

28 Feb 1972

Don,

The museum here has several Pre-dynastic knives & "Swallowtail" spearpoints. I took measurements drew them (a couple) to scale and made observations. I have enclosed a description of what I think was probably their method of manufacture and probable method of hafting. If any of the specimens had been used no traces of wear were obvious (such as broken serrations etc). None of the pieces exhibited characteristics of heat treated flint. All were made of either a fine tan colored or a pink & white banded flint.

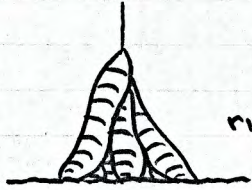
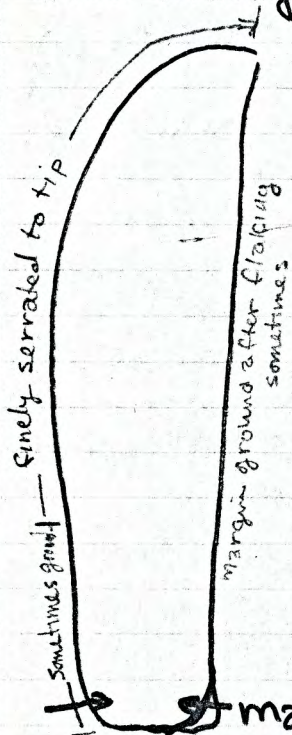
If I haven't already indicated - I plan on spending June with François at Corbrac. My research is ~~star~~ starting to become formulated and somewhat organized. I have written to the knapper at Brandon twice and haven't received any reply - may be some difficulty with my planned study.

Cheers For Now
Bruce

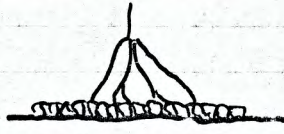
PREDYNASTIC Egypt - Upper Nile(?)

INDUCED TECHNIQUE OF MANUFACTURE OF FLINT "KNIVES"

Raw material selected as tabular sections of flint. Edges (Margins) produced - probably by alternate flaking as with starting to flake a piece of glass - piece then shaped & thinned with direct percussion. Flaking well spaced to obtain greatest regularity of surface and thinness. Margin straightened and knife pressure retouched into desired shape. Entire piece then ground to regularize all surface features. All percussion flaking not totally obliterated. Margins then pressure retouched unifacially to produce very regular margin platforms for further pressure flaking. ~~one~~ one side then serially pressure retouched either ~~the~~ chest pressure or some type of leverage. Extremely well spaced flakes which created a very regular flaking pattern. Again not entirely obliterating either the residue percussion flaking or the grinding. Fine pressure retouch to reduce the ridges between flake scars. Then one margin very finely serrated. Knife back was then sometimes dulled by grinding (not serrated)



ridge removal retouch



fine edge retouching creating serrations (unifacial)

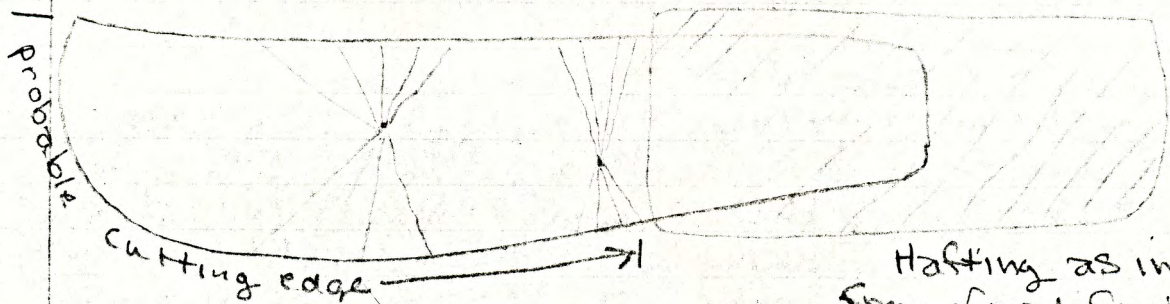
Primary post grinding pressure flaking always done on face of preform with distal end up and pointing to the right.

final major pressure flaking

major pressure flaking starts at this point and then progresses serially to the distal end and around ending opposite star point

ce. 2.2.2011

Extremely common breaks of knives are characteristic of radial fractures of tabular glass.

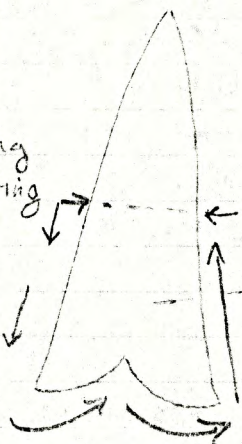


"Swallow-tail spear points"

Hafting as indicated from final features of knives and from specimens found retaining wood handle.

Primary technology same as for knives. When preform finished by non-patterned pressure retouch of edges, approx. "basal" 1/2 ground to create very regular surface and thin margins. Ground faces (both sides) then bifacially pressure retouched in patterned serrated manner, with "point" facing up beginning on the left margin and working around the base and up the right margin. Procedure repeated on opposite face. Margins then finely retouched to produce extremely fine serrations. Repeated on other face, with negative bulbs of first series of fine retouch serving as platforms for sec series on other face creating well defined serrations.

post-grinding pressure starting here and working serrally around the margin.



ending here.

Serrated margins probably served as cutting edges.

Post grinding pressure flaking was not intended to cover entire surface or obliterate grinding. Tip 1/2 not ground or finely pressure flaked. Margins left irregular and dull.

Swallow-tailed "points" probably hafted with handle covering tip portion with basal section protruding.

