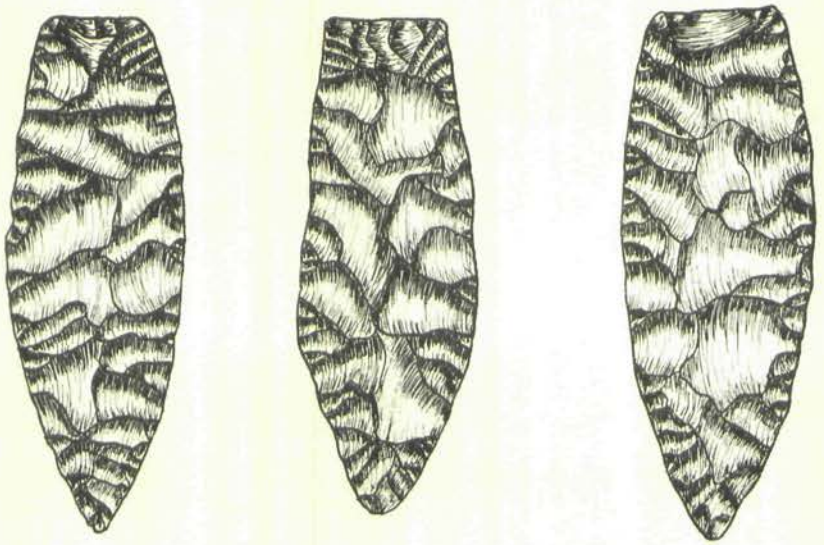
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Lanceolate points with collateral flaking are extremely rare in Ohio. They have been recorded only as stray or sporadic finds and never in association with other cultural remains. They are comparable to Angostura and Agate Basin points of the West. (4:138, 141) Points such as these may be related to the more common lanceolate points of the Plano Complex. (See lanceolate points.) (3:20, 21)

Great care was taken by the Paleo-Indian craftsmen in shaping these points. They exhibit the unique trait of collateral percussion flaking and differ from Western types which are pressure flaked. Heavy percussion flakes which terminate in the center of the blade give it a median ridge and a heavy diamond-shaped cross-section. These flakes are always in pairs and nearly opposite each other across the face of the blade. Short pressure flakes were removed at the juncture of the percussion flakes along the edges of the blade. As in most Paleo types these have basal and lateral grinding for about one-third their length.

SIZE. Most specimens are over three inches in length and about one inch in width.

MATERIAL. Most are made of high grade black flint of Ohio origin or an unidentifiable white flint. Kentucky Elkhorn flint is also known for this type.

Lanceolate Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Plano-Complex.

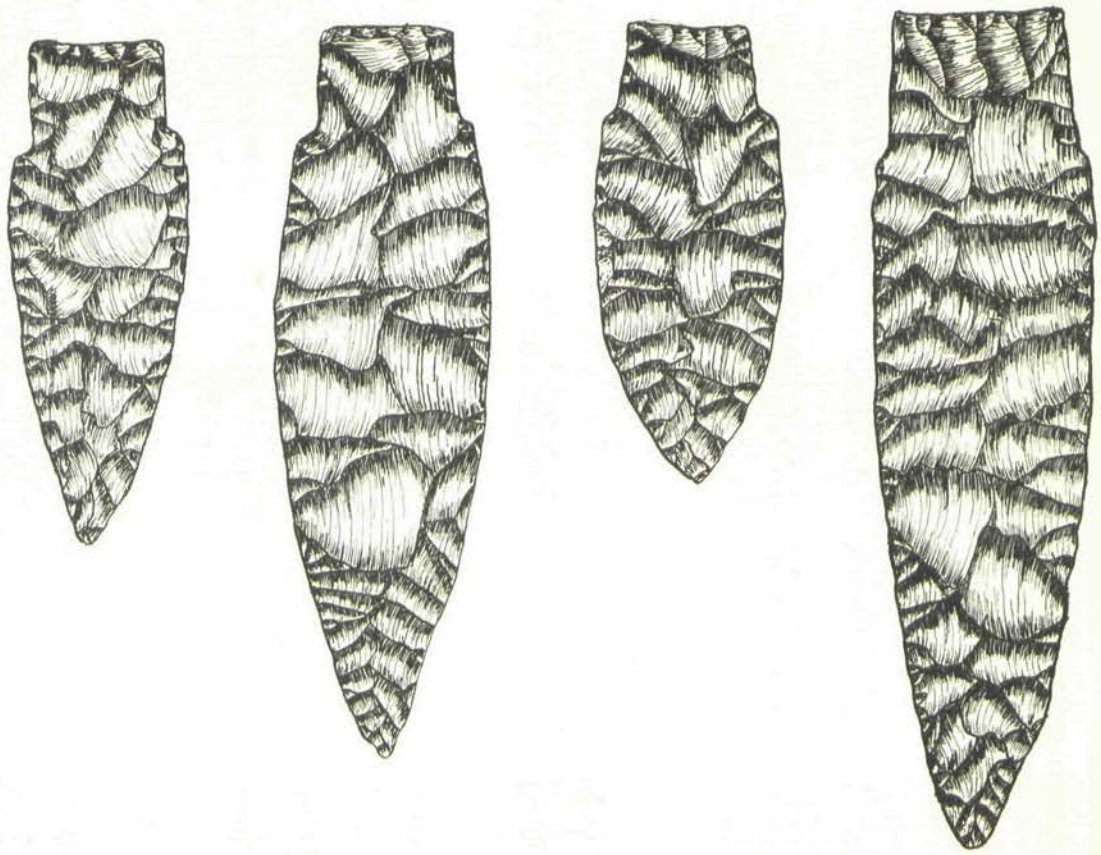
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Lanceolate points are not uncommon in Ohio and yet sites which produce a large number of them are few. They appear to be a derivative of earlier Paleo-Indian lanceolate points and represent a slight decline in flint working ability which came with the change of a hunting economy to that of a more sedentary existence. Forms such as these are usually found with stemmed lanceolate points which are of the same period. Sites which produce these points have not been specifically dated in Ohio; however they appear to be of an early time horizon. (5:84-97)

Ohio lanceolates are usually large and show fine percussion and pressure chipping. Typical pieces are thin with the wider part of the blade at about midway or two-thirds of the distance from the base to the point. Grinding along blade edges or the base may or may not be present although a majority show this trait. The base is straight or gently concave and rarely convex. Because of their thinness a large number of surface finds are broken.

SIZE. Sizes range to as long as five inches. Specimens under two inches are unusual.

MATERIAL. Nearly always a variety of local chert or flint was used. Apparently their makers used the closest source of material known to them.

Stemmed Lanceolate Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Paleo-Indian -- Plano Complex.

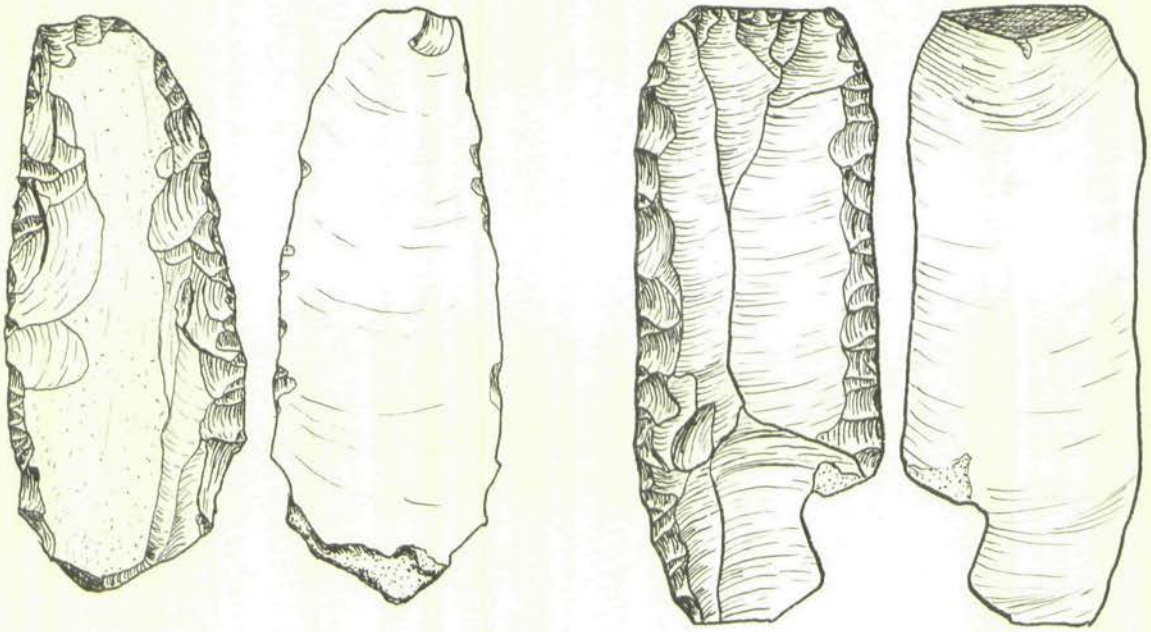
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Stemmed lanceolate points occur, along with lanceolate points, on sites attributed to the Plano Complex. (3) (5)

Typologically, these points are comparable to Scottsbluff and Eden types. (4) However, Ohio examples seem to be much thinner in cross-section and seldom display collateral flaking. In some cases the shoulders are weak and are the result of heavy grinding of the stem edges. Basal and lateral grinding is not present, however, on all Ohio specimens. Due to their thinness many examples are fragmentary and rarely will a surface find be unbroken.

SIZE. As a rule stemmed lanceolate points tend to be fairly long, usually over two and one-half inches and as long as six inches.

MATERIALS. A low grade of chert is found abundantly in this type. Occasionally, high quality flint or Flint Ridge material was used.

Uniface Blades



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Fluted Point Complex -- Plano Complex.

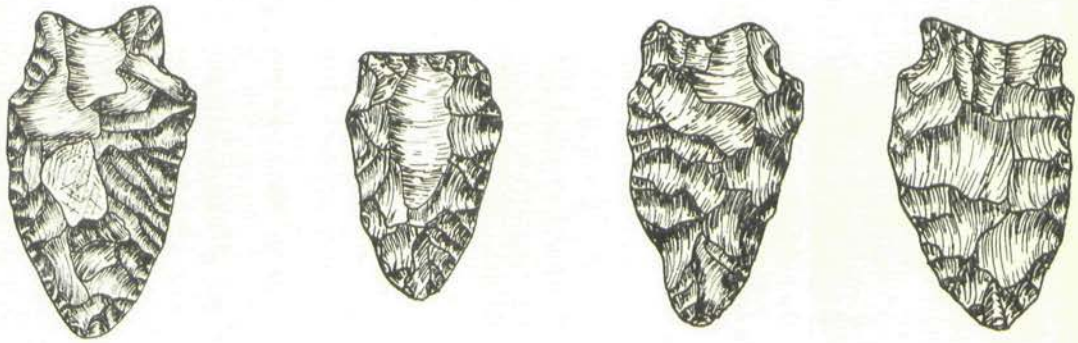
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Blade making is one of the oldest of all flint working techniques in Europe (1:47), and the number of blades found with Paleo-Indian assemblages seems to indicate the antiquity of the custom in the New World. Uniface blades were found on the Parrish Village site of Kentucky which contained fluted points and other Paleo-Indian tools (6:445). The fluting of fluted points is a variation of blade striking (7:475). Tools made from blades are known in the Archaic (see hafted shaft scrapers).

