

ACOTW™

Welcome To

www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com

Volume I, Number 1

May 2009

Welcome To The Premiere Edition Of Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

Thank you for requesting a subscription to our newsletter, "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

Over the last few weeks we have been eagerly preparing to send out the introductory edition, Volume I, Number 1, of our digital on-line newsletter to all who have requested a free subscription.

Your newsletter, "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web", will provide articles and graphic presentations of information related to the many different aspects of finding and learning about the relics of previous cultures which remain to be found today:

- How do you find an arrowhead?
- Where do you look?
- Who made it?
- How old is it?
- Is it an arrowhead?
- What is a dart point?
- Is this a spear point or a knife blade?
- How do I learn about the people who made them?
- What rules do I need to know about?
- I found this when I was making a garden. Can I dig anywhere?
- What kind of stone is this?



These archaic period Humboldt and other early style of dart and lance points and knife blades were surface finds in several regions of Nevada in the 1990's. These were obtained in 2007 from the finder, one of my on-line collecting contacts.

- How did they make these arrowheads?
- Where did they find the special stone?
- Can I get arrowheads from other areas?
- My friends collect them; how can I organize a collection of the points I have found?
- My grandfather collected many arrowheads. What can I do with them?
- How should I identify my arrowheads for the future?
- How do I know if this is an ancient arrowhead?
- Can I learn to make an arrowhead?
- How do we know this point may be thousands of years old?
- Why is this arrowhead so small and that one so large?
- Can I tell the difference between an ancient arrowhead and a modern reproduction arrowhead?
- What is a Certificate of Authenticity?
- Is an arrowhead worth any money?
- How can I trade with other collectors?
- How many different kinds of arrowheads are there?
- Why are there so many different kinds?
- How can I tell the difference between the different kinds of arrowheads?
- What happened to this arrowhead? It looks broken.

(continued...)

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Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

- How can we share photos of our collections, or of specific arrowheads?
- Who else is collecting arrowheads in my home region?

This is just a start of the many subjects which we will discuss in the newsletter "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web". We will have photo essays, photo-illustrated articles, stories, "how to" articles and essays.

We hope you will be a reader for several years. Our plan is to help our readers become long-term, even serious collectors of arrowheads, over the years to come.

There are several things which we hope to accomplish for you in this process:

- Help you find new points and understand what it is that you are finding;
- Help you to learn about all the different aspects of collecting;
- Help you to recognize the different kinds and styles of collectable arrowheads and other implements;
- Help you to understand about the life ways of the cultures represented by the stone tools which remain after them;
- Help you to discover ways to find good and desirable arrowheads from other sources, such as eBay and special subject web sites;
- Help you to learn about point quality and authenticity, so that you understand about point value and character;

- Help you understand about modern flint knapping, how new points and implements are made, how to recognize them, and how to appreciate those items for the craftsmanship and skill of the work which they demonstrate;
- Help you to recognize that some people still try to sell unsuspecting collectors items which may or may not be what the item is described to be, that you should be careful when you think about buying points for your collection;
- Help you to learn about authentication services and their value to you as a collector.

As we do these things, we will have earned your loyalty as a subscriber and reader for several years. If we continue to do these things, we will maintain your readership and interest in our newsletter for many years to come.

I am glad you have asked to join our readership and look forward to hearing from you on occasion as we produce the newsletter for you.

What will always be most important is that you benefit and learn from our efforts.

Thank you for your participation, and your interest in "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

Sincerely,
F. Scott Crawford
Carrollton, Texas

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www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com
F. Scott Crawford, Carrollton, Texas



About The Author

From the time when I was 11 or 12 in the forested foothills of the western Oregon Willamette Valley and found my first arrowhead, an obsidian "bird point," in a field my dad had plowed for an experimental crop of maize, I have always wondered about the people who used these stone tools, how they lived, and what became of them.

Some friends had collected Indian artifacts in the desert areas of eastern Oregon and my brothers and I all enjoyed looking at their display of those arrowheads. So, to find some points of our own, on the family land, was particularly exciting. After that, whenever we were working in the bean fields, or tending livestock, or moving irrigation pipes, or just wandering across the back 40, we always would keep an eye out for bits and pieces of worked stone, tools and points, to add to our growing collection.

