

Notes on a LITHIC TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AND LABORATORY

It is the purpose of establishing a long range program to provide much needed information regarding the prehistory of man from his use of stone implements, their diagnostic features, their stages of manufacture and the resulting by-products. More than 99.5% of mans existence is represented by lithic artifacts and only in rare circumstances are perishable materials discovered resisting the ravages of time. The flake scars on the artifacts and the flakes removed are to be compared to fingerprints, no two are exactly alike, yet they reveal an untold variety of distinctive technological attributes. These attributes provide the historian with information on mans past behavioral patterns through time and space. ##### Since the Conference on lithic technology held in Les Eyzies, France there has been accelerated interest universally on the techniques of stone tool manufacturing and only through continued research and experiment will some of these most important questions about mans past be understood.

Some suggested needs for a continued program in lithic technology is the establishment of a laboratory for the use of the professional and the student. A library of assorted raw materials from all major aboriginal quarries and a geological study of occurrences and the movements from the source to its terminus. Response to thermal alteration. Thermoluminescence test of aboriginally heat treated material. Continued experiments and refinements of understanding stone fracture. A library of aboriginal tools and flakes and those produced by experiment. A collection of aboriginal fabricators to be associated with the diverse technologies. A study of abrasives and abraasive materials related to platform preparation, neolithic ground tools and assorted aboriginal lapidary skills.

See attached page for equipment.

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Teaching Lab:

Amphitheater Classroom

Closed circuit television (examination & demonstration)

Opaque Projector

Screen, slide and movie projector

Podium, blackboard, pointing light.

Lithic Lab:

Circular low-walled san or sawdust filled flaking pit.

Variable low seating around the perimeter.

Special wire rakes for removing detritus

Bulk Storage for lithic material (student use)

Locked storage bins for exotic, domestic and foreign materials.

18" or larger automatic feed diamond saw

6" diamond trim saw

Oven with pyrometer, thermostat and automatic timers

Work bench for mechanical testing

Filing storage for artifacts and flakes made by experimental techniques

Storage for varieties of heated and unheated materials

Storage: individual and bulk storage of fabricating tools (hammerstones, antler, clamps, anvils (wood, stone) etc.)

Lithic Preparation Lab:

Complete photo equipment

Drafting equipment and table

Opaque projector for drawing specimens - Dick has one

Scanning microscope

Binocular microscope

Tables for study and sorting specimens - experimental and aboriginal

Functional testing media

Storage for type specimens - aboriginal and experimental

Storage for casts, flakes blades and artifacts - experimental and aboriginal

Casting equipment

Offices for curator, staff and students

Library of lithic technology references

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