

ACOTW™

Welcome To

www.ArrowheadCollectingOnTheWeb.com

Volume I, Number 4

August 2009

This Month We Enter The Valley Of Shadows, Into The Dark Cumberland Gap, In A Cautionary Tale Of Fake & Authentic.

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter, "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web".

I hope you enjoyed the third edition, Volume I, Number 3, of our digital on-line newsletter, the June, 2009 issue.

"Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" provides an on-going series of 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.

This fourth edition addresses the following topics:

- Where do you find quality arrowhead-related websites?
- How do I participate in on-line arrowhead collecting activities, such as bidding to purchase authentic artifacts from eBay? How can I know whether these items are modern reproductions or ancient artifacts?
- What is a "Cascade" double-ended biface?
- How old are these points?
(We continue a series of groups of points to show some general guidelines which can help us to know the kind and age of the points we find or collect.)
- What is the National Museum Of The American Indian? How can I join or



If you collect arrowheads, you need to know what you can learn in the pages of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web". Why? Because there is a vast difference between collecting or buying an authentic ancient relic of a long past culture and acquiring a fake, modern-made point which could have been sold fraudulently as "ancient", since it was actually made just recently. Here's the point: How can you learn to tell enough about a particular cultural piece's evidence of authenticity to prevent making expensive mistakes? In this issue we are going to start this education with information about Cumberland points, see page 13.

- receive information from it?
 - Where did the original inhabitants of this continent find the stone which they used to make their tools and weapons? *(We continue a series of articles on the subject.)*
 - How can I tell the difference between an ancient arrowhead and a modern made, reproduction arrowhead? *(We begin a series of articles on this most vital subject in this edition.)*
 - What ever happened with the July edition project to obtain a *Certificate of Authenticity* on that heavy hematite(?) full groove axe from Oklahoma?
 - What was the purpose of all these stone projectile points, any way?
- Our editorial objective is to help our readers become long-term, even serious collectors of arrowheads, over the years to
- (continued...)*

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;
- 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 skill and the craftsmanship of the work which they exhibit;
- 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 maintain your readership and interest in our newsletter for many years to come.

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

Sincerely,
F. Scott Crawford
Carrollton, Texas



The arrowhead shown on the last page of "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" is a Eastgate point, found in eastern Oregon. It is from the Artifact Collection of Eldon Presley, a collection of over 10,000 pieces, mostly found in Harney County, between 1920 and 1960. This point was obtained from Michael Knighton at www.RenegadeArtifacts.com in 2008. Here it is at the actual size.

Member AACA



[Authentic Artifact Collectors Association](http://www.AuthenticArtifactCollectorsAssociation.com)

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



About The Author

From the time when I was 13 or 14 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

How To Participate In Quality, Arrowhead-Related Web Sites

You can begin your search for quality, authentic arrowheads on the world wide web by using the Google or Yahoo or MSN or Ask search engines.

"Keyword" search terms could include: arrowheads, Indian arrowheads, flint arrowheads, stone arrowheads, stone points, stone knives, flint knives, authentic arrowheads, Indian artifacts. Just type the word or phrase in the search entry space and hit "enter". Your web browser will show what it finds. Click on the entries which are of interest to you.

"Dealer" searches could include such terms as: artifact dealers, arrowhead dealers, Indian artifact dealers.

The following set of web site links, which should function from this newsletter page, is a list of some of the artifact dealers whom I have found to be reliable, with good service and careful, accurate descriptions of their items:

www.RenegadeArtifacts.com

www.WesternArtifacts.com

www.SWArkArtifacts.com

www.BCArtifacts.com

www.Penbrandt.com

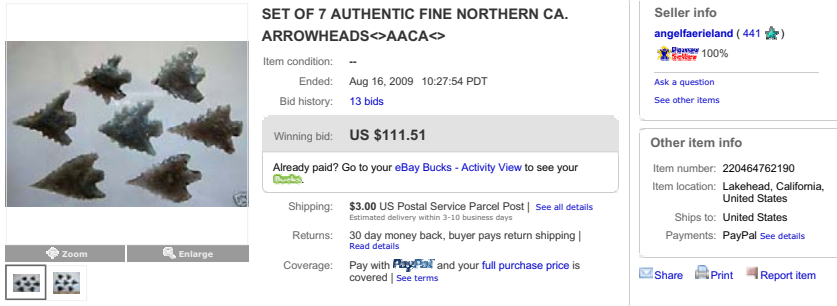
www.JacksonGalleries.com

www.RelicShack.com

www.OldRelics.com

www.Arrowheads.com

www.Texaspoints.com



SET OF 7 AUTHENTIC FINE NORTHERN CA. ARROWHEADS<->AACAA<->

Item condition: --

Ended: Aug 16, 2009 10:27:54 PDT

Bid history: 13 bids

Winning bid: **US \$111.51**

Already paid? Go to your [eBay Bucks](#) - [Activity View](#) to see your [Credits](#).