Today, I still keep an eye out for remnants of past cultures. And as the world has changed so much, I can now do much, but not all, of that wandering and learning on the internet, on the world wide web. That's how I came to be collecting arrowheads on the web, and why I began to put together this newsletter, for others across the land who also are interested in "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

FSC

p.s. There is still a time and a place for criss crossing a plowed field, or walking along the banks of a stream, just to see what you might find. Knowing where to look and how, is part of what we plan to explore in the pages of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web." Read, learn, find, enjoy.

p.p.s. You are invited to visit my flint knapping web site:
www.Arrowhead-Maker.com

Hunting Arrowheads On The Internet

Now that so many have access to the world wide web, at home, office, even on the road with wireless connections, we can explore many parts of the world from our desk top.

So it is probably no big surprise that we can now begin to find arrowheads on the internet.

What is especially intriguing is the variety and quality of arrowheads and other stone tools which can be found on the web.

Please note, the variety and quality of arrowheads is essentially the same as that which can be found by traditional methods of personal exploration and trading with collectors whom we know.

In other words, there are still a lot of "field grade" or "used up" and worn out points, in addition to the usual variety of junk, fakes, cheap foreign imports (like Indian arrowheads, made on the Asian subcontinent and imported to be sold as "Indian", which they are, by virtue of being made in

India; just not the Indian that you and I expect when we in North America use the term).

With time to look around and with an understanding of the opportunities and the risks involved in dealing with long distance and sometimes inexperienced or inadequately informed collector/providers, an arrowhead enthusiast or collector can augment his local contacts with a whole new network of collectors across the continent, even around the world, by looking for arrowheads on the internet.

Actual size of these three Gunther arrowheads.



Above, this translucent gray obsidian serrated Gunther arrowhead (RR303) was found in Shasta County of northern California in the 1950's and comes from the Robert Roy collection. I purchased it from Michael Knighton at www.RenegadeArtifacts.com, in 2009. The Certificate of Authenticity from Jeb Taylor estimates the age to be as much as 1,150 before present.



Left, these two red and tan jasper Gunther Barbed arrowheads are a matching pair found together in an apparent cache, with a number of other undamaged points, in Siskiyou County of northern California in 1970 by Pat Welch. I purchased them from Pat and her daughter, Jennifer Peterson, in 2009. The larger Gunther has a G-10 grading on the Certificate of Authenticity from Tom Davis. I expect that the second will also receive a similar grade.

Focus On eBay Listings For Pre-1600 Artifacts

In an effort to add credibility to its internet marketplace, eBay has quite strict policies in place for sellers of cultural artifacts.

These policies seek to assure compliance with the many laws which are in place regarding the sale of native artifacts from many cultures around the world. In North America this is particularly relevant to collectors of "Indian" artifacts. The regulations have to do with banning the sale of artifacts which are recovered in violation of federal and state laws protecting grave goods, items from sacred places, from protected lands, caves and other locations.

Sellers on eBay are required to certify that their offered items are in compliance with the relevant laws. Every listing is required to clearly state several of these conditions, or else the listing can be cancelled by eBay.

Repeated violations of these policies can lead to a seller losing his or her eBay membership and ability to sell on eBay. This is to protect both eBay and the potential buyers from the inadvertent violation of the relevant laws.

For items shown in this newsletter, which I have purchased on eBay, I identify the eBay seller ID. Over time I have found many eBay sellers who have established a sterling reputation for authenticity and accuracy in their artifact listings. The list I have gathered is very valuable to me in my collecting efforts. Build your own list of sellers in whom you have proven confidence.

For North American Indian artifacts on eBay, you will find them listed in this category tree: collectibles>cultures & ethnicities>Native Americana>Pre-1600>artifacts.



This damaged Clovis Point from Indiana, was purchased from the eBay seller "razrbk", who has an eBay Store "SWArkArtifacts". He sells authentic artifacts from the south/central United States, many with Certificates of Authenticity.

This chalcedony Gunter Barbed arrowhead from the Columbia Basin in Oregon, was found by Pat Welch in 1962. I purchased it on eBay with several other authentic points, from Pat and her daughter, Jennifer Peterson. Jennifer's eBay ID is "Angelfaerieland". Pat and Jennifer have a collection of 200,000 points from northern California and all over the Pacific Northwest. I have been pleased to acquire several sets of points from them through eBay as well as points from their collection which were made available through other reputable artifact dealers.

