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I have recently been informed by the SAA program chairman that the proposed symposium on core-blade technology has been accepted, and has been placed on the program for the May meeting. I still do not know the day or time for which the symposium is scheduled; however, I will advise you of this as soon as possible.

Attached is a list of participants in the symposium, along with abstracts (tentative, in some cases) of their papers.

Please let me know if you are no longer planning on taking part in this symposium, or if there have been any changes in your proposed paper.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas R. Hester

ABSTRACTS: Core-Blade Technology symposium, T. R. Hester (organizer)

Benfer, Alice

"A Preliminary Lithic Analysis of Obsidian from Prehistoric Tula". Obsidian is the second most numerous class of artifacts recovered from the 1970-72 excavations of Tula- - the capital of the Postclassic Toltec State. Aspects of the lithic analysis include: (1) a multivariate analysis of a sample of prismatic blades to determine nonredundant attributes for different phases of lithic analysis (i.e., blade production technology, stylistic variation, wear pattern studies); (2) discussion of core preparation and blade production methods; and (3) the use of neturon activation and other methods to examine intrasite variation in the use of raw materials.

Crabtree, Don E.

"Experiments in Mesoamerican Core Preparation and Truncation Technology" (tentative title). This paper discusses recent experiments which have provided new information on obsidian blade core preparation technology in Mesoamerica. Experiments have also been carried out to explore the methods of core platform truncation.

Epstein, Jeremiah F.

"Aztec Core-Blade Technology" (tentative title). Over the past several years, a very extensive collection of obsidian core-blade materials from the site of Tlateloco has been analyzed. As a result, new data are now available on the core-blade technology of the Aztec period.

Feldman, Lawrence H.

"A Tale of Two Stones: Flint and Obsidian in the Ethno-history of Mesoamerica". This paper is a survey of obsidian and flint usage in Michoacan, Central Mexico, North Yucatan, and the Central Guatemalan Highlands. Definitions and descriptions in the native language vocabularies define the different use patterns for these flakeable stones. References are cited on the origins of these stones and the techniques involved in processing them. Many of the same rocks were ground and polished by a group of specialists, the lapidarists. Information on the organization of these craftsmen is presented in the hope that, to some extent, they reflect the organization of all who made flint and obsidian artifacts in 16th century Mesoamerica.

Hester, Thomas R.

"Technological and Functional Analyses of Obsidian Artifacts from Southern Michoacan, Mexico". Analyses of over 700 obsidian artifacts--cores, blades, bifacial and unifacial tools--provide new information on Mesoamerican obsidian-flaking techniques. Microscopic examination of wear patterns on tools in the collection have led to the development of hypotheses regarding their function.

Morse, Dan F.

"The Cahokia Microlith Industry". Paleo-Indian, Jaketown, and Hopewell blade and core industries in the eastern United States have been widely known for two decades or more, although normally only Hopewell cores and blades are discussed in the literature. Other core and blade assemblages are now becoming known, such as the Cahokia Microlith Industry. Centered at the Cahokia site, located near St. Louis, characteristic cores, blades and tools have been recognized in Arkansas and Florida, possibly associated with a frontier Mississippi culture. Apparent techniques of manufacture and hafting and probable uses of tools are described. Manufacture may have involved the use of a vise, a grooved potsherd. Hafting could have been accomplished by inserting a microlith into the end of a freshly cut cane. Microliths seem to have functioned mainly as gravers and drills.

Muto, Guy R.

"Levallois Blades in the Old and New World". The recent recognition of a Levallois-like technology in the New World has led to the discovery of diagnostic blade types not conforming to the classic definition of a blade and not derived from a polyhedral core. Blades have long been known from the Pacific Northwest but have not been associated with polyhedral cores in the older assemblages. The technology which lies behind this phenomenon is explored.

Pitzer, Jean

"A Microlithic Industry from the Channel Islands, California". The author, in collaboration with T.R. Hester and R.F. Heizer, has been analyzing over five thousand lithic specimens from Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, California. The collection includes microcores (several types), microblades, drills made on microblades, and burins; the greatest proportion of these materials are microblades ranging from 17 to 48 mm. in length. The probable methods of detaching the microblades are described. The wear patterns on the drills and burins are discussed and inferences are made as to their probable uses. The bulk of the collection dates from within the last 1000 years and occurred in mortuary contexts.

Rovner, Irwin

"Technology and Typology of the Obsidian Industry at Mayapan". The Carnegie collections of obsidian from the site of Mayapan have recently been re-analyzed. The blade manufacturing process has been defined, and techniques of core rejuvenation have been recognized. Many blades were deliberately broken, probably by a punch technique, and were retouched into a variety of tool types including snubbed-nose scrapers, denticulates, burins and so forth.