

FUNCTIONAL EXPERIMENTS DONE TO ATTEMPT UNDERSTANDING OF ABORIGINAL  
ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCES

Function can only be implied regardless of experiment, except where the functional action was observed by ethnographers, and accounts by early historians and explorers. There also exist accounts by certain lay people with personal interests in the way of life of newly discovered people with customs and activities foreign to their own. From these accounts the experimenter must draw a basis for experiment in function. Also it is impossible to expect a novice equipt with all of the available information to approach the skill of a professional aboriginal in the use of stone implements. It is imperical that for a more comprehensive understanding of people of prehistory that we resort to experiment. Experiment can and ultimately will show possible functional approaches.

- (1) How was the tool made?, (2) Why was it made in a certain way?
- (3) Why were certain materials selected for the tool? (4) What was the intention of the tool? (5) What task was the tool to Perform? (6) Was the tool a multipurpose tool? (7) How was the tool held in order to perform a particular task? (8) Was the tool hafted ? (9) How was the tool hafted?
- (10) What was the action of the tool against the objective material.
- (11) Was the tool pulled or pushed? (12) Does the tool strike the objective material? (13) What is the relation to the tool edge and the



and the resistance of the material being formed or worked? (14) What is the difference between attrition and corn polish? (15) What is the cause of striations on a working edge of the tool? (16) How can the use flakes be identified as opposed to intentional retouch?(17) What are the characteristics of use flakes? (18) What is indicated by a use flake of certain character, change of angle, increased resistance, miscalculations of worker, apprentice accidents due to mishandleing ???? (19) Was the tool used for scraping? Was the tool used for cutting? (20) Was the tool used for burnishing? (21) Was the tool used for Sawing? (22) Was the tool used for chopping? (23) Was the tool broken during manufacture? (24) Was the tool broken from mishandleing or improper use? (25) Was the tool simply abandon upon completion of task? (26) Was the tool exhausted from resharpening?

The above list is but a few of the considerations that confront the experimenter, each will add to our now limited knoweledge of the use of Stone tools, but non will be a factual conclusion resulting from experiment.

The only conclusive evidence will be from actual aoservation of the aboriginal using the implement himself and too one must consider the keenness of the observer. All information resulting from experiment will add to our now meger bits of information regarding mans past activities.

The results of the experiments must be well documented, but hard and fast laws can only be insinuated until our economy and lively hood regresses to the use of stone implements.