What Is This? Arrowhead, Dart Point, Spear Head, Lance Point or Knife Blade?

In the understanding of stone tools, as with most modern tools, the ancient engineering principle holds true: form follows function.

This helps us to understand what a stone tool was used for, once we have an overview knowledge of the various types of tools which were in use.

For instance, some might think of the two larger sized projectile points in this group as arrowheads. However, when we know that the bow and arrow was only in use throughout North America in the last 1500 years or so, these older style points are more accurately identified as dart points, which were thrown with an "atlatl" or spear thrower.

In contrast, the three tiny points are arrowheads. And though some call these "bird points", they were in fact used for large game as well.

The size of the arrow or dart shafts can be deduced by the size of the tang at the base of the points. This tells us that the arrow shafts used for these three points were quite slim.

Arrow shafts have been found in dry sites. Some are made with a "foreshaft" which holds the projectile point, and is itself attached to the main arrow shaft. This allowed for a quick replacement of a broken point or for the foreshaft to come off the arrow in the target animal to prevent the loss of the more valuable arrow shaft.

The combination tool, scraper and drill/awl is quite practical.



These 2 Archaic period Elko (2") and Gatecliff (1-5/8") style atlatl dart points, 3 Pre-historic arrowheads (all under 7/8") and what appears to be a combination scraper/drill or awl (2-7/8"), were found by Vernon Imel in the Alvord Desert of eastern Oregon in 1958 & 1959.



This very large Paleo Period basalt knife, found in Idaho, from the "Harriot Young Collection," is a good example of the classical tool design principle: form follows function. This knife or skinning tool, which measures over 8-1/2" long and almost 4" wide, is made in from a fine-grained spall of basalt. It is knapped in a unifacial style, since the fracture

face, which was broken away from a large chunk of basalt, was already plenty smooth. The knapper simply finished the sharpening of the rougher side of the large chip, shaping it to a form which can be held in a piece of leather and immediately used as a knife or skinning tool. Certificate of Authenticity by Benjamin E. Stermer from Western Typology.

Learning To See What You Are Looking At

Some years ago we were visiting a family friend in San Antonio. Out in the back yard I happened to come across a rather large piece of the local flint, which had been used as a core, with several good size chips removed along one edge, and a few other pieces removed elsewhere on the spall of flint.

Our friend lived in a neighborhood which was still being developed, with a good number of the future home sites still being graded for drainage.

So, I wandered around for a while on the construction site to see if anything of interest might be found. In the next hour I came across dart points, old knife blades, an axe, some spear point preforms; all of which were archaic period or older forms.

The first ancient tool which I found was a spear point or knife preform which was so old that the flint had turned thoroughly white. A recent chip broken away on one edge showed the original color of the dark gray flint as the chip was broken deep enough to get beyond the white outer surface.

The thing is, when my friend saw the pieces I was finding, he said he had looked many times at the same area where I had been, and he had never found anything. He went back out with me for another hour or so, and still could not find anything, though I continued to make discoveries.

What was hindering his efforts? I think your eye needs to be attuned to notice a couple of



How many points are on this patch of soil? Hint: There are 7 different arrowheads scattered here as a visualization exercise. Do you see them all? Key, p. 7.

important aspects of ancient artifacts: first, you need to learn to see stone which is of a useful variety, the flint, chert, agate, obsidian, whatever is in the local region, and also what might not be of local origin.

Second, you can learn to see the evidence of human activity, which means un-naturally broken edges, non-random shapes, even straight lines. All of these characteristics of human handiwork are not generally naturally occurring. So, if you become attuned to them, these conditions on a piece of stone will stand out like a sore thumb.

I showed my friend a number of pieces which illustrated these differences between naturally shaped rocks and man-made stone tools and points. He wanted to see them in the materials which were in the ground over which we walked. He really did want to.

And though he looked along side me for another couple of

hours, he still was not seeing what I could find that day.

It takes time to develop the skill of truly seeing what you are looking at.

Another friend of mine has a good exercise which can be useful for developing the eye to see arrowheads.