Blades are always long in proportion to width. They may vary in thickness, some being quite thin and others thick or keel-shaped. Long shallow flake scars on the face of the blade are scars of previous blades struck from the parent core and are nearly always struck from the same direction. The reverse, or flat side, seldom shows secondary chipping and will have a percussion bulb at one end with radiating ripples towards the opposite end. Many uniface blades have secondary pressure chipping on the obverse side.

SIZE. True uniface blades are usually over two inches and may be over five inches long.

MATERIALS. Fine flint of good fracturing quality was a prerequisite for making fine blades.

Transitional Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Late Paleo-Indian or early Archaic.

INFORMATION OR DESCRIPTION. Apparently a derivative of the fluted point, this type appears early on some sites. (9:118, 119) It has a sporadic distribution and like many of the older types it seldom is found in any concentration. Most finds are of stray or isolated pieces.

These points have extensive grinding of the base and stem. They are never barbed; the shoulders may be slight and the stem crudely chipped. Nearly all display an attempt at basal thinning if not actual fluting. The base may be straight but more often it is concave. While some are fairly well made, many appear to be crude or poorly chipped.

SIZE. The majority fall into a size range of one to three inches.

MATERIALS. Usually of a good quality flint, they are seldom of dull chert.

Square Knives

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Paleo-Indian.

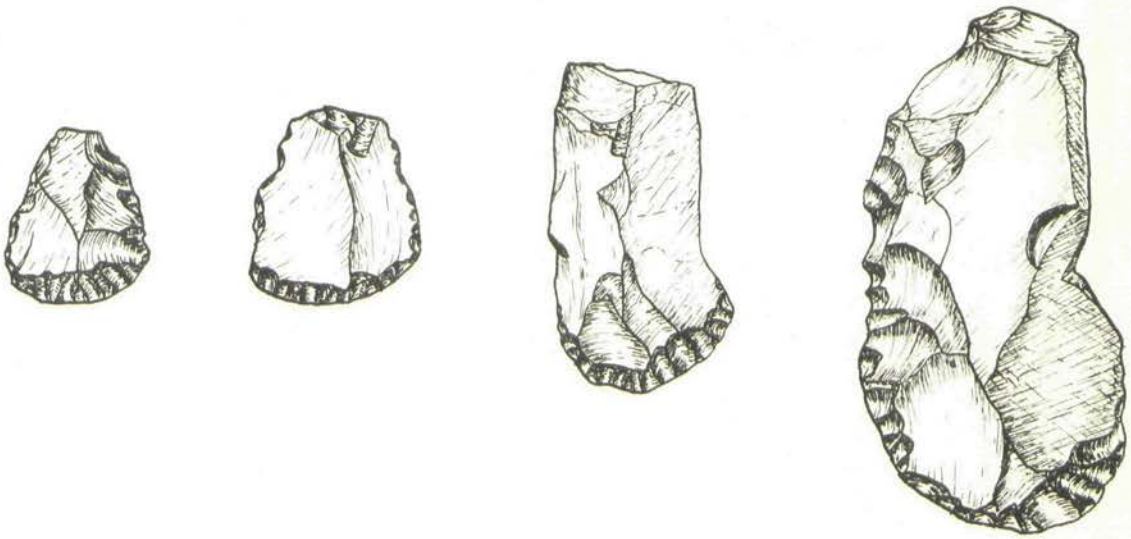
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Use of flint found in Ohio's early lanceolate points gives us one of the few clues to the origin of the unusual knife type. (36:140) On some, the presence of a flute from one or both faces indicates that these knives were probably used by very early cultures. One specimen is known to have been found in the deep levels of a Kentucky cave which yielded other Paleo material. (37)

The concave and slightly squared end was used as the working surface and is usually very sharp and may be beveled. Most are carefully made and show fine pressure retouch along the blade edges. There is sometimes basal grinding present. Some appear to be quite battered on the basal portion.

SIZE. Most are over three inches in length and about two inches wide. Specimens much larger than those illustrated are known.

MATERIAL. The same as for most Paleo points.

End Scrapers or Thumb Scrapers



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Found in all time periods from Paleo-Indian to Late Woodland.

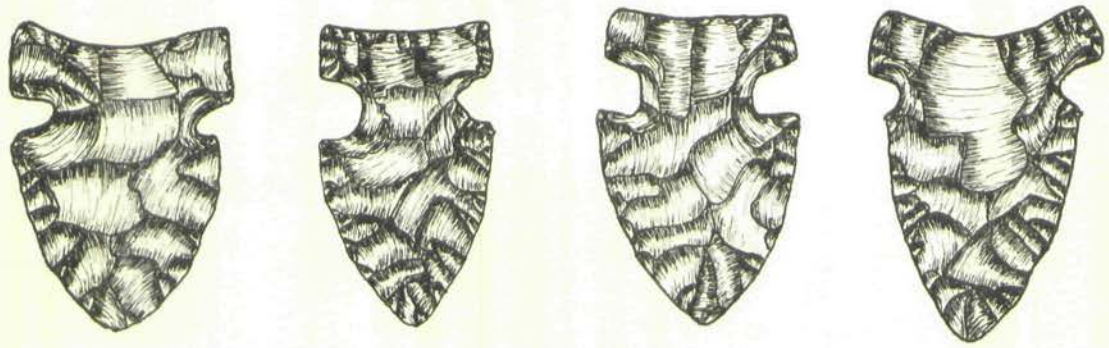
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. One of the most common of all Indian tools, thumb scrapers are found, with one variation or another, in practically all cultures. Archaic sites have produced them in abundance and with the addition of a graver spur they are a diagnostic artifact of the Paleo-Indian period (see Paleo end scraper with graver spur).

Many end scrapers are made on a true uniface blade but the majority are merely sharpened flakes of flint. As a rule they are heavy in cross-section and the sharpened end is nearly always opposite the bulb of percussion and beveled away from the flat side. Some may appear to be crudely made but the scraping edge is always well flaked by pressure retouch.

SIZE. Tiny one-half inch pieces are not unusual and some may be as long as four inches.

MATERIAL. They are made from any flint or chert material used by the Indian.

Archaic Side Notched Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Early Archaic.

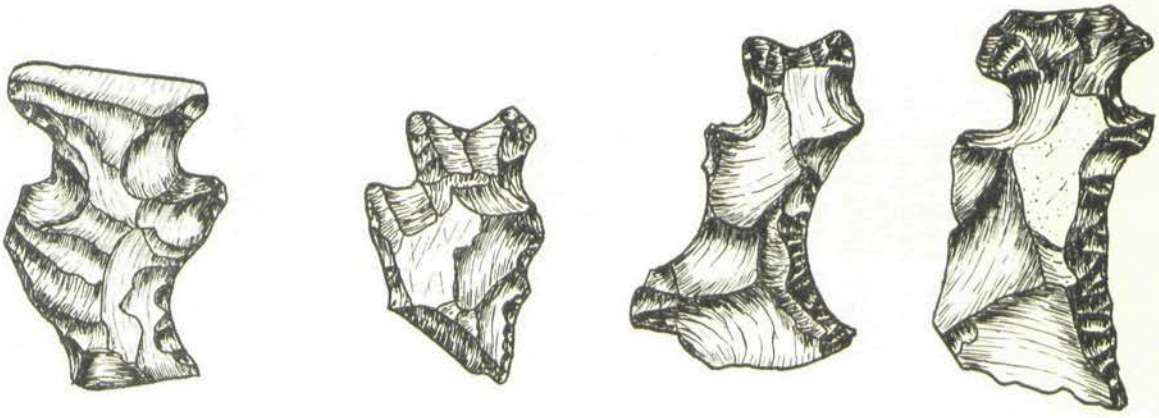
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Points of the type illustrated are found on a number of Archaic sites in Tennessee and Alabama. In the shell midden sites of Kentucky they are a majority type and have been found in the lowest levels of the middens. (6:426) (8:384) They are fairly common in Ohio and although undescribed in this state are probably as old as in neighboring areas.

Archaic side notched points are nearly always well made. They are heavy in cross-section and exhibit extensive basal grinding. The base may be straight or slightly concave but never convex. Most specimens are short and wide, and one variety (above right) has a base which protrudes beyond the blade edges. It is not unusual that they show an attempt at basal thinning.

SIZE. Seldom are these points over two and one-half inches or under one and one-half inches in length.

MATERIAL. The use of Flint Ridge material in this type is unusual, with fine black flint predominating. A few may be made of tan or gray chert.

Hafted Shaft Scrapers



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Possible Early Archaic.