Shipping: **\$3.00** US Postal Service Parcel Post | [See all details](#)
Estimated delivery within 3-10 business days

Returns: 30 day money back, buyer pays return shipping | [Read details](#)

Coverage: Pay with [PayPal](#) and your full purchase price is covered | [See terms](#)

Seller info
[angelfaerieland](#) (441) [★](#)
[eBay Seller](#) 100%
[Ask a question](#)
[See other items](#)

Other item info
Item number: 220464762190
Item location: Lakehead, California, United States
Ships to: United States
Payments: [PayPal](#) [See details](#)
[Share](#) [Print](#) [Report item](#)

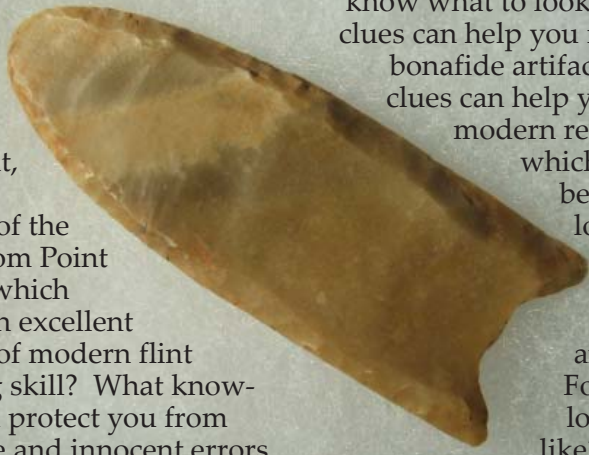
Description | Shipping and payments

Item specifics

Original or Reproduction:	100% ORIGINAL	Type:	ARROWHEADS
Material:	OBSDIAN	Origin:	SHASTA CO. CA.
Return Guarantee:	ALWAYS 100% GUARANTEED		

----->There might be a tip nick here and there in this group- but still a nice representative group for Northern California. Shasta County to be exact. These are a little smaller than the ones that I listed earlier this week- these go from 1/2" to 1". But all in all a nice group! And with 7, a nice way to jump start your Far-West collection! Or just add to it! All of my arrowheads are 100% authentic and have been collected legally. Thanks for looking! jen & pat

Here is an example of an eBay auction for a set of northern California arrowheads, by AACAA member and eBay seller ID: "angelfaerieland", Jennifer Peterson and her mother, Pat Welch. Their items are listed in eBay category: Collectibles>Cultures & Ethnicities>Native American: US>Pre-1600>Artifacts.



The Folsom "Blues" ... The Great Anxiety Between A Collector's Desire & A Collector's Fear. It's Colored With Questions About Authenticity.

Can you tell the difference between an ancient, authentic example of the rare Folsom Point and one which may be an excellent example of modern flint knapping skill? What knowledge can protect you from ignorance and innocent errors or from outright fraud and intentional deception? How can you as an artifact collector know what to look for? What clues can help you recognize a bonafide artifact and what clues can help you detect a modern reproduction which may have been made to look equally old and real? What does an authentic Folsom Point look and feel like? With this information we can begin to know for sure. Let us learn.

Coming In The September Edition **Arrowhead Collecting On The Web**

What Is The National Museum Of The American Indian? How Can An Interested Person Become A Member Of The NMAI?

(Editor's note: I received this letter from the Director of the National Museum of the American Indian in July, 2009. I thought it would be illustrative of the Museum's objectives and needs, and also of how interested readers might themselves participate.)

"Dear Charter Member,

As one of the most generous supporters of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, your commitment to sharing the true, complete, and living histories of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere is beyond question.

Your dedication to this unique institution is bridging the still-persistent gap between misconception and truth -- shattering stereotypes and forging a path of healing and understanding for *all* people, Native and non-Native alike.

In the current economic climate, all museums are in need of a loyal base of especially committed supporters. The National Museum of the American Indian is no exception; indeed, we have a critical need for a core group of stakeholders.