She takes some old field points, broken and used arrowheads, of different sizes, types of material and styles of points, and making note of how many she is using, scatters them across a plot of ground similar to the areas where she looks for arrowheads.

Then she practices seeing arrowheads on the ground, searching out the practice points from the ground, keeping at it until she recovers them all. This tunes her eyes to see what she needs to see.

Evidently it works, as this lady is one of the most accomplished arrowhead finders I know.

Creek Walking To Find Arrowheads

One of the effective ways of looking for arrowheads is known as “creek walking.”

This activity entails the enjoyable outdoor activity of walking along a stream, and carefully observing the stone, sand and mud along the edge of the stream.

As your eye gets attuned to the shapes of man-made objects and to the appearance of the stone raw material which people in the area used for making their tools, you will on occasion find tools and projectile points which remain behind after being used, lost or otherwise abandoned along the stream.

You can also find remains of stone working activities, such as partially completed or broken tools, and also flint or chert “cores” which remain after a knapper has removed useful smaller pieces from a chunk of the raw material.

It also is beneficial to watch along the bank or cut edges of the ground through which the stream flows. This gives you a view of the section of the soil and other materials along the side of the stream bank. Often you can see the stone tools or remnants which will fall into the stream, as erosion continues along the bank.

What creek is good for “walking” to hunt arrowheads? Just about any creek has good potential for you. Here’s why.

In most parts of the country, the ancient native peoples lived along the permanent streams, for the obvious source of water.



Along a creek, you may find relics in the mud, in the water, or on the bank.

This was also where wood would be available for making fires, and other plants would be abundant and useful for many purposes in every day life. Game animals would visit the water, but likely some distance away from any settlement.

Since streams cut through the stone resources in the area, the people would explore the stone in the stream bed and bank for useable material. You will find pieces of stone with a chip or two broken off. Often this is evidence that ancient tool makers tested the stone chunk to see if it would be of use.

Obviously proper precautions should be taken, in areas where there is the potential for dangerous creatures like venomous snakes or other animals which may not welcome you. All the normal rules regarding private property/visit permission apply always. Common sense, too.

Keys To Page 6 Article Visualization Exercise:



Three arrowheads: chert, basalt, obsidian.



Three arrowheads: chert, basalt, jasper.



Three arrowheads: obsidian, basalt, chert.

When You Go Out To Hunt For Arrowheads, Make Sure You Always Take Your Digital Camera!

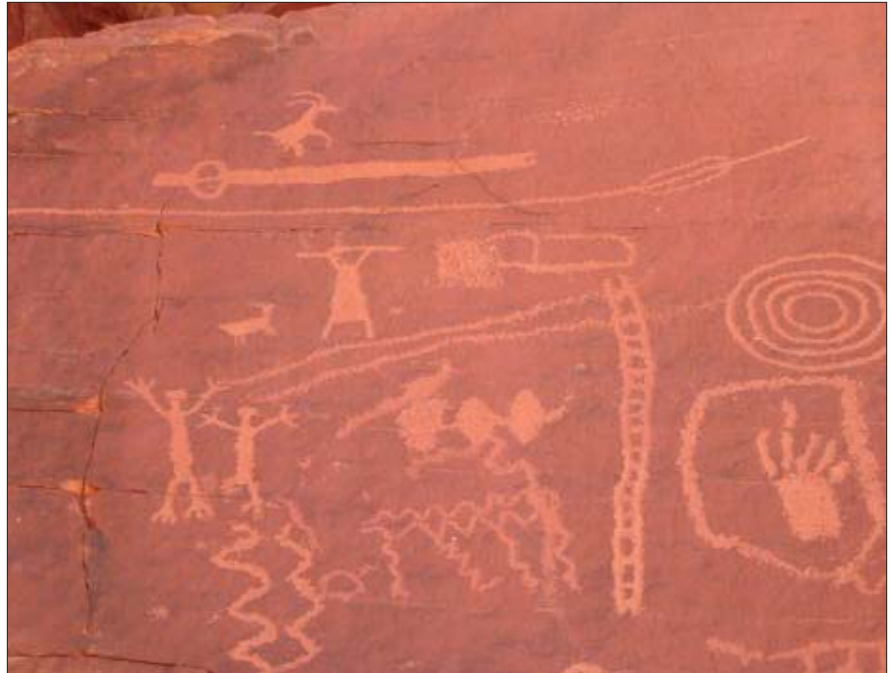
Here's a good reason for bringing a camera with you whenever you go out into the world to see who's gone before you.