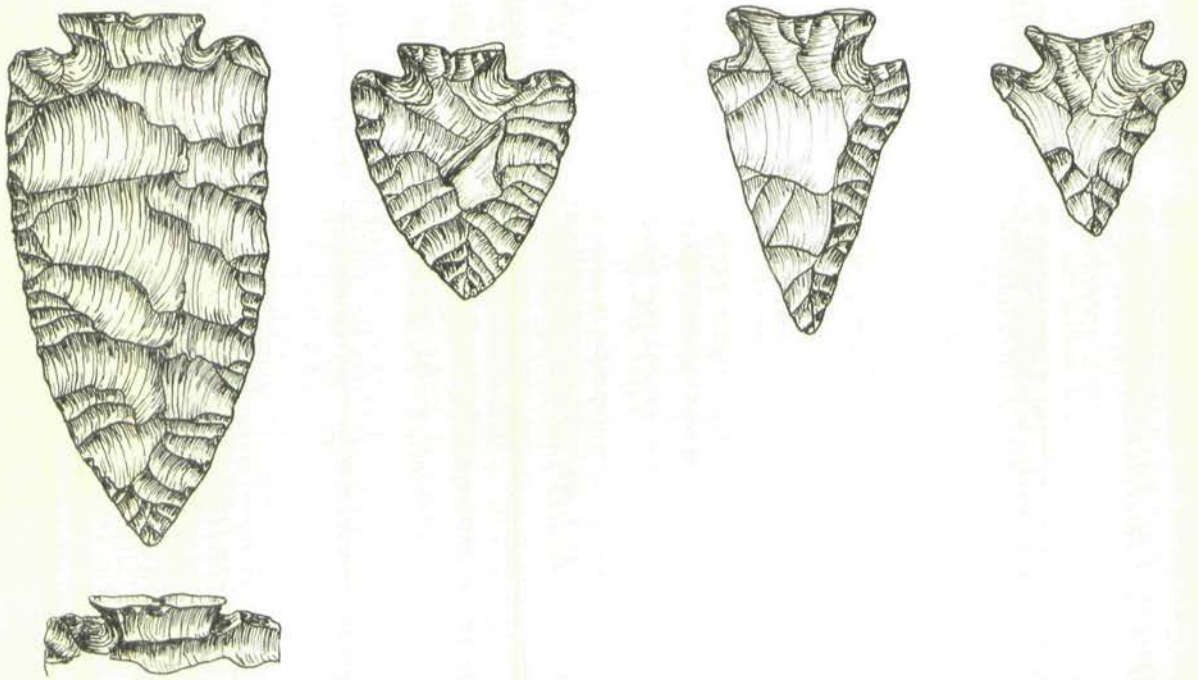
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Little is known about these unique tools except that they are extremely scarce and undoubtedly one of the rarest of all Ohio flint tool types. Their connection to the Early Archaic is attributed to the type material used in their manufacture which coincides with materials used for older projectile types. (10:125) At least for the present they are not found in later assemblages.

In nearly all cases these unusual tools are made on a uniface blade the flat rippled surface of which may be seen on the reverse side. Seldom are they made from a broken projectile point. The scraping surface is always concave and beveled away from the flat side. The stem is always ground and of two types, either side notched or stemmed with a gently concave end. Rarely is there any secondary chipping except around the stem and along the scraping edge.

SIZE. Of the small number of examples known most are in a range of two to three inches.

MATERIALS. Of the six examples in the author's collection, two are of tan chert, two are of Flint Ridge material, and two are of unidentifiable flint. It appears that they may be made of any grade of fine flint used by the Archaic.

Fractured Base Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

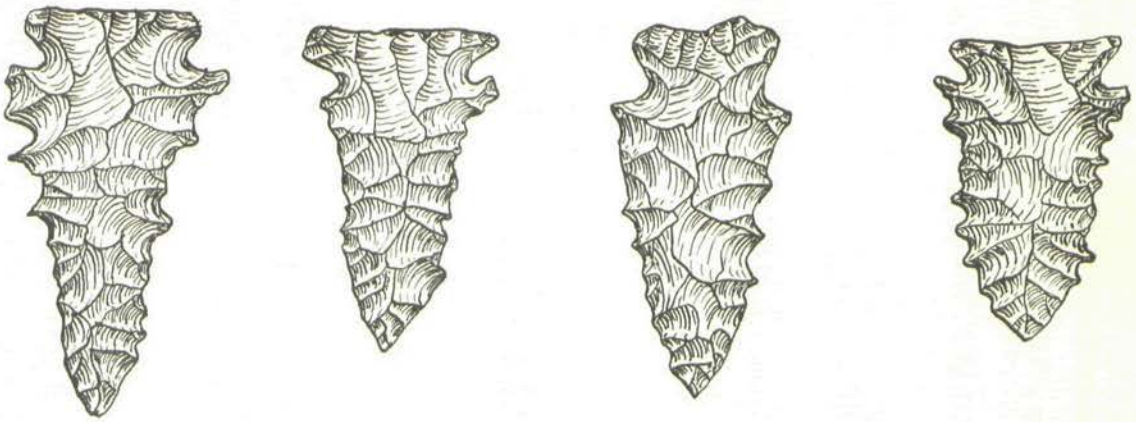
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Fractured base points are found as a very minor flint type in Archaic collections from the South. Because of its extreme scarcity in Ohio information is lacking, but the configuration is identical with that on the specimens from the South. (11) (12)

The method of shaping the base in this type is unique and apparently was done as follows: first, the removal of two small flakes, one from each face at the center of the base gave the base a somewhat bifurcated appearance; then flakes were struck from the corners of the base towards the center to give it a flat fractured surface. In many cases only tiny corner notches were made leaving a very short stem. Heavy basal grinding will occasionally obliterate most of the fractured surface and make the type difficult to identify. Nearly all display fine workmanship. Although Ohio specimens are seldom beveled or serrated these characteristics occur more often on examples from the South.

SIZE. Fractured base points are found in a wide range of sizes from one inch pieces to large spears.

MATERIALS. Many Ohio specimens are of Flint Ridge flint but they may be of any conceivable material.

Corner Notched Serrated Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

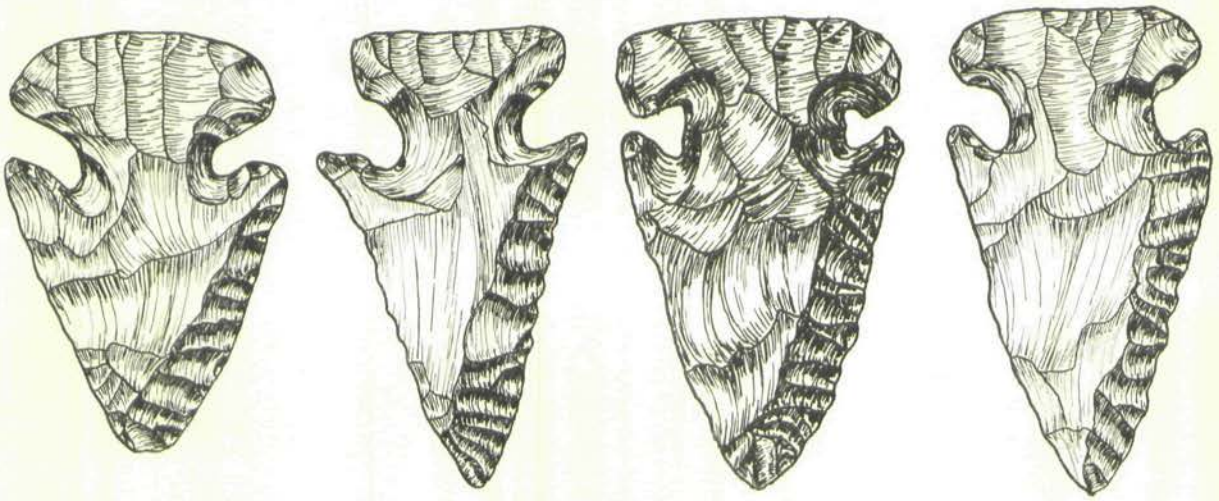
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Although information and data are almost totally lacking on this uncommon flint artifact, at least one specimen was found at the Archaic Barrett Site of McLean County, Kentucky (13:23), which would tend to show some age for comparable Ohio examples. Other varieties of serrated points are known from many Archaic collections of Kentucky, and serration seems to be an Archaic innovation.

These points are usually very thin, never beveled, and seldom have a great amount of basal grinding. One characteristic which sets this type apart from other serrated points is the size and depth of the serrations. Extremely large and jagged points along the blade edges give this type an unmistakable appearance. Blade edges which may appear to be slightly concave may be the result of breakage of the serrations. As a rule the base is straight but may be slightly concave or convex. It is never stemmed or side notched.

SIZE. Most are of the size illustrated or occasionally longer.

MATERIALS. Usually of black flint from southeastern Ohio or dull local chert.

Archaic Bevels



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. The Archaic bevel is a fairly common flint type and is found over most of Ohio. The finding of a number of them on the Raisch-Smith site indicates their connection with the Archaic period in Ohio. (14:430) At what time they made their appearance in the Archaic is a matter of conjecture, but it is notable they occur with polished stone artifacts which are not commonly found in early part of that period.

Their probable use as tools is demonstrated by the obvious resharpening of the blade edges on most pieces and many have been re-chipped to such an extent that they appear to be quite stubby and blunt. Nearly all show signs of heavy wear. The large and heavily ground stem would have served to support a large handle or shaft.

The bevels, when the piece is viewed with the tip downward, are always to the right and a specimen with a left-hand bevel is extremely rare. The stem may be straight or slightly concave, but the vast majority are of the type illustrated.

SIZE. Seldom are they over three inches or under two inches in length.

MATERIAL. A great variety of materials is found with tan chert and black flint predominating. Flint Ridge flint is not uncommon.

Archaic Corner Notched Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

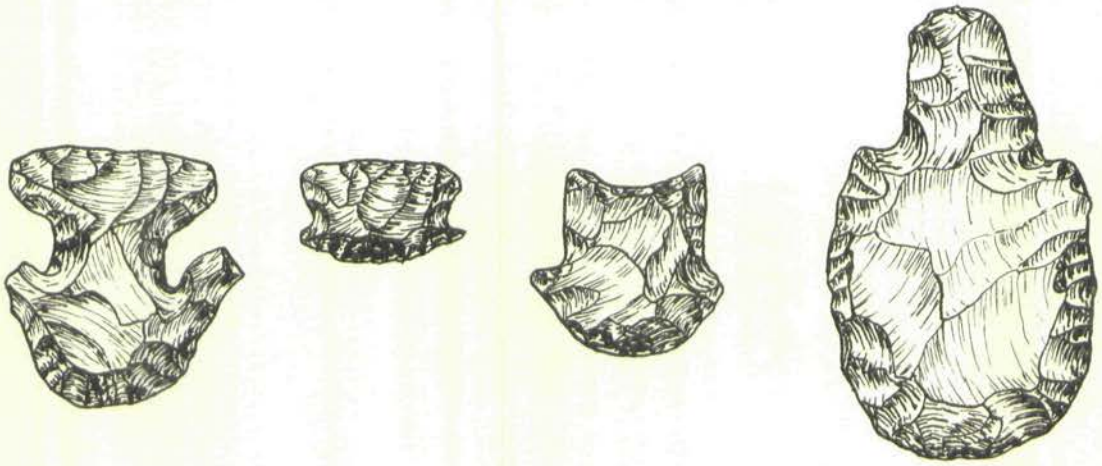
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Long slender corner notched points are the dominant flint type from the Carlson Annis Site and are found in all levels of the midden in varying numbers. (15:308-309) Corner notched points are also found in later time periods in Ohio but as a rule later specimens are smaller than true Archaic varieties.

These are among some of the finer flint work of the Archaic period and show excellent percussion and pressure flaking. The blade is usually thin with slightly convex sides. The shoulders are always pronounced and the stem is thin and well chipped with a small amount of grinding or polish.