We are a young museum with an ambitious objective: nothing less than a redefinition of our society's concept of the Native American experience in all its dimensions. *The difference between a stagnant museum of collections and exhibits, and a dynamic museum that takes charge of its goals and works vigorously, boldly, and with innovation to achieve them, is the personal investment of key supporters like you.*

As just one illustration of this point of difference, the Museum is currently embarking on an unprecedented initiative to widen public understanding of both the heritage of American Indian cultures, as well as its vibrant contemporary expression.

In order to assess what people currently learn about this expansive topic, we are conducting a landmark national review of textbooks and other materials used by teachers and students, from kindergarten through the twelfth grade, in a diverse array of public and private schools across our country.

What we are discovering is disappointing: stereotypes of Native Americans continue to flourish in educational materials. As well, the Native perspective on historical events is most often entirely absent, and the diversity, ideologies, and modern lives of Native peoples are rarely explored.

What we've confirmed is an unconscionable void in the content of what our nation's students are taught. By increasing the resources available to remedy this situation, Museum memberships will enable us to work aggressively to fill this void with the true voices and stories of Native peoples.

The task before us is arduous, which is

why your heightened support and participation will mean so much. Not only must we catalog materials that put millions of students in tens of thousands of schools at risk of learning false or fragmented history, but we must also develop accurate, insightful materials and training that will transform how teachers present the history and presence of Native communities.

I cannot begin to express the importance of this undertaking.

In our museums in Washington, D.C. and New York City, as well as at our Cultural Resources Center in Maryland, we are already opening the eyes of millions of people. But we simply cannot wait passively for people to come to us--not when stereotypes and misinformation are still being so widely perpetuated in the schools where young people learn.

With your leadership and support, the Museum will tackle this endeavor with the same tenacity and drive that built the stunning building that stands at the foot of the United States Capitol today.

Your Membership gift will strengthen all of the Museum's innovative programs that combat stereotypes and provide in-depth understanding. Our remarkable Cultural Interpreter Program, in which Native people guide visitors and introduce them to the exhibitions in our flagship Museum in Washington, is a good example. The Cultural Interpreters offer a compelling view of our exhibitions based on their insight and knowledge of their own tribes' culture and history.

I have seen first-hand the impact when non-Native visitors are guided through the collections by our Cultural Interpreters. Eager schoolchildren lean forward to hear stories and ask questions ... the faces of tourist groups light up with new understanding of Native heritage ... high school and college students enthusiastically embrace new insights and ideas about the history of the land they call "home" and express a keen desire to learn more.

Most importantly, these Cultural Interpreters help visitors see that the National Museum of the American Indian is about presenting living cultures, along with their true histories.

The value of this program is immeasurable. But it is costly. We rely heavily on the partnership with and financial support of Members of the Museum to offer programs like this that meet our goals for how museums should present living cultures.

In addition, your generosity will help us continue to partner with more Native communities, tribes, and nations to create new exhibitions and cultural programs. And you will help us to increase our range of online and traveling exhibitions and "electronic field trips" so that we may

reach millions of people who will never have the opportunity to walk through our doors.

One example of these efforts was our recent live satellite broadcast from Auke Bay in Juneau, which explored the Native cultures of southeast Alaska. This successful online program reached an astounding 18 million schoolchildren!

But I believe that the greatest impact that you have as a Member of the Museum is not what you see today, next week, or even next year.

Rather, your impact is reflected in the attitudes and mindsets of today's young people as they become adults. Together, we will be forging a new generation of Americans who understand the true, complete and complex culture, history, and heritage of Native peoples -- free of stereotypes and misconceptions. You will see it as they become tomorrow's scholars, teachers, and leaders, and in the manner in which they teach their own children to respect other cultures.

The seeds of knowledge planted through your participation in the Museum will blossom into a more enlightened generation -- one that can make the future more just and fair for all people.

This is the legacy you will enjoy as a Member of the National Museum of the American Indian.

There are numerous ways to participate in the sponsorship programs of the National Museum of the American Indian. And numerous benefits accrue to sponsors. Yet, as you can well imagine, Members do not join for the benefits they receive. Instead, they become a part of this special circle because they share my belief that the National Museum of the American Indian serves as a uniquely powerful tool for the shattering of old stereotypes and the revelation of truth and depth of understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere.

Our history is still evolving. And as a Member of the Museum you will be helping to shape that history by extending a hand of friendship, reconciliation, and healing between Native and non-Native peoples.