It is in the oldest state park in Nevada, at Valley of Fire, northeast of Los Vegas. These petroglyphs are at a place known as Atlatl Rock.

I think of this location as an ancient patent office. These drawings of an atlatl and throwing spear are at the very top of a large face of rock which has hundreds of inscribed drawings. I think the two men are celebrating a successful practice throw at the target to the right; see the trajectory paths from them to the concentric circles?

But I did not have a camera with me the day I visited this intriguing site.

Instead, I was able to download this photograph from one of my on-line flint knapping contacts, from whom I have purchased many modern-made pieces for my contemporary



collection, and from whom I have purchased a good number of ancient and authentic spear, knife, dart, lance and arrow points for my ancient tool and weapon collection.

The simple arrow point below was discovered hiding in the vegetation high on the slopes of

Glass Buttes, in eastern Oregon. This time, I had my camera ready to capture a view of the point, as I found it. The arrowhead maker simply added notches to a chip of obsidian.

After some photos, I returned the point to the mountain grasses for another long sleep.



You Can Study The Past With Accurately Molded Casts Of Many Of The Archaeological World's Most Important Artifacts

www.LithicCastingLab.com

Owned and operated by

Pete Bostrom

The following article will offer some background information about Lithic Casting Lab and how it began. It's from the April 1998 issue of "Mammoth Trumpet," a publication devoted to the study of the Earliest Americans and published by The Center For The First Americans.

"The Art Of Preserving The Past"

April 1998 "Mammoth Trumpet"

By Carol Ann Lysek

(Abbreviated Version)

If you were to visit the world's largest repository of molds and master molds of important Stone Age tools you would have to travel through the southern Illinois cornfields to Troy, Illinois, for it is there that Pete Bostrom operates his Lithic Casting Lab.

Known internationally in archaeological circles for the high quality of his casts of Stone Age artifacts, Bostrom devised many of his own methods in a complex multi-step casting process that ultimately results in molds, master molds, and finished casts that look almost exactly like the original artifacts. Bostrom believes he is probably the only person doing this specialized craft as a full time occupation.

The Lithic Casting Lab has specializes in the replication of prehistoric stone artifacts for museum displays, teaching aids, and reference collections.

Learning how to maintain good edge detail and how to cast large items so they are detailed



© 2000, Peter A. Bostrom

Pete Bostrom's Lithic Casting Lab has produced hundreds of accurate casts of the most important cultural artifacts from around the world, like this Clovis Point from the East Wenatchee site in Douglas County, Washington state.

and free of air bubbles has taken Bostrom years of trial-and-error experimentation.

Over the years he has cast hundreds of artifacts from many federal agencies including Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Smithsonian Institution. He has performed casting projects for many states, counties, museums and universities.

Interacting daily with Old World and New World archaeologists, collectors and flintknappers, Bostrom learned that these four groups often have conflicting points of view, but he says that each has something valuable to offer.

Bostrom has accumulated thousands of master molds and casts of artifacts from cultures worldwide over a 25-year period. At least 46 Paleo-Indian sites are represented in the collection, including Mesa and Moose Creek, Alaska; Blackwater Draw, Colby, Domebo and Drake in the West; Bostrom and Kimmswick in the Midwest; Dutchess Quarry

Rock shelter, Thunderbird and Vail in the East.

He also has molds of artifacts from important Old World sites such as Abbeville in France, Kalambo Falls in Zambia, Mezhirich in Ukraine and Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.

Years ago Bostrom decided that he needed to make a photographic record of some of the more uncommon artifacts that were coming through his laboratory. He has perfected a method for depicting both sides, as well as an edge view of an artifact, in a single photograph.



Using a large-format camera, he takes a triple exposure on a 4x5 negative. He then transfers the image to a slide that presents the "impossible" perspective of all three views at once. He uses an 8x10 inch camera when photographing artifacts.

To view Pete Bostrom's many available artifact castings, visit www.LithicCastingLab.com

The Age Of These Clovis Spearpoints? 14,000 Years Or 14 Years?