SIZE. Lengths vary from about two to four inches and the width is usually over an inch and less than an inch and one-half. They always present a long narrow appearance.

MATERIALS. Dull chert is predominant, but a large number are of high quality glossy flint.

Hafted Scrapers



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Hafted scrapers are found in many sizes, shapes, and varieties. They are fairly common Archaic artifacts. (6:430) The bases are like those usually found in the Archaic but varieties of later periods are also known.

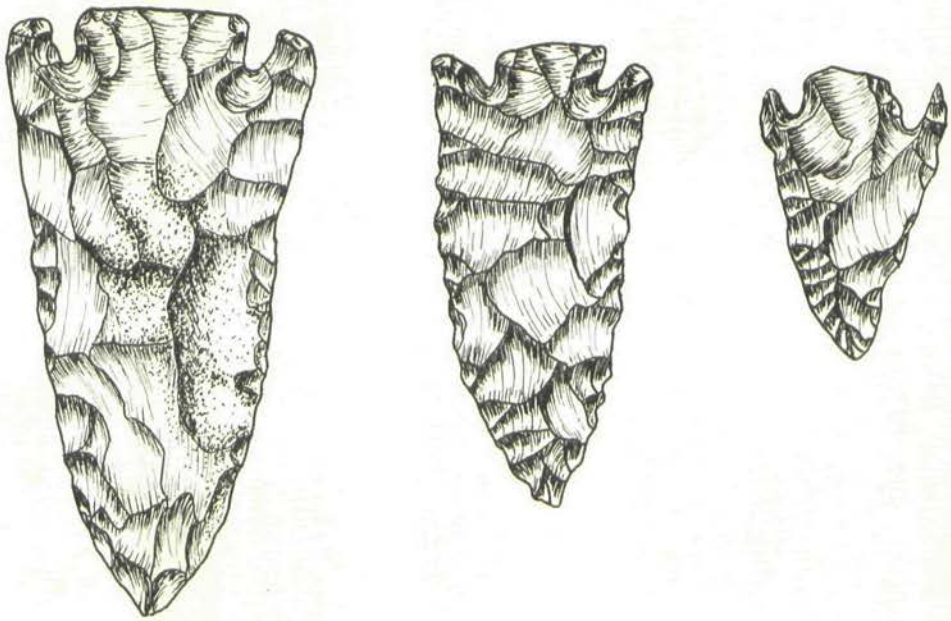
Occasionally a hafted scraper may be made from a uniface blade, and one side will show the telltale rippled surface of the original blade. However, most are made from broken projectile points which have been re-sharpened. A sharp beveled edge forms the scraping surface and a close look at many apparently broken points will disclose this chipping.

A variety of this type has a blunt edge chipped from both sides. These are called bunts, blunts, or stunning arrows.

SIZE. Many are no longer than three-quarters of an inch. Three inches is about the maximum length.

MATERIALS. Materials are the same as those used for projectile points of the Archaic.

Basal Notched Points



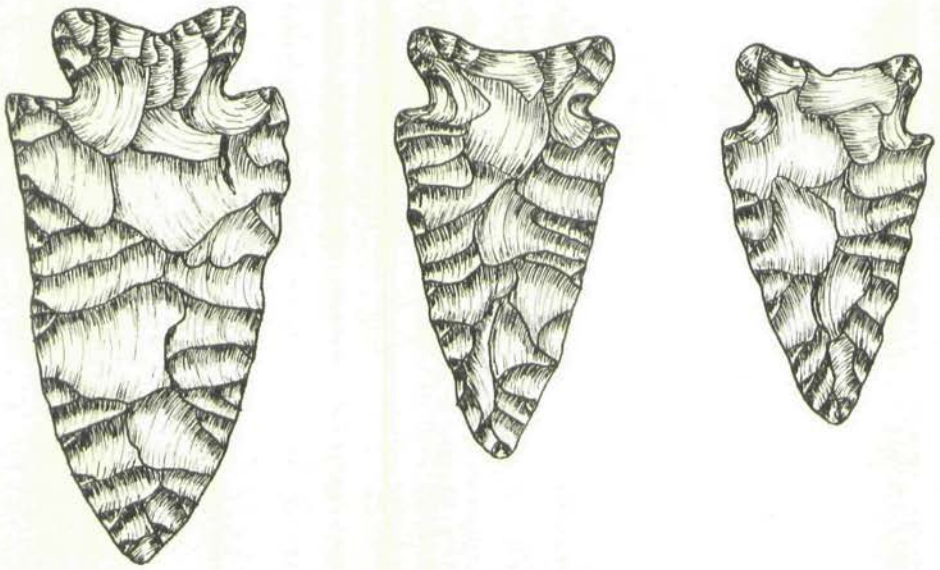
TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Basal notched points are extremely scarce in Ohio and poorly described in the literature. For these reasons a comparison with similar points from other areas must be made. Forms identical to Ohio specimens are found in the Eva Focus of Tennessee (16:24-25) and the Archaic Faulkner Focus of Illinois (17:fig. 95). Whether Ohio varieties are related to these may be debatable but the similarity is striking. There is a basal notched type point found in Ohio Hopewell although it has notches which are more diagonal and a base which is convex. Archaic types seem to be less deeply notched and many examples are quite asymmetrical. There is seldom any basal grinding present and the piece may be crudely worked.

SIZE. A wide range of sizes is found in this type from one and one-half inches to over four inches long.

MATERIAL. As a rule a low grade of unidentifiable chert was used and rarely fine flint.

Concave Base Corner Notch Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Information on flint forms such as these for Ohio is meager; however, it is fairly scarce and sparsely distributed over most of the state. Some of the excavations of Archaic sites in the Pickwick Basin of the South have disclosed points very similar to Ohio types and apparently they are quite old there. They were found at levels of six and seven feet in the ten foot shell midden at the Long Branch site in Alabama and were notably absent in upper levels which contained pottery. Other flint types were found scattered throughout the midden but this particular type seems to have reached its height of popularity at about the time the mound had reached one-third to one-half its final size where they abruptly disappeared. (18:195)

Bases on this type are always concave and extensively ground and are never truly bifurcated or notched. The base has two rounded lobes rather than the angular appearance of bifurcated base points. Frequently the blade edges are slightly convex. As a rule the width of the base is about one inch regardless of the length of the blade.

SIZE: Most are over two inches and they may be as long as four and one-half inches in length.

MATERIALS. Often they are made of a dull black flint or Coshocton material. Dull chert or Flint Ridge flint was sparsely used.

Expanding Stem Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

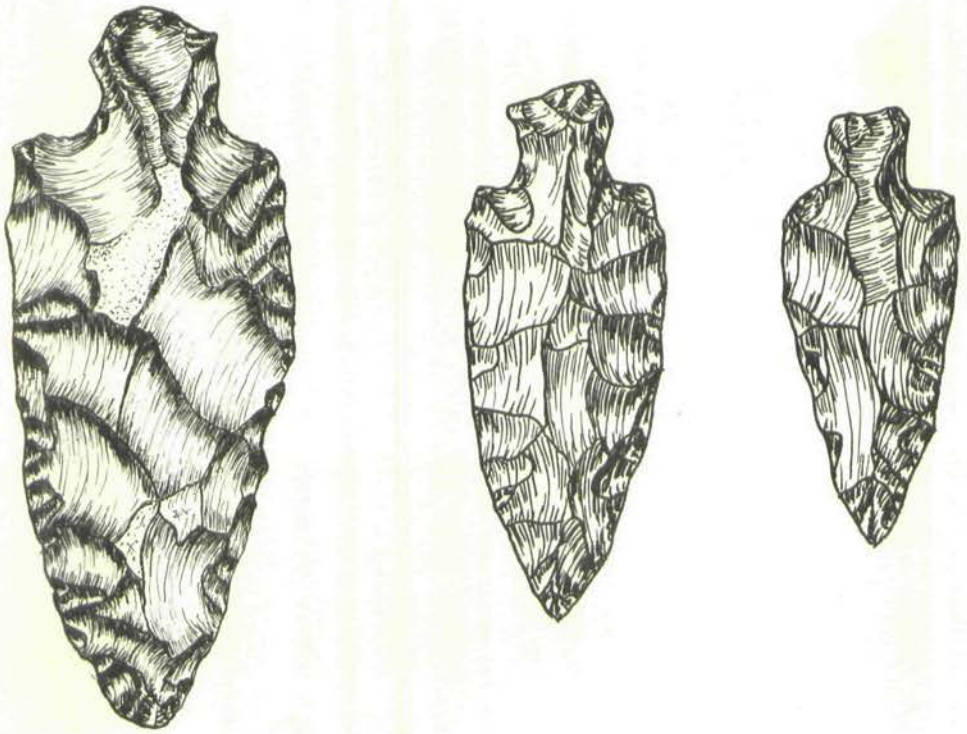
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. The Ohio version of the Archaic received a number of minor flint types from the South, one of which is the expanding stem point. Although they are not unusual in the Kentucky shell midden sites, they are relatively scarce in Ohio. (19) They are considered a scarce flint form from the Raisch-Smith Site of Preble County, Ohio, which has been compared with the Archaic Indian Knoll Site of Kentucky. (14)

Typical specimens are large and show heavy percussion flake scars with little pressure flaking along the blade edges. Large expansive notches, which leave pronounced shoulders or barbs, are usually extensively ground. Most are thick in cross-section and all have a definite angular appearance. The slender stem is usually well formed and expands towards the base.

SIZE. Most examples of this type are large, usually over two inches.

MATERIAL. In many cases the material used is unidentifiable and may be of a poor fracturing quality, a fact which may add to its crude appearance.

Archaic Stemmed Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Large crudely made points with small irregular stems are represented in the collections from both the Raisch-Smith Site of Ohio (14;fig. 1) and the McCain Site of Indiana (20:228). Similar stemmed types occur in the Carlson Annis Shell Mound of Kentucky. (15:308) Although their exact position in the Archaic is unknown, the Annis specimens are not present in the lowest levels of the midden but they were still in vogue when pottery made its first appearance at the site.

Nearly all of these points were made by percussion flaking, the scars of which are present on all surfaces. There is little or no pressure retouch. In spite of their apparent crudeness they present a fairly uniform appearance when viewed in a group. The stem is usually small in comparison with the size of the blade and may be off-center or poorly worked. The shoulders are often rounded and may be weak and are never barbed. Blade edges are convex and seldom straight. Due to the percussion flaking they are always heavy in cross-section.

SIZE. The illustrations represent approximate sizes.

MATERIAL. Almost universally a dull chert of local origin was used.