It is my hope that you will accept my personal invitation to join this very special circle of friends. I look forward to welcoming you to Membership in the Museum.

Sincerely,

Kevin Gover (Pawnee/Comanche)
Director

(Mailing Address: National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 96836, Washington, DC 20090-6836

Web Site: www.AmericanIndian.si.edu)

“This is an authentic artifact of the Middle to Late Archaic Period, dating in the 8000 B.P. to 5000 B.P. range.” -- Ben Stermer

I am pleased to report that I got the Certificate of Authenticity for this ancient axe from Ben Stermer in plenty of time to include it in the August 2009 issue of “Arrowhead Collecting On The Web”. Here is what Mr. Stermer writes:

“ARTIFACT AUTHENTICATION
Certificate No: 9742

Description: A full-grooved axe fashioned from hematite by grinding and pecking the surface into this form. The poll is irregular and appears to have received prehistoric damage during use, or was possibly used “as is.” The bit is heavily polished along the blade from heavy use. Axes made from hematite are uncommon.

Type: Full-Grooved Axe

Material: Hematite (Natural Iron Ore)

Length: 6 1/2”

Width: 3 1/2”

Provenance: Found in Oklahoma

Evaluation: This is an authentic artifact of the Middle to Late Archaic Period., dating in the 8000 B.P. to 5000 B.P. range. Full-Grooved axes such as this were first developed around 8000 B.P. Three-quarter grooved axes generally came later, followed by the one-half groove design. This example is fashioned from hematite, a natural iron ore chosen for use in making axes due to it’s considerable weight compared to lighter hardstones.

I have examined the above described artifact at the request of the owner. This evaluation and typology is based upon the best of my experience and knowledge to date.

Date: 07/28/2009

Signed: Benjamin E. Stermer”



This authentication project has been completed. I sent this apparently hematite stone axe head, found in Oklahoma many years ago, off to Ben Stermer for his evaluation. Below is a scan of the “Artifact Authentication” document received from Mr. Stermer at the end of July, 2009. Our readers can see the results here, in the August 2009 edition of “Arrowhead Collecting On The Web”.

Benjamin E. Stermer
Lithic Typology Consultant

WESTERN TYPOLOGY
ARTIFACT AUTHENTICATION SERVICE
WWW.WESTERNTYOLOGY.COM

Specializing in Western
North-American Lithics

ARTIFACT AUTHENTICATION

Certificate No: 9742

Description: A full-grooved axe fashioned from hematite by grinding and pecking the surface into this form. The poll is irregular and appears to have received prehistoric damage during use, or was possibly used “as is.” The bit is heavily polished along the blade from heavy use. Axes made from hematite are uncommon.

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(Artifact shown smaller than actual size)

I have examined the above described artifact(s) at the request of the owner. This evaluation and typology is based upon the best of my experience and knowledge to date.

Date: 07/28/2009

Signed: *Ben E. Stermer*
Benjamin E. Stermer

e-Mail Letters To The Editor:

July 21, 2009

Hi Scott,

You asked about WHAT WAS THE CRESCENT USED FOR?

I have found several over the past twenty years, all of which were found in the Great Basin area and all were found on the dry lake beds, around the lake beds or near the lake beds.

Some crescents were hafted and most were made out of harder material like agate, although some were made out of obsidian.

In my opinion crescents were used to strip the bark off of tule weeds or other lake weed material. The bark was used to make moccasins and matts.

I have tried it myself and it works great.

Jess Anders

Central Oregon

June 19, 2009

Mr. Crawford,

I read the collecting newsletters with great interest. Thanks for the great source of information. I don't know what your plan is for future articles, but I would really like to see some "How To" information on methods of displaying collections. I have an older collection that has need for a rebuild. Thanks again for all the great info!

Chuck Muscato

(Editor's note: Good idea. We have shown a few different ways of displaying collections and will continue to show and discuss this important aspect of collecting.)



Here's the Paleo Crescent which was found by Ken Gibson, from Klamath Falls, Oregon, in 1976. It is mentioned in Jess Anders' e-mail in which he discusses his personal experience-based theory on the purpose of these unique tools.

August 5, 2009

Mr. Crawford,

I have a nice size collection of arrowheads that my grandfather left me. Almost all of the them he found himself in Nebraska, a few from other states but mostly Nebraska. I am considering selling the collection. I don't have any certificates of authenticity, but I do have a book that he wrote where he found most of them. I actually went with him many times and we sifted the gravel in the creek beds to find them. I would like your advice on how to go about marketing these. I can email pictures if you are interested in helping me. There are 20 18" cases of various different artifacts, plus some axes and such items that are too big for cases.

