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Notes on Shoshonean Ethnography by  
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On the stone work of the Plateau Shoshoneans, the following statement by Powell merits being rescued from its recondit source:

The obsidian or other stone of which the implement is to be made is first selected by breaking up larger masses of the rock and choosing those which exhibit the fracture desired and which are free of flaws; then these pieces are baked or steamed, perhaps I might say annealed, by placing them in damp earth covered with a brisk fire for twenty-four hours. Then, with a sharp blow they are still further broken into flakes approximating the shape and size desired. For the more complete fashioning of the implement, a tool of horn, usually of the mountain sheep, but sometimes of the deer or antelope, is used. The flake of stone is held in one hand, placed on a little cushion made of untanned skin of some animal, to protect the hand from the flakes which are to be chipped off, and with a sudden pressure of the bone tool, the proper shape is given. They acquire great skill in this, and the art seems to be confined to but few persons who manufacture them and exchange them for other articles.

(J.W. Powell. Exploration of the Colorado River of the West and its Tributaries, explored in 1869-1872 under the direction of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, 1875 )

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