Bifurcated Base Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

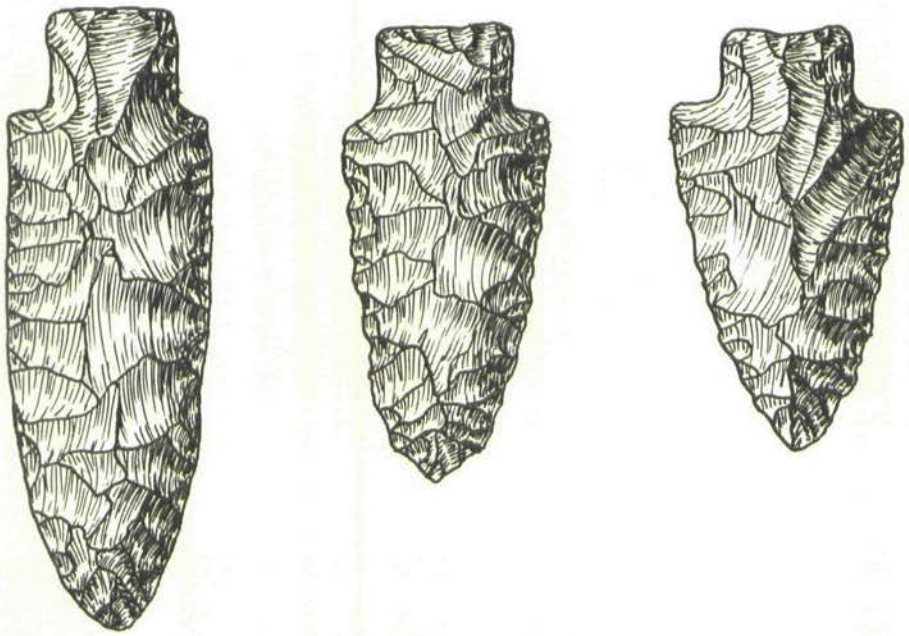
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. There appears to be a wide variation in points with basal bifurcation and the group as a whole may represent several distinct types. Although they may have been popular during later periods, they made their appearance early at the Rohr Rock Shelter of West Virginia where they were found at the lowest level of occupation. (20:179) Because of the small sample from the Rohr Shelter no attempt has been made to segregate variation of the several types found in Ohio.

Points with bifurcated bases are common in Northern Ohio but are found in other parts of the state in varying frequency of occurence. Most bifurcated base points are small and thin and show fine to poor workmanship. Occasionally they are made from a small flake of flint. A number of the smaller ones display the unique characteristic of shoulder fracturing or stem side fracturing. The specimen above, on the left, has both of these features.

SIZE. Nearly all are from one-half to two inches.

MATERIALS. Local chert, Flint Ridge material, and many other flints are common.

Archaic Stemmed Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. These specimens are popularly called "heavy duty" points by collectors in Ohio. They are identical with the Genesee Points of New York which have been radiocarbon dated at about 4000 to 5000 years. (21:77) Although there has been no demonstrable connection between the Archaic of New York and the Ohio Archaic, the obvious similarity of the two projectile types suggests a possible affinity between the two. This is not a particularly common type in Ohio.

A thick and heavy cross-section characterizes these points, but in spite of their thickness they are never crudely made. Invariably they show a smoothly rounded blade with fine percussion and pressure chipping and a finely worked stem. The shoulders are often rounded or sloping and seldom barbed. The short and square stem is nearly always heavily ground and may be slightly indented at the end.

SIZE. Usually around three inches; however, much larger examples are known.

MATERIAL. A large number are of black or gray flint from eastern or southeastern Ohio. Flint Ridge material or local chert is scarce.

"Ashtabula" Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic.

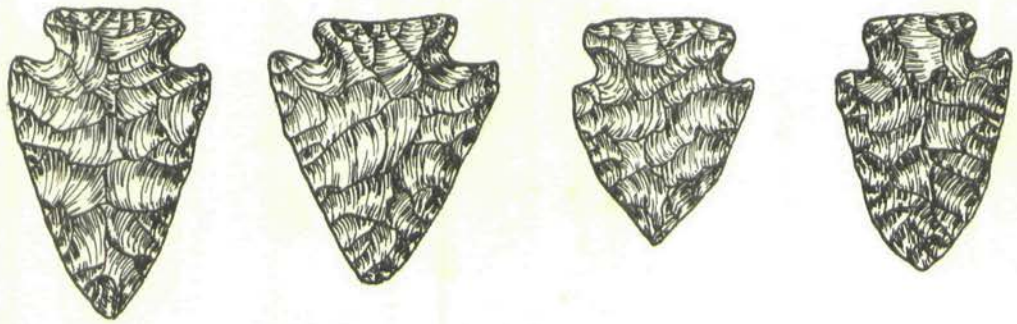
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. The area east of the Alleghenies, particularly New York and Pennsylvania, seems to be the center of dispersal for what are commonly known as "Ashtabula" points in Ohio. Further evidence of an eastern origin comes from the fact that they are distributed over most of the eastern and northeastern portions of Ohio. They are practically unknown in southwestern Ohio. Forms reminiscent of the "Ashtabula" may be found in the transitional cultures of eastern Pennsylvania where they are called Susquehanna or Perkiomen broad spears. (22:Plates I, II, III) Ohio examples seem to be more closely related to the Point Peninsula culture of New York. (23:32-33)

Straight blade edges and huge notches are characteristic and give this type a distinctly angular appearance. On many, especially the larger ones, there is an asymmetry of the notching which gives the piece an out-of-balance effect. The end of the stem is usually straight or slightly concave. Grinding of the notches may or may not be present. Along with the long and slender varieties there are some that are extremely wide in proportion to length.

SIZE. Huge spears over six inches long are known as well as small two inch points. However, they tend to be large in size, usually over three inches.

MATERIALS. Coshocton flint and gray flint from northeastern Ohio is predominate. Flint Ridge flint or even Onondaga chert from New York is not unusual.

Early Woodland Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Apparently this type came into great use during the Early Woodland Period. However, similar forms are known in the Archaic.

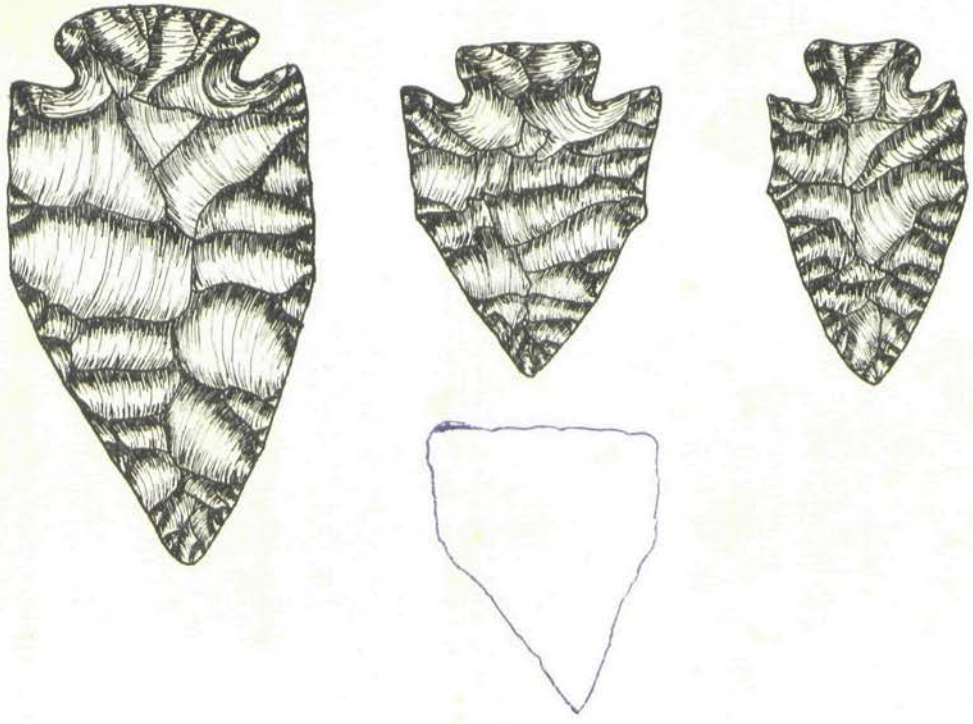
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Projectile points such as these are very common in Ohio and may be found in nearly every collection. Although called Early Woodland points they seem to have had their origin in late Archaic times. They are identical in base, stem, and shoulders, with the larger pentagonal point, and many of these smaller specimens are slightly pentagonal in outline. (24)

Nearly all examples have diagonal corner notches. Seldom do they present an angular appearance since the corners of the base and shoulders are usually rounded. The base rarely shows any grinding or polish.

SIZE. Although larger pieces are known, the vast majority are around two inches in length.

MATERIAL. Because of their abundance, every kind of material may be found in this type. A large number are of Flint Ridge flint.

Pentagonal



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Late Archaic -- Early Woodland.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Pentagonal forms are fairly scarce in Ohio and probably had their origin in the Archaic, but apparently they lasted into later periods. They seem to have been in use in the Early Woodland cultures in Ohio, but they are also represented in the Raisch-Smith site Archaic collection from Preble County, Ohio. (14:430, fig. 1)

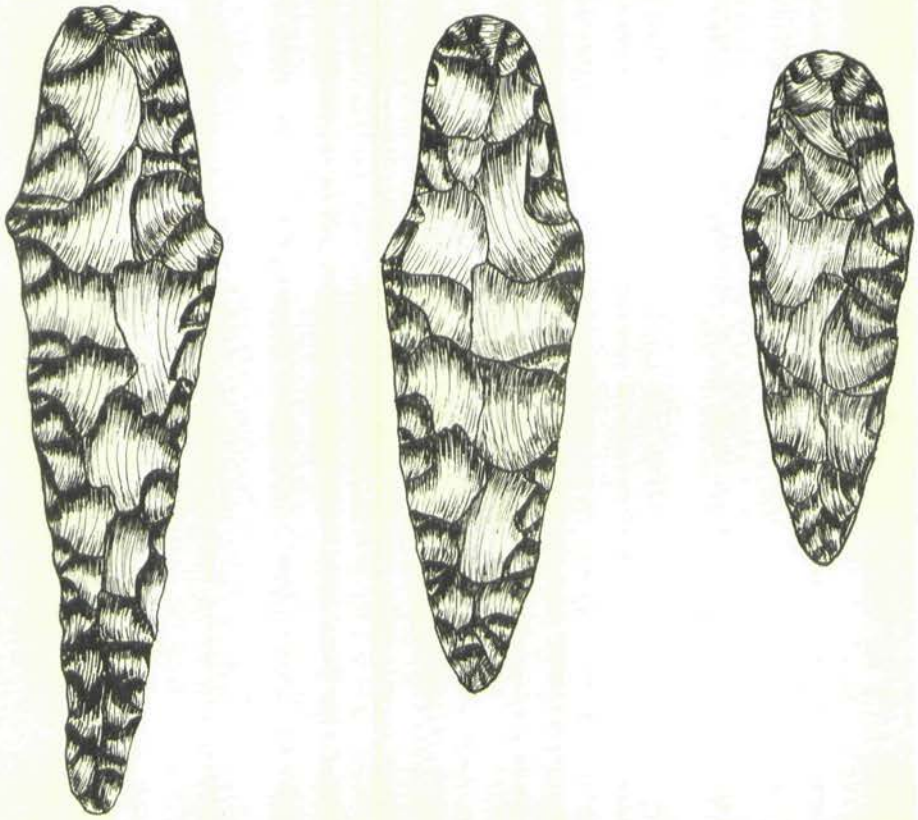
The name pentagonal is self-explanatory and descriptive, but there have been attempts to re-name Ohio varieties after Western pentagonal forms which probably have no connection in time or culture. (26:82, 83)

Classic Ohio pentagonals are large, as a rule, fairly heavy in cross-section, and show a high degree of workmanship. Blade edges are usually parallel for about half the length of the point where they abruptly angle towards the tip. There is sometimes a small barb at the angle of the blade. The stem is always short, either straight or gently convex, and may have little or no grinding.

