

NOTES

Appraisal ~~##~~ of artifacts should include comparison of the different degrees of the toolmakers skill, the apprentice and the accomplished, cultural trends, possible functional needs corresponding to the environment. Only the very simple tools made use of only one technique, and a number of techniques may be used on the raw material from its inception until the final completion. Each must be evaluated according to the individuals ability to produce a flake of the desired dimensions under certain set conditions and, further, must be related to the quality of the material. To be considered are the isotropic and homogeneous~~#~~ qualities of the material, whether the stone had been altered by the heat treatment, and whether undetected flaws or inclusions caused a higher ratio of breakage in partly completed tools. These are a few check points to be considered to help the analyst understand the many phases of manufacturing methods employed. It is unfortunate that only the final stage of flaking are represented by the flake scars left on the finished artifact. Often there were several pressure retouching on the same artifact, if one is to expect precise, exacting and duplicate flake removal the surface conditions must also be ideal. Complete collections of flakes resulting from aboriginal tool making from inception to finished product will contribute much information regarding stages, techniques, and material relationships and show technological traits and cultural characteristics that will be useful to archaeology. It would be indeed rare to locate an archaeological site that had all stages, particularly the finished product in mint condition, but the end result may be reconstructed from the ~~misfortunes and accidents~~ ^{misfortunes and accidents} left for the prehistorian.

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