Thanks,

Stephanie Roberts

(Editor's note: Besides all the usual marketing contacts, consignment dealers, etc., we can put photographs of a couple of your display cases or individual

artifacts in the "Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" e-magazine to make your project known to our readership across the country. They may have additional ideas and suggestions for you. I think your grandfather's book of his collecting activities could be very important to the success of your efforts. You are fortunate that he put in the time and effort to create a record. So many times collections are assembled but never fully documented for future benefit.)

Publisher's e-mail address:

fscottcrawford@
arrowheadcollectingontheweb.com

What's A "Cascade" Biface?

The "Cascade" double-ended biface is a knife, lance or dart point form used in the Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic Periods in a cultural complex called the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition, 8,000 to 11,000 years ago, in the northern Great Basin and Columbia Plateau. It is characterized by large lanceolate and leaf shaped projectile forms, as well as crescents, various forms of scrapers and some manos and metates.



This jasper spear point or knife, from western Oregon, shows the multiple colors and glossy surface often associated with heat-treated jasper. Purchased by the author's father, Benjamin F. Crawford, from a trading post in Brownsville, Oregon, in the late 1950's. An unfortunate drop by a small child resulted in a mid-blade fracture which was repaired. The workmanship shows exceptional pressure flaking. Two flat areas in the right image show the original surface of the large chip of jasper from which the blade was knapped. Shown actual size.



This obsidian "Cascade" point illustrates the typical double-ended form of the type. Found by Jennifer Peterson and Pat Welch near Goose Lake, in Modoc County, in northern California. 2-1/8" in length, well made, shows some wear.

Left: This obsidian "Cascade" knife illustrates the type. Found by Vernon Imel in the Catlow Valley of eastern Oregon, northeast of French Glen, on a 7-day trip in March of 1953. This knife was found broken, and restored. The joining effort is visible where my thumb is gripping the blade. Note the excellent pressure flaking and condition of the blade edge. I suspect the knife was broken before it was used, and discarded at that time. Shown here at actual size.

Before Mount Mazama Blew Up And Created Crater Lake, This Man Lived Along The Columbia River ... Near Kennewick, WA.

A cast made from the skull and jaw of "Kennewick Man" in the early days of research on the remains before they became embroiled in a drawn out legal battle with the U.S. government, scientists and regional Native American Tribes.



About 7,700 years ago, a 12,000 foot, glacier-covered volcano in the Cascade Mountains in south/central Oregon exploded and ejected more than 50 cubic kilometers of itself into the air. The volcanic dust settled into ash beds over an area which reached into northern Washington state, eastern Washington state, over 700 kilometers away, and covered all of eastern Oregon and east into Idaho, and to the southeast, reaching into northwestern Nevada. The volcano is now known as Mt. Mazama, and the remaining caldera filled with snow melt and rain to become known as Crater Lake.

In some places the Mazama ash layer is 1500 feet thick, in valleys close to the Cascades.

As far away as Kennewick, in east-central Washington, the Mazama layer is several inches thick. It serves archaeologists as a marker of time, dividing much of the Pacific Northwest into periods known as "pre-Mazama" and "post-Mazama".

Many archaeology projects across the region have been able to establish their position in time by making note of their position above or below this layer of volcanic ash.

This may be of interest to our readers because one of the most interesting and controversial accidental discoveries of archaeological note in the past twenty years was determined to be chronologically located below the Mazama ash layer, near the Columbia River town of Kennewick.

The discovery? A nearly complete skeleton of an adult male human being.

In particular, it was found that imbedded in his pelvic bone was a section of a "Cascade" type projectile point. The wound in the bone had healed to the extent that additional bone had grown partially around the remnant of the spear point. Apparently the man had been wounded by a spear, either in a hunting accident, or perhaps in an incident of human to human violence. Either way, the point was broken off at the bone when the weapon was removed. And he lived for a long enough time after the event for the healing process to make good progress.

Just In Case Anybody Was Wondering, Here Is One Of The Reasons Why Our Ancestors Spent All That Time And Effort To Make The Many Different Types Of Stone Projectile Points.



Living Conditions In Texas Must Have Been Exceptional Thousands Of Years Ago, Since We Find So Many Types Here.