SIZE. There is a wide range of sizes in this type from one and one-half inches to five inches, but most are over two inches long.

MATERIALS. All kinds of material from chert to multi-colored Flint Ridge flint were used.

Weak-Shouldered Stemmed Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Early Woodland -- Adena.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Large points like these are not common in Ohio. They may be an Archaic derivative since they invariably have heavy percussion flaking. Similar stemmed types were found at the Fisher Site in Kentucky which is related to Adena. (25:54, 60, 69)

Weak-shouldered stemmed points are always long and narrow and diamond-shaped in cross-section when viewed from the tip of the point. The stem is nearly always heavily ground and the blade edges may be quite battered or worn. Because of the heavy wear they may have been used as some sort of tool or implement. The shoulders may be slight or incipiently indicated.

SIZE. Some specimens may be as long as six inches, and nearly all are over three inches in length. They seldom are wider than one and one-quarter inches.

MATERIAL. See Adena Points.

Adena Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Adena.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Adena points are a product of the famous culture which was named for the mound on the Thomas Worthington estate, Adena. It was on this estate, near Chillicothe, Ohio, that William C. Mills excavated the original Adena mound in 1901.

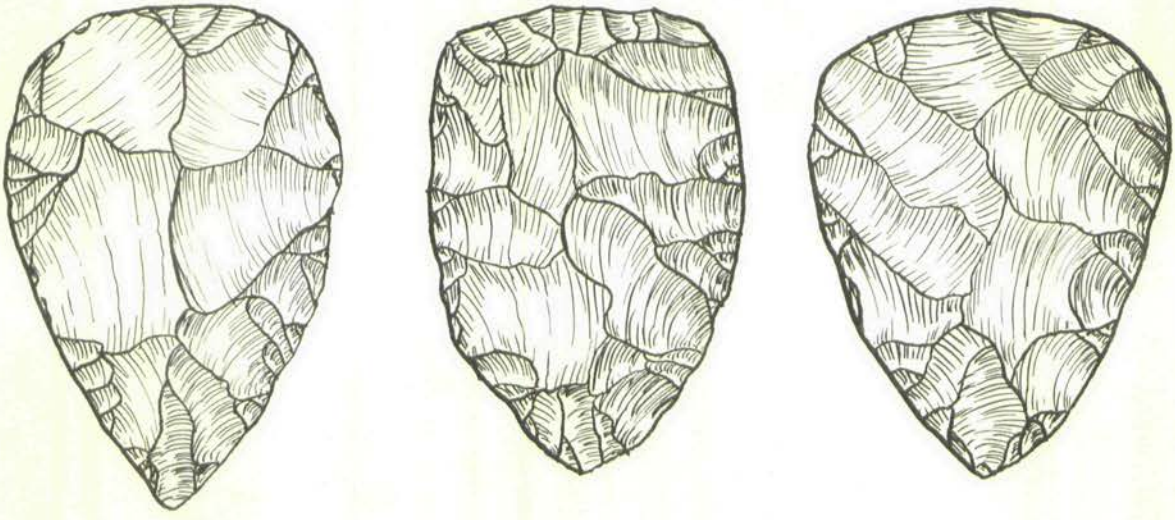
The Adena occupied an area of the Ohio River watershed from western Pennsylvania to Indiana and Kentucky. Ross County, Ohio, seems to be the center of dissemination; however, there may have been a strong influence, if not direct origin, from the South. Many Adena mounds are found in the central portion of Kentucky as well as along the Kanawha River in West Virginia. Apparently many cultural traits were inherited from the Archaic peoples of the South, one of which was the prototype of the stemmed Adena point. (2)

Adena points are found in the stem forms illustrated and all are typical of examples found on Adena sites and excavated from Adena mounds. (27:23-35) The stem is seldom polished or ground. The shoulders may be weak, pronounced, or even barbed. True Adena points are never beveled or serrated. All are thin and well-flaked by percussion and pressure. (28:122, 123)

SIZE. Nearly all are over two inches in length. Some may be extremely large.

MATERIAL. Classic Adena points are of mottled white Flint Ridge chalcedony. They are also found in a variety of other fine flints.

Adena Leaf-Shaped Blades



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Adena.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Leaf-shaped blades have been found in Adena mounds and occupational sites. (2:40) They have also been found in caches. (27:fig. 33) They are considered to be a cultural trait of Adena. (2:113)

These blades are usually thin and carefully chipped by percussion and pressure retouch. As their name implies, they resemble a leaf in general outline.

SIZE. Nearly all are over two and one-half inches in length. They frequently are about two inches across the face of the blade.

MATERIAL. As with classic Adena points, these blades are often made of mottled white Flint Ridge chalcedony. Seldom are they made of poor quality material.

Bottleneck Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Woodland.

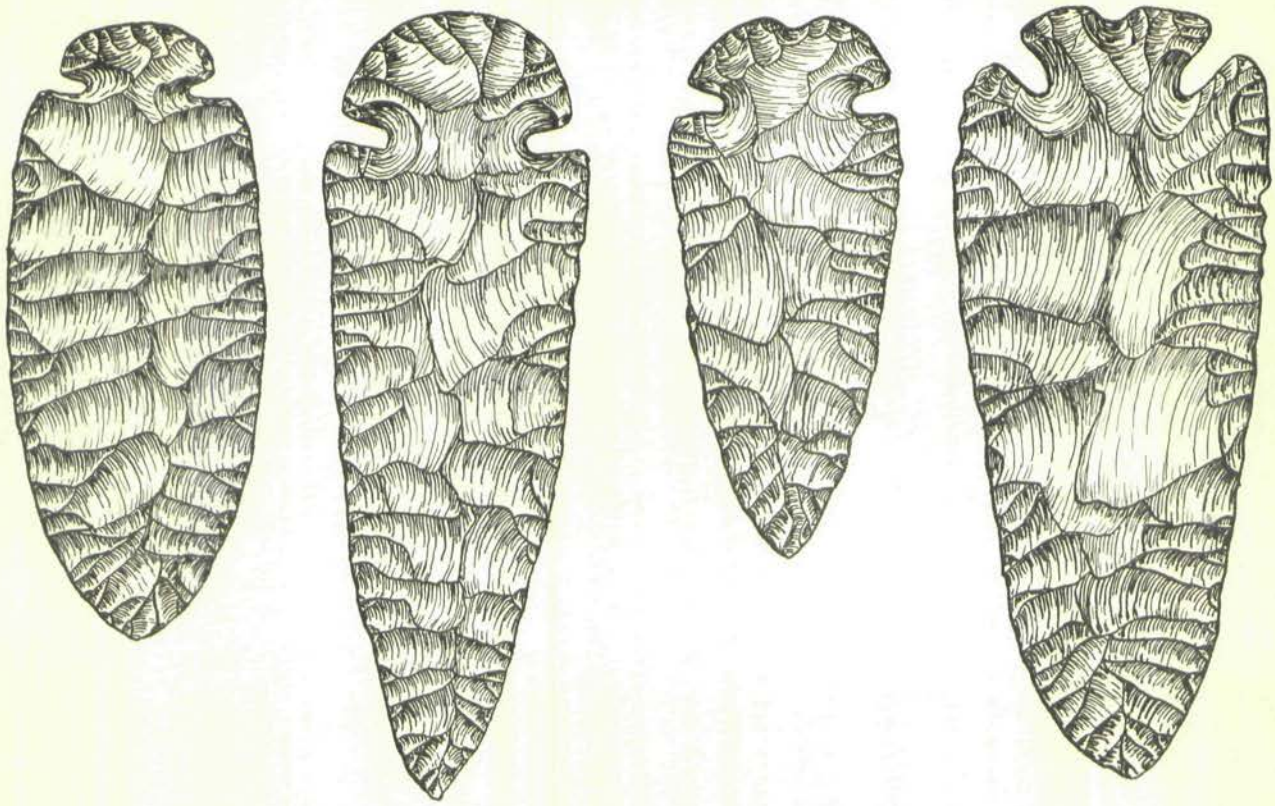
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Bottleneck points are fairly scarce in Ohio and exact cultural affiliation is not known. They seem to be a minor flint type attributable to the Woodland period. (29) They somewhat resemble Hopewell points although they are not as large and are much thicker in cross-section.

Large round notches which constrict the stem are characteristic. The bases and notches are heavily ground. Fine percussion and pressure flaking are always evident and although these points are always heavy and thick, they rarely are crudely made. The blade edges are always convex and never straight.

SIZE. In most instances they are around two inches long. One inch to three inches seem to be the extremes in size.

MATERIAL. Flint Ridge material predominates, some of it of the jewel variety. Chert or dull flint was also used.

Dovetail Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Unknown.