Hematite Clovis Spear Point #1 sure seems to be the twin to **Hematite Clovis Spear Point #2**, also shown on this page.

Therein lies the rub! They both appear to have been made by the same knapper, of the same material, at the same general time. The question for every collector becomes: at what time in history were these two points made?

To be old or not to be old. That is the question.

As a collector of ancient, authentic points I want to know. And I am sure you do, as well. How can we know? If not for absolute certainty, then at least with a fair degree of assurance.

As for me, unless I found these two pieces, or personally observed their discovery, I would want to have a complete "provenance" provided. That is the description of the finding activity, the name of the person who found them, and a signed statement from that person certifying the circumstances of discovery. Also, the provenance should provide an unbroken "chain of custody"; listing any and all intervening owners since the discovery.

And, even with that provenance information, I would want to obtain what is known as a "Certificate of Authenticity"; for the two pieces. This is a professional opinion from a recognized authority in the field of archaeological artifact analysis, attesting to the cultural identification of each piece, its quality and its authenticity. For more assurance, I would want to have similar



Hematite Clovis
Spear Point #1



Hematite Clovis
Spear Point #2

opinions from several different, recognized authenticators.

This would be in addition to and supplementing my own close and careful examination of the workmanship, style, process, material and evidence of age or exposure to the elements and surface depositions visible under great enlargement.

That's what I would want, before I would purchase these two alleged Clovis points, or any others, as being ancient and authentic cultural relics.

In the absence of such documentation, I would be forced to consider that these are highly likely to be excellent examples of exotic stone material being used by a highly skilled mod-

ern flint knapper to replicate or reproduce Clovis points.

Hematite is an iron ore material, relatively common in the Missouri area; and, it was knapped into very strong and long-lasting spear points, knives, axes and other tools. So, it is possible to have an ancient Clovis point made from hematite, from Missouri and that immediate area.

However, to have two such nearly identical points, of hematite, in such beautiful condition, does seem to be stretching the limits of credulity. As a result of the logical examination of the situation, I am careful to say that I think these are both modern Clovis point reproductions.

A Word To The Wise, When You Consider Buying Artifacts On The Internet Or In Person From An Individual Or A Company.

Do not let the excitement of a new find distract you from careful consideration of the authenticity and the history of the point or tool you are contemplating.

If a story sounds too good to be true, likely it is too good to be true. Develop a relationship with the seller so that you can decide the level of trust you can place on his or her word and descriptions.

Ask for as full account of the history of the point as may be available. This is called the "provenance" of the point. It should include the name of the finder, the place, the date, and a description of the circumstances or special conditions under which the discovery was made. Also you should ask for a full list of previous owners of the point or tool, if you are not obtaining it from the original finder.

Almost any collector to whom you speak will have a story of how he bought a point from someone whom he thought was trustworthy, only to later find out that the point was either unknowingly or deliberately sold as authentic, when in reality it might have been a modern-made copy or reproduction point.

Many modern flint knappers make tools and points as well as any ancient knapper. Most who do so are honorable, and either sign their work or otherwise inform potential buyers of the fact that the piece is a modern made replica.

However, once a knapper has sold a point, he has little if any control over what might get told about the point in the future. This means that you may find modern made points passed off as ancient, either by intentional or unintentional misrepresentation by subsequent owners who want to sell the pieces which they have.

For example, when you are looking at supposed "Paleo-Indian" artifacts, it would be well to keep in mind that in most parts of the country these artifacts are extremely rare. I know lifelong students of archaeology who have worked all over the country in projects covering many of the eras of human occupation in this continent who have only ever come across one or two authentic Paleo-Indian relics such as a Clovis spear point or a Folsom dart point. When these points are found in scientific excavations they are celebrated and carefully cataloged for future study and reference. When they might be found on private land, by individuals, these points and tools are often carefully preserved and put away, well out of the public eye.

Very seldom will you find such a point on the market. At least, not an ancient, authentic point of any quality. You may see an occasional broken or partial point.

And sometimes, if a collector has had such a good Paleo-Indian point authenticated and

certified, he may be tempted to sell it, but this would be an unusual circumstance.