Ensor Dart Point, above, of white chert, found by the author in 1990, near Midland, Texas. A common, Transitional Archaic point from Central and South Texas. 200 B.C. to 600 A.D.



Fairland Dart Point, above, of translucent Edwards Plateau flint, found by the author in 1990, near San Antonio, Texas. A common, Transitional Archaic point from Central Texas. 200 B.C. to 600 A.D. Note the tip impact fracture.

Wells Dart Point, right and below, of Edwards Plateau flint, and in-situ, as found by the author in 2004, near San Antonio, Texas. A common Early Archaic point from Central Texas. 6,000 B.C. to 2,500 B.C.



Nolan Dart Point, above, of Edwards Plateau flint, in-situ, as witnessed by the author in 2004, near San Antonio, Texas. A fairly common, Early Archaic point from Central Texas. 6,000 B.C. to 2,500 B.C. After washing, below.



Probably a Caddo Indian water jug from Northeast Texas. Perhaps from Late Prehistoric period, 1000 A.D. and later. Image submitted by reader, Lori Gaston from Longview, Texas.

These possible Cumberland, Beaver Lake and similar type points from the east/central region of the United States are made from cherts and flints from that region. My suspicion is that they might be modern reproductions. So, my next authentication project includes close examinations of these points by respected authenticators.

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. Ask for as full an 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.

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

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.

For example, when you are looking at supposed "Paleo-Indian" artifacts, it would be well to keep in mind that, in most parts

a Folsom dart point. When these points are found in scientific excavations they are celebrated and carefully cataloged for future study and reference.

If they are found on private land, these points and tools are often carefully preserved and put away, well out of the public eye.

As a result, you will not find a

point like this for sale often. 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 a good Paleo-Indian point certified and authenticated, he might be tempted to sell it, but this would be unusual. No dealer would ever want to sell a high quality Clovis point or a Cumberland point, for example, without suggesting a substantial price. I say this to caution you and to encourage you to carefully consider claims of age, culture and authenticity which you will hear from collectors and/or sellers of possibly ancient artifacts.

of the country, these artifacts are extremely rare. I know life-long students of archaeology

who have worked all over the country on projects covering many eras of human occupation in this continent who have only ever found one or two authentic Paleo-Indian relics such as a Clovis spear point or

Edwards Plateau Flint, An Outstanding Lithic Resource In Texas

Even during the Ice Age, the vast open spaces of Texas were a pleasant place for man and beast. There was rich grass land in the west, open pine forest in the east, and rolling hill country with good water in the central and south.

In addition, there was an exceptional wealth of flint and good quality chert, because so much of the Texas hill country is a vast deposit of limestone. Here the river valleys cut down through the limestone and expose vast internal deposits of chert and flint.

Known today as the Edwards Plateau, the flint resources here have supplied human populations with top quality knapping stone for making weapons and tools for thousands of years. The flint takes the regional name: Edwards Plateau flint.

It comes in several color varieties; a translucent brown called "rootbeer" because the inclusions look like the bubbles in a glass of root beer colored stone; an opaque blue or gray, opaque black. The better quality flint is usually knapped without heat treatment.

The regional chert comes in several colorful varieties, and is often heat treated to make it easier to work, leaving it with a glossy or waxy appearance and a slightly different color cast.

Both of these materials have been used extensively across the central part of Texas, and have been traded far and wide across the region.

The Edwards Plateau flint was used by the Clovis culture groups in central Texas.



A nodule of Edwards Plateau flint from a limestone quarry near Jarrell, Texas, just north of Austin. The flint throughout this region has made an excellent knapping resource for local inhabitants for thousands of years.

The Clovis folks are well known for carrying quality stone with them as they wandered across the continent. Many of their sites feature an extensive mix of quality stone carried from a good distance away from any particular site.

However, at the Gault site in central Texas, this Clovis group primarily used the local, high

quality flint. They used it almost exclusively, over a period of hundreds of years at this particular settlement. In fact, when they went to other regions, they brought the high quality Edwards Plateau materials with them, and that Edwards Plateau flint is the exotic foreign material often found at distant Clovis camps in other regions.



Several Clovis points from the Gault Site in central Texas, north of Austin, excavated in recent years by the University of Texas. Of Edwards Plateau flint.

The Cumberland “Gap” ... The Great Divide Between An Eager Collector’s Desire & A Collector’s Fear. Knowledge Can Protect.