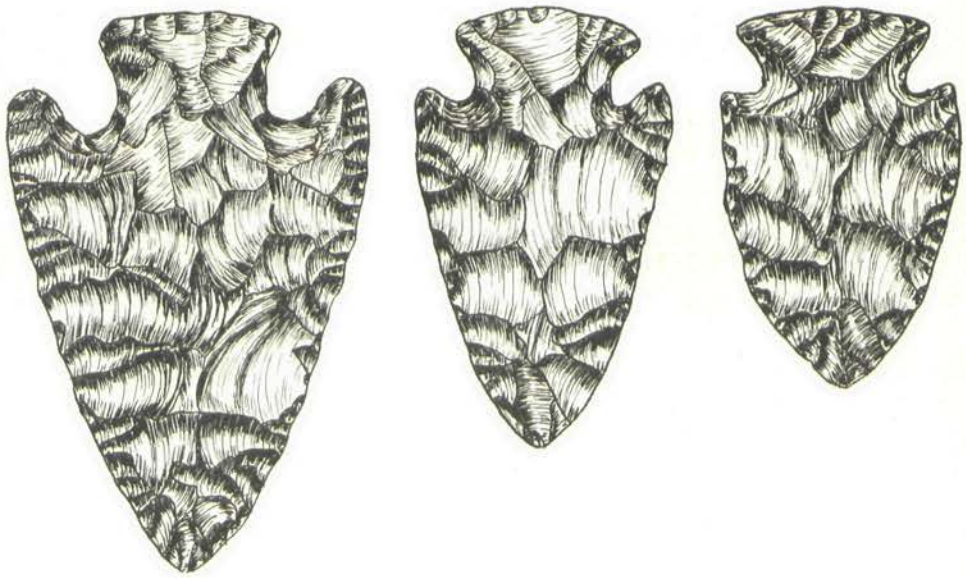
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Because of its combination of fine colorful flint and beautiful craftsmanship, the dovetail is one of the most pleasing of all flint artifacts, and also one of the most popular among collectors. There is a general opinion among collectors that they are a product of the Adena-Hopewell period although they have never been excavated from burial mounds of these cultures in Ohio. A type of dovetail has been found in Hopewell mounds of Illinois. Their scarcity and lack of cultural association in Ohio leave their origin somewhat of a mystery.

There are a number of variations of the type, the most common of which are illustrated. Usually large and well chipped by percussion flaking and pressure retouch, they are always symmetrical and display a high degree of skill in their manufacture. The base is always heavily ground or polished and the notches are small and finely made. One variant has a small notch removed at the center of the base -- above right -- but this variant is more often beveled or serrated or both.

SIZE. Dovetails range in size from small two inch points to large eight or nine inch spears. Some of the huge spears were undoubtedly used for other than utilitarian purposes and may have been ceremonial.

MATERIAL. Nearly all dovetails found in Ohio are of flints of the highest quality from Flint Ridge. Occasional specimens may be made of fine Coshocton flint. Black flint is rarely found and dovetails of crude chert are very unusual.

Hopewell Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Hopewell culture of the Middle Woodland time period. About 500 AD to 1200 AD.

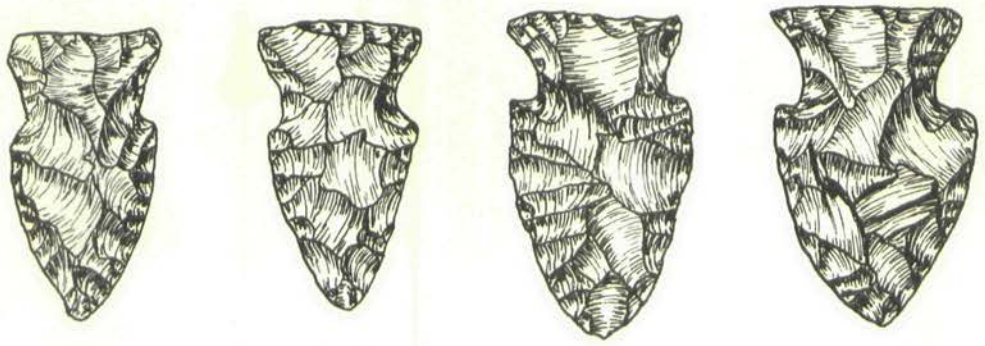
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Hopewell points have been recognized as a characteristic projectile type of the great Hopewell culture since the early 1900's. (30:180) They are named for the culture first described by Warren K. Moorehead from his excavations, in 1892, of earthworks on the Hopewell family farm near Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio. Many points of this type have been found in mound fill and associated with Hopewell burials, and, although fairly scarce, are found in all areas where this culture flourished. Apparently there is no prototype to be found in earlier mound building cultures for these points and they seem to be peculiar to Hopewell.

Symmetrical and thin, and always well made, Hopewell points show a fine combination of percussion and pressure flaking. Blade edges are usually convex and the corner notches are usually large and expansive. The base is always convex and seldom if ever has any grinding.

SIZE. There is a wide range of sizes from two inches to extreme lengths. One nine inch spear, very much like the specimen pictured above left, was found with a burial in the Seip mound of Ross County. (3:309)

MATERIAL. Always made of fine flint, many are of milky white Flint Ridge chalcedony or translucent material. Indiana hornstone may be present in some examples.

Middle Woodland Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Middle Woodland.

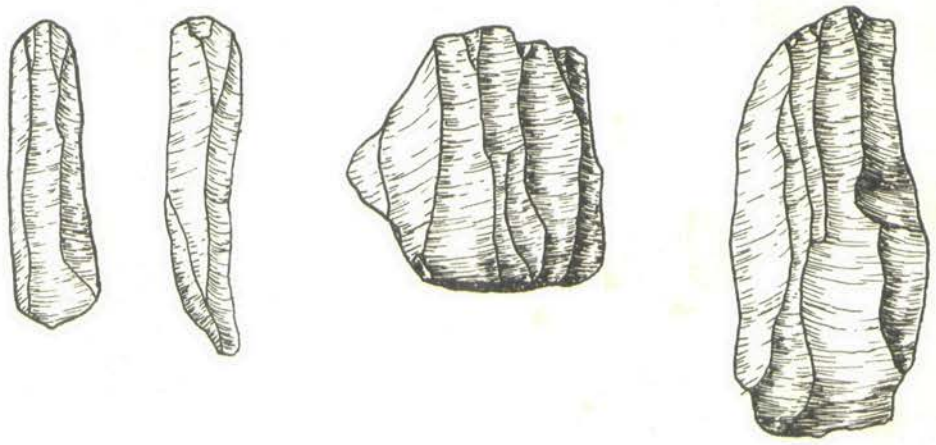
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. These points occur in large numbers on sites attributed to the Middle Woodland or to Hopewell. They appear to be a smaller version of the classic Hopewell type, the main difference being the size and workmanship. (32:fig. 33)

In nearly all cases the base is straight or slightly convex. There is never any basal grinding. The blade sides are usually convex and seldom straight. Notches are large and may leave barbs at the shoulders. Large percussion flake scars are evident on all points of this type with a moderate amount of pressure flaking along the blade edges.

SIZE. Nearly all fall into the sizes illustrated. Some are occasionally larger.

MATERIAL. A great amount of Flint Ridge material is found in this type. Much of it is the glossy multi-colored or translucent variety. They may also be made of local chert.

Bladelets, or Flake Knives, and Cores



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Hopewell.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Small, finely-made bladelets are one of the most easily recognized Hopewellian traits. (30:fig. 63) These beautiful little tools are the result of a highly refined blade-making technique and are found in no other culture in comparable numbers or type materials used. Usually made of multi-colored Flint Ridge flint, they are found on a great number of sites attributed to Hopewell or Middle Woodland in Ohio. Because of their extreme thinness it is rare to find a whole or unbroken specimen in a cultivated field. Flint workshop sites on Flint Ridge have yielded bladelets and attendant cores by the thousands. (33:16-17) Cores are very scarce on sites away from the Flint Ridge area.

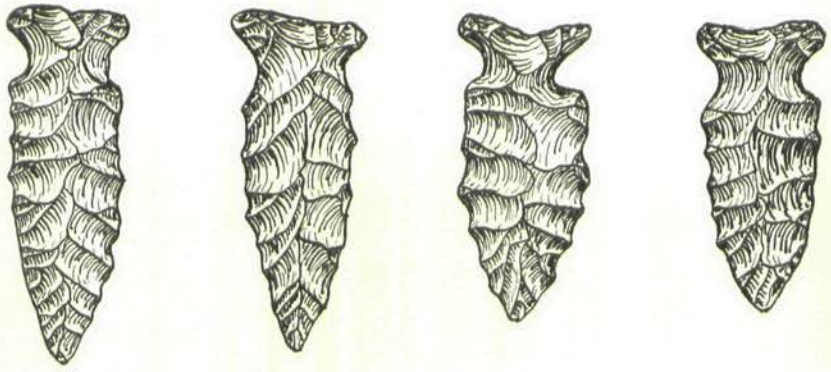
Perfectly made Hopewell bladelets are always long, thin, and narrow, and exhibit three narrow facets which are scars of previous pieces struck from the parent core. The reverse, or flat side, will have a tiny percussion bulb at one end and slight ripples radiating towards the opposite end. Some show secondary chipping and notching of the basal end.

Typical cores have a number of facets or scars on one or all sides. Ideally, a core which has been perfectly struck on all surfaces would look like a small inverted cone, the flat side of which would be the point of percussion or the striking platform. (30:fig. 64)

SIZE. Average pieces are between two and three inches in length. This necessarily applies to bladelets and cores alike.

MATERIAL. Practically without exception, Flint Ridge "jewel" flint or multi-colored material was used, and even examples found hundreds of miles from Flint Ridge are of this material.

Late Woodland Point



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Late Woodland, about A. D. 1000.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Although this is only one of a number of types assigned to the Late Woodland period, it is popularly called a Late Woodland point. (It has been found as a majority type on sites which are of this culture, and is not considered scarce since many have been found scattered over Ohio, especially in the southern portion.) (34:134-135)

The flaking technique used in the manufacture of this point is a departure from the predominate style of the later types. It is characterized by a narrow and heavy appearance, with large and short pressure flakes which give it a decidedly diamond-shaped or rounded cross-section. Shoulders, for the most part, are seldom pronounced because of the long shallow side notches. Most examples have a straight or slightly concave base, which is occasionally ground or polished. One variety of this type is wider, thinner, and has more percussion flaking.

SIZE. Sizes are between one inch and two and one-half inches and most are about two inches long.

MATERIAL. In nearly every case a dull, drab, tan or gray local chert is used in this type, or occasionally, one may be made of black flint. The use of Flint Ridge material is very unusual.

Fort Ancient Points

TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Mississippian Period -- Fort Ancient.

