



Idaho State University

POCATELLO, IDAHO

83201

Museum

Monday afternoon

Dear Don and Evelyn,

After I talked with you on Saturday I thought it might be a better idea to send this paper before next weekend. This way maybe you will have a chance to read it before then. Please pardon all the typos etc. but it's just my rush typing job. I'll bring the rest of the illustrations Saturday. Pat and I should be there before noon - See you then!

Chris

DESTINY OF THE QUARRY BLADES

Now, although the blades produced in the quarry shops may without modification have been used for cutting, scraping, perforating, and other purposes, I am decidedly of the opinion that as a rule they were intended for further elaboration; this is rendered almost certain, first, by the fact that the most fully shaped broken pieces found on the quarry shop sites are but rudely trimmed on points and edges, specimens of like grade being little fitted for use in cutting and scraping; and, second, that all the tens of thousands of specialized forms--spearheads, arrow-points, and perforators--are necessarily specialized from such blades, as shown in a subsequent section. The quarry workshop was naturally not a place for finishing tools, but one for roughing out the material and selecting that fitted to be carried away for final shaping. A laborer engaged in such work in a pit in the forest would not be likely to throw aside the rough hammer used in fracturing cobble stones to take up and operate an entirely different kind of machinery, involving a distinct and delicate process. Being a reasoning and practical creature, he would carry away the roughed out tools, the long thin blades, to be disposed of or to be finished at his leisure and by whatsoever method experience placed at his disposal.

The quarries, being extensive, were worked somewhat systematically and the product was naturally of great importance to the people concerned. The blades made during a prolonged season's work were numerous and were carried to village sites far and near for use, specialization or trade. There would be in their history a period of transportation attended by storage, and this would explain the cache, an interesting feature of stone implement phenomena, and one which involves just such blades as were produced in the quarry shops.

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