Can you tell the difference between an ancient, authentic example of the rare Paleo-Indian Cumberland Point and one which may be an excellent example of modern flint knapping skill?

What knowledge can help protect you from ignorance and innocent errors or from outright fraud and intentional deception? How can you as an artifact collector know what to look for?

What clues can help you recognize a bonafide artifact and what clues can help you detect a modern reproduction which may have been made to look equally old and real? What does an authentic Cumberland Point look and feel like?

With this information we can begin to know for sure.

In preparing this article, I wrote to Benjamin Stermer, an experienced and respected artifact authenticator, for his advice. “One of the questions I have is what are some of the characteristics which an authenticator looks at with this particular type of point to evaluate its age and authenticity? Are there specific points of style and knapping which a collector should be aware of in order to at least make a semi-educated guess about a “Cumberland” point’s pedigree?”

Mr. Stermer was kind enough to make several replies to my questions and requests for advice related to Cumberland points.

Here is his summation:

“Cumberland points are pretty rare....I look for proper mineral-

ization, surface weathering, use-wear and other signs of genuine age and soil exposure. It is good to see elevated iron deposits, too, but not always. Some lithic types are more prone to minerals adhering to them than others, and the soil type the piece was deposited in. For example, it would be very atypical to see a point from AZ or NM with elevated iron deposits, but common in the east-central region.

“Cumberland points should also be made of proper east-central US materials, Dover, Fort Payne, etc. I have never seen a genuine Cumberland (or a fake for that matter) made of Burlington Chert, etc.

“Most guys making fake Cumberlands, Quads, etc., know enough to use the proper lithics, unfortunately. However, they have a hard time simulating genuine iron deposits, etc.

“It is also good to see genuine farming implement strike marks, and not be fooled by striations made by someone striking the surface of the piece with a rusty nail or similar tool.

“Flaking pattern and cross-section is important, too, but, as with all point types, workmanship can vary depending on the maker’s ability, stone type, etc.

“Most genuine Cumberland points are very heavily ground along the lateral and basal margins, and there are a few that are not fluted, but those are rather thick in cross-section as well. The grinding should be old and weathered like the

rest of the point surface, not flat-surfaced as with many modern examples.”

I asked him “are there a few details of the genuine article which are usually gotten wrong by copiers, since perhaps they do not know or understand how the point was used, mounted on shafts, etc.?”

Ben’s reply should be taken as a caution when you are looking at any so-called “Cumberland” point which might be offered for sale:

“I have seen genuine examples with varying basal forms, from more narrow to wider, but usually flutes are narrower than other paleo types of course, and well fluted, it is usually on both sides....I have seen a couple genuine Cumberlands with actually straight bases, too.... The fakers often get the form right, they have more trouble with the weathering, etc.”

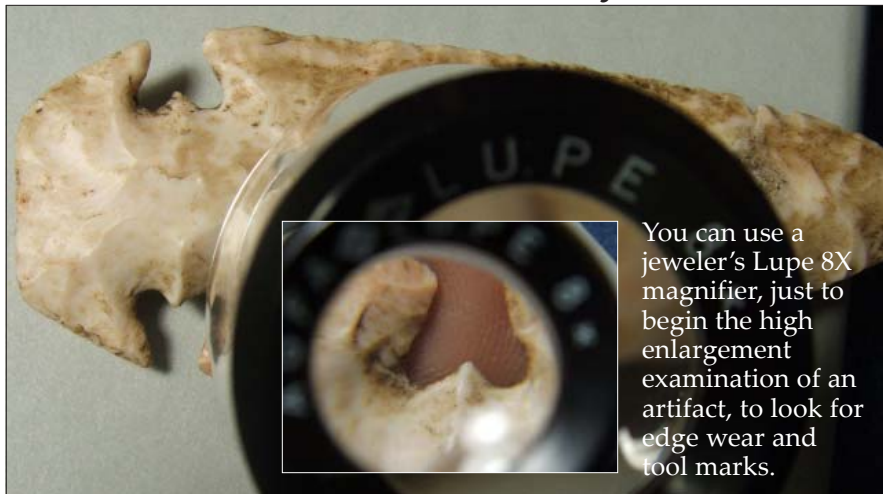
This information will give a collector some guidance for the first level of examination which he or she should be making when contemplating add such a point to the collection.

Another level of protection will be to ask for, and require, time to have the point evaluated by a respected authenticator.