I find it difficult to imagine that even an artifact dealer, whose business has long been the buying and selling of these items, would ever even want to sell a high quality Clovis point or Folsom point or Cumberland point, for example, without suggesting a substantial price.

I say all of this to caution you and encourage you to carefully consider claims of age, culture and authenticity which you will hear from people who are collectors and/or sellers of possibly ancient artifacts.

Whenever possible, you should inquire about and even require a certificate of authenticity from a respected source.

I have included another article in this edition of the newsletter "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" which discusses authenticators and gives contact information for several whom I consider top quality and reliable as artifact evaluators.

I intend to keep that information available in every edition of the newsletter, so that readers can avail themselves of the authentication resources which are available to collectors today.

Collecting is an exciting activity, and enthusiasm is good, but caution is also necessary to protect your long term interests and your satisfaction and peace of mind as they are dependent upon careful, educated decisions.

What Happened? This Point Looks Broken!

Once I found what looked like the tip end of a spear head protruding from the soil in a field of maize. It was gray dacite. And it looked unbroken. I just looked for a while, hoping that the rest of the blade was buried in the loose soil. I reached down to pull what could be a 5 or 6 inch blade from the soil where it had been covered for hundreds of years.

As I picked it up, my heart fell. It looked like it was just the broken off point of an old blade. My attitude went in to the mud too. Then I cleaned off the remaining dirt at what looked like the broken middle of the blade.

As it turns out, it probably was a broken knife blade or spear point. But, it had been recycled; the broken edge had been chipped again to make a new base for the short blade.



If you ever are lucky enough to be in the right place and looking in the right direction, you might come across a sight like this. If you do, take out your camera and shoot several good photographs of the Paleo-Indian Folsom point in the position in which you find it, before you touch it or move it. This is called "In-Situ" ... which means "In Place" as discovered. Then, after you settle down and recover a normal heart rate, and have made several well focused photographs, you will want to examine the point closer. I hope it does not look like this further sequence of this point found in Nevada in 2000 by Clifford Carney.



This is the base half of a used Folsom point. The tip probably broke off in a hunting attempt. Sometimes the remainder would have been resharpener, and sometimes it was



simply removed from the wood or bone foreshaft and replaced by a new point. This point was originally only fluted on one side, so we get to see how the other side was finished, prior



to the decision to refrain from the second side fluting work. Obtained from eBay seller "stonefusion".

The World Wide Web Brings The Whole Ancient World To You

Did you know that when some American Southwest Pueblo settlements were excavated during archaeological studies, collections of even older culture projectile points were found!

So, it is hardly surprising that today we still like to make collections of old stone tools and weapons which we find, or for which we trade from others who found or collected them.

With the extension of human networks to include the light speed connections provided by the modern internet, we can now view and trade ancient tools from all around the world, without having to leave our own home. For instance, these points come from such extremes as the Sahara Desert of North Africa and from Native Corporation Lands located on St. Lawrence Island off the coast of Alaska.



These Neolithic (New Stone Age) arrowheads from North Africa are from 3,000 to 5,000 years of age, found at ancient settlements dating from the time when the Sahara Desert region was rich grasslands, teeming with wild herds, populated by a widespread hunter-gatherer culture. Obtained from eBay seller "river-side0100", whose eBay Store is John's Relics and More.

ALASKAN BEAR POINTS

LOCATION: Bear points are found mostly along the North Alaskan coast and St. Lawrence and Punuk Island. These artifacts were collected on Native Corporation Lands (private lands) located on St. Lawrence Island and Mainland Alaska.

DESCRIPTION: A large size, narrow point with weak, tapered shoulders and a short parallel stem. Flaking is collateral on the better-made specimens. Bear points were inserted into a bone, antler or ivory shaft and used to hunt walrus, seals, caribou & other large animals and in war.

NOTE: Dating has been difficult. The Yupuk of St. Lawrence Island have been digging archaeological sites for at least 300 years, due to demand for fossil ivory, which has destroyed the archaeological record on most sites. This type may date to 5,000-6,000 B.P. In 2007, I bought several of these pictured "Bear points" from eBay seller "alaskan_lithics."



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Arrowhead Collecting On The Web

Artifact Authentication Services & Certificates Of Authenticity

Authentication and evaluation services for artifacts from all over the world are available from a number of highly respected sources.

