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Thank.

EDGE STRUCK AND SIDE STRUCK FLAKES

edge struck flakes are appearing
 A very distinctive type of ~~flake~~ appearing in collections in the Western United States that shows a high degree of specialization in both technology, form and possible function. Flake assemblages of this type may serve a diagnostic purpose as they are not commonplace and may be related to certain groups of people in certain periods of time. The ~~edge~~ edge struck flakes have several distinctive characteristics that show a refinement in technological patterns equal to the specialized flakes called blades. (The core from which this particular type of flake was removed has not appeared as such in collections, and at the present time it is most difficult to match the flake scar with this type of edge struck flake. It is possible that as the flakes were removed from the core that the core was modified into a bifacial artifact. Certain conclusions can be drawn, and they are that the core was tabular or plaque shaped or at least with flat surfaces which allow the flake to expand.)

The edge struck flake has certain features that separate it from other flake types. The flake is very flat on both the dorsal and ventral surfaces. The flake terminates in what is known as a feather edge and becomes progressively thinner as it approaches the distal end. From the platform it expands to the lateral edges, they too have the feathered margins. The edge of the flake is sharp on all margins except the platform portion which is very small, usually less than that of a grain of rice. Directly under the platform on the ventral side of the flake is the bulb of force. This bulb is not pronounced but diffused and is usually without the common fracture scar, which is typical to flakes removed by percussion. This feature will be interesting to observe as it can have some bearing on the technique used for removing them. The ventral side of the flake is smooth with a minimum of rippling or waves. The dorsal side of the flake is very flat bearing the scars of

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Edge and side

previously removed flakes, this surface is very flat and can bear no ridges as they would cause the ^{flake} flake to be deformed and prevent an even spreading of the flake, Exactly the opposite technique as that used in removing blades as a ridge or ridges are desirable to guide and prevent the flake from spreading. Natural flat surfaces are occasionally found on the dorsal side of the flake.

The platforms of the edge flake vary in different geographical areas. The ~~#####~~ dorsal side, next to the platform however does show uniformity of one part of the preparation and that is to remove very small flakes on the face of the core prior to removing the flake. The tops or the platforms on some show grinding and polishing while others are faceted by the removal of small ~~#####~~ flakes. There is also a difference in angle of the ~~#####~~ platform in relation to the ~~##~~ longitudinal axis of the flake. One peculiarity of this specialized flake is the very small contact area ~~between the point of force~~ or platform that is able to withstand the great amount of force necessary to remove a flake of such a large ^{area of fracture} ~~###~~ without crushing the platform.

Edge struck flakes have certain advantages not found in blades. They are more versatile than blades as they may be used as cutting tools without any modification. Small bifacial artifacts such as projectile points may be made from them with only a small amount of pressure retouching, such an artifact will be regular in form, straight evenly bi convex. A single pressure retouch will generally suffice to make a projectile point. While a blade normally must be straightened and the ridges on the dorsal side must be removed and the artifact will be semi plano convex unless a large blade is used and then only if ^{repeated} ~~#####~~ pressure retouching is used. The development of the edge struck flake ~~#####~~ displays a technological advantage over the blade for certain tool types, yet it is doubtful if the edge struck flake is as economical to produce. The appearance of this flake type in either time or space will probably be established at some later date when additional lithic material is studied.

Edge and side

The side struck flake is also a distinctive type of a specialized flake and is not to be confused with the edge struck flake. The side struck flake is removed from a rectangular core with a 90 degree angle at the top and having the same angle at the bottom of the core. The distance from the bottom to the top of the core is normally from one to three inches, this distance will be the width of the flake. The force is applied by either direct or indirect percussion on the top of the core near the leading edge. The platform is chosen away from the side of the core at a sufficient distance to allow the distal end of the flake to spread.

of the core
The edge opposite the platform will form the usable part of the side struck flake. Upon applying force to the platform and as the flake is being detached it will expand on the same angles as the cone, but will not truncate in the shape of the half cone because of the mass of material at the distal end of the flake. This mass of material is removed with the flake making it three to four times wider than it is long. Since the edge opposite that of the platform is a right angle the distal end of the flake will be triangulate and bi pointed with the pointed edges of the flake becoming smaller increasingly until they leave the core. This flake type is most useful for making large lanceolate points.

Edge and side

The side struck flake has several advantages over the use of blades.

The side struck flake is perfectly straight, is triangulate in section and is without the strains found in blades. One has but to remove the bulb at the mid part of the flake by one or two well directed percussion blows and a fine bi pointed tool will result. The side struck flake can after the bulbar portion is removed be modified by a minimum

amount of pressure flaking into long thick lancolate forms. Side struck, The side struck flake can be distinguished from a blade because the waves of percussion will start on either of the lateral edges, on the ventral side flakes appear quite early in time and appear to be associated with Paleo-

man in North America . This type of flake removal has occurred where basalt is predominately used for artifact manufacturing. This technique may hold a dominance over the use of other materials because basalt is not resistant to edge shock normally encountered when removing blades.

edge struck and sidestruck
 Note; The nomenclature of using ~~these terms~~ may not conform to existing archaeological terminology. The word struck may impart a meaning of directly striking or delivering a blow in the manner of direct percussion, however the flakes may have been removed by the aid of the punch or by indirect percussion. Other terms for the side struck or the edge struck flake could be coined to be more diagnostic. Additional Experiments will have to be conducted before one can form conclusive evidence regarding techniques or technique in combination with aboriginal specimens.