DIAGNOSTIC VALUE OF LITHIC DEBRIS

99½ % of the history of Mankind is represented by stone residue of mans survival.
Evidence of mans past is represented in the form of flakes, blades, broken discarded or exausted implements and on ocasion an artifact in mint condition.

More often than not many tools are not reconized as such. A simple flake can often perform a cutting task and is then discarded as soon as the job at hand was completed.
The simple flake will bear certain technological attributes that may be distinctive in particular time and space.
Implements made more sophisticated to perform specific tasks will show stages of completion.
Each stage of developement may show the use of different techniques and tools used to detach the flakes.
Stone age man when able to make/any size, length, width/thickness or thinness and curvature a flake of
he could produce a variety of tools to suit his enviroment.

It is not possible at this time to examine all of the diverse methods of flake and blade detachnents made by extinct cultural societies.
Proximal end of the flake or blade
Character of bulb of force
Area contacted by percussor or compressor.
Cone of force
Lips
curvature
Undulations
Terminations
Character of dorsal surface
Outline of the flake
Workers intention and his mistakes

Function

1. How was the tool made, then replicate. 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? 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 resistance of the material being worked? 14 Whatis the difference between attrition and corn polish? 15/ What is the cause of striationson the working edge of the tool, is it a silica build up? Contamination of particles harder that the tool, is it due to a burnishing action? Do some softer materials have an abrasive action on the dool. Other possible erosional factors? 16. How can the use flakes be identified as opposed to the intentional retouck? 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 the worker? Beginners and aprentise , ;flakes removed accidentaly due to mishandeling or improper use. ? 19. Was the tool used to perform a scrapping action? 20. Was the tool used in a cutting action? 21. Was the tool used as a burnisher? 22. Was the tool used for sawing? 23 Was the tool used for Chopping? 24. Was the tool broken during mgf. 25. Was the tool broken from mishandeling or improper use ect. 26. Was the tool simply abandon upon completion of task? 27. Was the tool exausted from resharpening? 28. Are the flake scar terminations uniform and consistant when related to the fracture angle of the cone of force.?

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