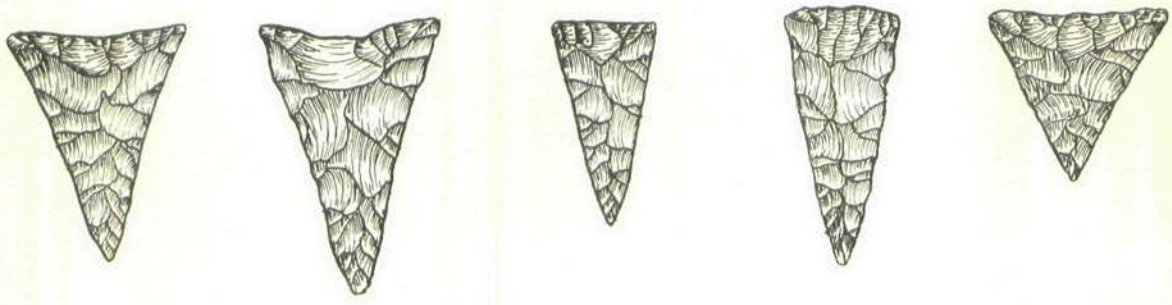
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Serrated triangular points are found on numerous Fort Ancient sites in southern Ohio. (35:120-121) They do not appear to be as widely distributed as unserrated triangular points.

Fort Ancient points are always long and slender and thin. Few are equal sided triangles. The base may be slightly rounded or at an angle to the blade. Serrations may be delicate and minute or occasionally ragged. There is never any basal grinding.

SIZE. Usually from one to two inches.

MATERIAL. Frequently a better quality flint was used than is found in plain triangular points.

Triangular Points



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Mississippian Period -- Fort Ancient and Erie.

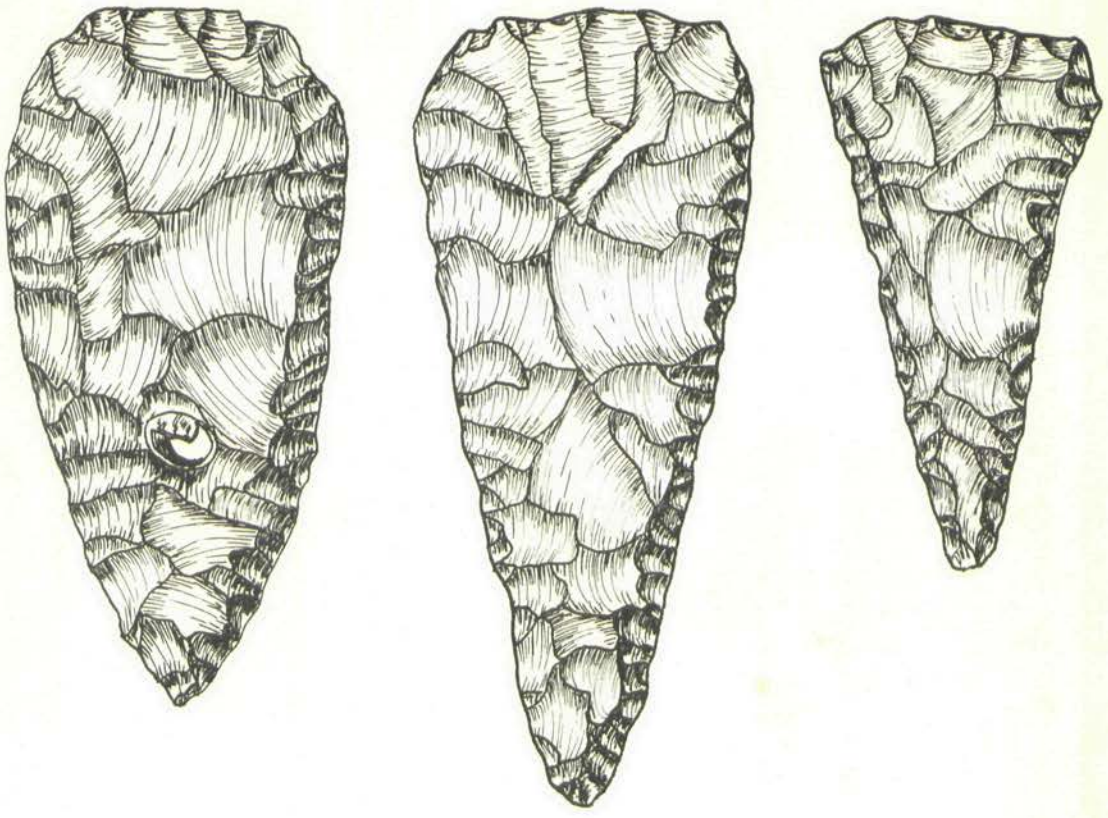
INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. The triangular point is one of the best known of all flint types and is found almost universally in late cultures over the eastern part of the United States. (32:fig. 35) A great many camp and village sites have yielded triangular points. (35:120-121) Needless to say, they are common in Ohio and one of the easiest types to recognize because of their unique shape. They are sometimes called "war" points by collectors.

Triangular points are nearly always extremely thin and well chipped. They may be long and slender or perfect, equal sided triangles. There is never any grinding or polish on the edges.

SIZE. Examples over two inches are not common. Some are less than one-half inch. The average size is about one and one-quarter inches.

MATERIAL. The great majority of triangular points are made of tan or gray chert. Black flint was occasionally used. Flint Ridge flint is unusually rare in this type.

Flint Knives



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Archaic to Late Woodland.

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Flint knives are found in nearly all cultures from the beginning of the Archaic (38:21) to the Late Woodland period. (32:figs. 29, 31, 34) They were used for cutting and scraping and were not hafted. They vary greatly in size and form.

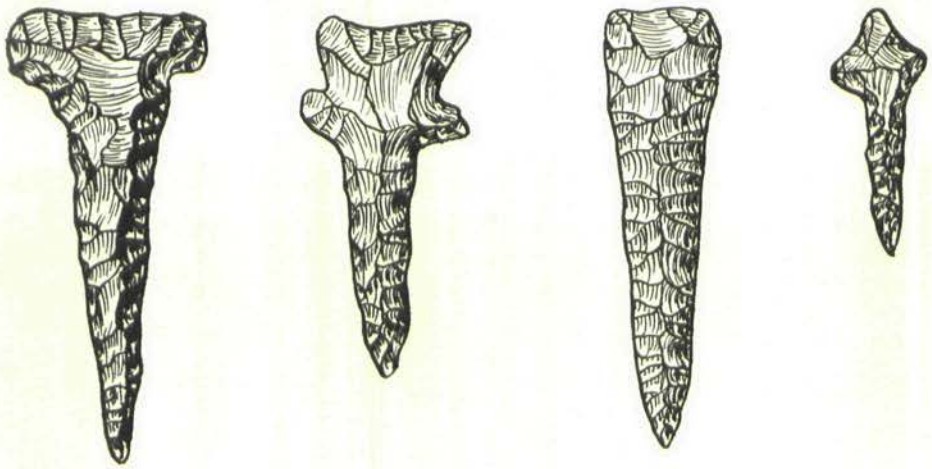
Most flint knives are pear-shaped in outline and show a wide variation in workmanship. Some are finely made and display a high degree of workmanship, while others appear to be crude and poorly made. In most cases the blade edges are chipped by pressure flaking. Some specimens have only one finely chipped blade edge with a definite smoothing or polish on the opposite edge.

The specimen illustrated above right is of a type normally found with Fort Ancient material and is sometimes called a Fort Ancient Knife. (39:122) Characteristically it has an angular appearance with definite squared shoulders.

SIZE. Sizes vary from small two inch examples to some which are extremely large.

MATERIALS. Any variety of flint or chert.

Drills



TIME PERIOD OR CULTURE. Paleo, Archaic, Woodland,

INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION. Drills are known in the Plano Complex (3:fig. 22), the Archaic (38:fig. 11), and the Woodland period (32:fig. 32). They were used for drilling, reaming, and perforating. Some were undoubtedly hafted while others were probably held in the fingers.

Some of the more common forms of bases can be seen in the illustrations; however, they may have an infinite number of shapes. As a rule, the point is long and slender and may show heavy wear. When viewed from the tip of the point, the blade is usually square-shaped or diamond-shaped in cross-section. A great many are broken when found.

SIZE. Drills from one to six inches in length are known.

MATERIAL. Any material used by the Indian.

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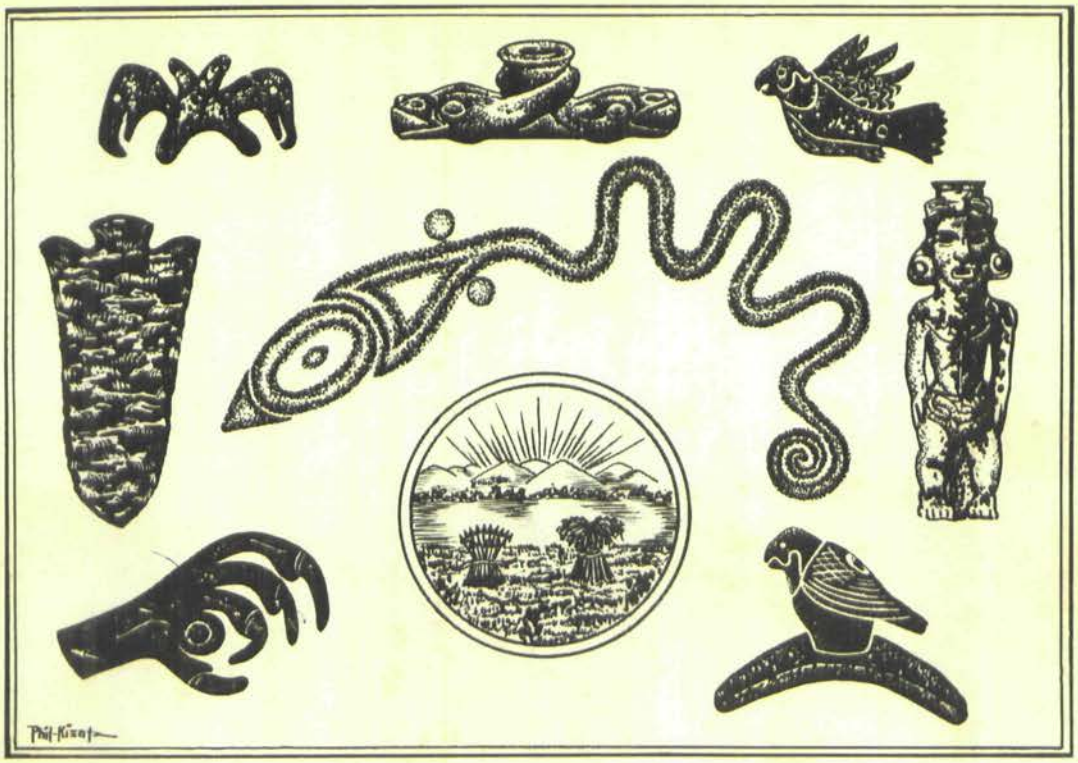

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