Any AACA member will gladly allow for this time, at least two weeks. Other sellers should make the same or more time available, and should offer the same guarantee as an AACA member...a money back guarantee of authenticity.

Or do not buy the point.

Artifact Authentication Services & Certificates Of Authenticity



You can use a jeweler's Lupe 8X magnifier, just to begin the high enlargement examination of an artifact, to look for edge wear and tool marks.

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. 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 some well known and respected authenticators:

Dwain Rogers
Texas Flint Authentication
4102 Birch Avenue
Temple, Texas 76502
Telephone: 1-254-791-5520

Jeff Baker
Baker Authentication
www.BakerCOA.com
P.O. Box 772
Paragould, Arkansas 72451
Telephone: 1-870-239-9722

Bill Jackson
Jackson Galleries
www.JacksonGalleries.com
P.O. Box 1005
Mount Sterling, Kentucky 40353
Telephone: 1-800-466-3836
Fax: 1-859-499-0160

Tom Davis
Davis Artifacts, Inc.
www.TomDavisArtifacts.com
P.O. Box 676
Stanton, Kentucky 40380
Telephone: 1-606-663-2741

Ben Stermer
Western Typology
www.WesternTypology.com
44207 W McClelland Dr.
Maricopa, Arizona 85238
email: BSte122241@aol.com

Jeb Taylor
Jeb Taylor Artifacts
P.O. Box 882
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834
Telephone: 1-307-737-2347

Ken Partain
www.kensrelics.com
7044 Market Street
Dover, Arkansas 72837
Telephone: 1-479-331-3486

Sam Cox
www.SamCoxArtifacts.com
968 Floyd Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505
Telephone: 1-859-351-5675

Old Stone Age
Handaxe (Paleolithic),
age 200,000+/- years.



<http://www.Stormbroek.com>

A European artifact gallery,
which offers quality antiquities
from all historic eras, and all
areas around the world.
eBay Store: Stormbroek

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



eBay store: SWArkArtifacts
eBay ID: "razrbk"

Dealer located in Arkansas, features
authentic artifacts from the south/
central United States, many with
Certificates of Authenticity.
eBay Store: SWArkArtifacts

Polished Hardstone Discoid Objects From Georgia.

One of our reader's, Jack Gregory, from Smyrna, Georgia, sent in this photograph of several "polished discoids". Some years ago, it seems, a neighbor was building a new house, which required a rather significant amount of mechanical earthmoving and excavation. As a result of this excavation, they were able to find a number of stone relics from previous users of the land. Among these artifacts were discovered four polished hardstone pieces, of which three are almost exactly the same in shape and size. The colorful stones were ground and polished from much handling. Size, about 1.5" in diameter. Shown here approximately actual size. The exact use is as yet undetermined.



Here is a real handful of authentic, excellent old **Desert Southwest dart points and an arrowhead**. The author received this photo documenting a selection of ancient points and blades he purchased from Clifford Carney. These all come from Utah.

Right: 2-3/8" long, Late Pueblo II Period, A.D. 1050 to A.D. 1300; light green chert Arrow Point Preform, perhaps a Bull Creek point. COA Stermer, ex. Lyman, ex. Gardiner, ex. Carney collections. Found in Wayne County, Utah.

Second right: 2-1/4" long, from Later Archaic Period, 3500-3300 B.P., continuing into Intermediate Period until 600-700 A.D.; multi-colored agate Elko series, split stem, corner notched Atlatl Dart Point. COA Stermer, ex. Carney, found in San Juan County, Utah.

Middle: 1-5/8" long, Late Archaic Period, 3500-3300 B.P., continuing into Intermediate Period until 600-700 A.D.; yellow chert Elko series, corner notched Atlatl Dart Point.



COA Stermer, ex. Carney. Found in Garfield County, Utah.

Second Left: 1" long, Late Archaic Period, 3500 B.P., continuing into Intermediate Period until 600-700 A.D.; red jasper or agatized wood Elko series, corner notched Atlatl Dart Point. COA Stermer, ex.

Walker, ex. Carney. Found in Grand County, Utah.

Left: 7/8" long, Late Prehistoric Period, Pueblo I and II, A.D. 1020 to A.D. 1120-1200; brown agate Pueblo Alto side notched Arrow Point. COA Stermer, ex. Black, ex. Carney. Found in San Juan County, Utah.

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 newsletter, 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 now publishing this new 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 subscribe, so that you can read it, every month.

"Arrowhead Collecting On The Web" explores 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 many different types of arrowheads found in the 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™