Some offer these services for regional items, since they specialize in Western, or South Western, or South Eastern, or North Central or North Eastern artifact types.

And most of the authenticators have web sites. You can read up on their services, learn about their specialties, obtain pricing and timing information, and determine how to send items for authentication and evaluation.

Here are a few, by no means all, of the well known and respected authenticators:

Dwain Rogers

Texas Flint Authentication
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Old Stone Age
Handaxe (Paleolithic),
used by h. erectus, age
approx. 200,000 years.



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Scottsbluff Spear
Point, late Paleo, early
Archaic period, age
8,000 to 10,000 years.



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How Can You Display Your Arrowhead Collection?

Wooden display cases with glass fronts called shadow boxes have long been used to display collections of arrowheads. This photograph shows the den of a collector in Oregon, who has several rooms lined with shadow boxes on all the walls!

After many years of collecting, some have points on display numbering in the many thousand, with museum quality collections in their private homes. Others have a few dozen points. It all depends on the intensity of the collector's bug and the variety of opportunities available for trading and exploring.

In recent decades, many collectors have used "Riker Mount" display cases. These are hard paper board cases with glass viewing covers, which are much lighter in weight than the traditional wooden shadow boxes. These cases are much easier to handle and examine.

Besides the actual physical display of your collection, you should also maintain a written record, identifying where and when a point was found, by whom, under what circumstance. This kind of information will be useful in the future to document and explain the pieces in your collection.

There are many sources of both the wooden shadow box and the Riker Mount type display cases, and you can readily locate them by performing a search on eBay, Google or Yahoo! for "shadow box" or for "Riker Mount".



Oregon arrowheads and blades arranged in shadow boxes, mounted on the den wall of a collector who lives on the eastern approach to the Cascade Mountains.



These northern California arrowheads are arranged in a Riker Mount display case; this lightweight type of display case has been quite popular for many years.

Discover An Arrowhead In Your Garden And You'll Never Look At Bare Dirt The Same Way Again Forever!

I know I sure don't. Not since I found an agate arrowhead when I was digging a new garden plot on my family's land in Oregon.

That spring I was just 13 years old. I still have that arrowhead. And several others which I found over the next few years, in our other gardens, in our plowed fields, on old paths and dirt driveways up in the forested hills around our place, out in the fields where I was moving irrigation pipes, etc., etc.

I never missed a chance to keep an eye on the open spaces and freshly disturbed soil, just to see what I could find. And over the years, my close observation has been rewarded many times, in many places.

Just like thousands of other kids all over the country, I was intrigued and fascinated by these arrowheads, the hunting weapons left behind over hundreds and thousands of years of use by the people who lived here before us.

Maybe you are doing the same thing today. Perhaps you have the same questions about those arrowheads and other things which you find in the soil around your home.

That's why I put together this web page, to help kids and parents understand what they are finding, to learn about these arrowheads and other stone tools made by the ancient inhabitants of our lands.

Sometimes those people were our ancestors, and sometimes they have been gone so long that no one knows who might be descended from them. But we always want to know about them, to understand their lives, and to study the evidence of their time here, which we find all around us.

To accomplish these things we are putting together an on-going electronic monthly newsletter designed to illustrate and explain the tools and weapons which we find in all corners of this big land. We call it "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web". And we invite you to ask for it, so you can read it, every month.

"Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" will explore all the questions we have about the people who made them, where they lived, how we find their stone tools, how they made these weapons and tools, how old they are, how we can know the age of these tools, and many more.

We will have photographs of arrowheads and of collections so you can see how some people display the points they find. Another photo story might follow an expert collector to see what is found and where.

We will also talk about the rules of looking for arrowheads, the restrictions which some states and government laws place on where we can look and how we can look. Every different part of the country has different rules, so these rules and legal guidelines will be explored, based on the various regions or states across the country.

Another aspect of the newsletter each month will be some stories about sharing or trading with other collectors across the country. This way we can explore the different types of arrowheads which are found in various regions. Not only are there distinctive styles from different areas, but there were very clearly different ways of making arrowheads and other hunting weapons during the many vast eras or periods of time which have gone by during the long history of human use of this land.



Arrowhead Collecting On The Web™