

BULLETIN

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A SIMPLE CATALOGUE FOR COLLECTORS

by CHARLES W. WARD

Professional field archeologists, particularly in the Eastern Woodlands area, have found that they badly need the assistance of the local amateur in the course of their investigations. Often, a summer's work in the field will not yield sufficient material from a given site to make a complete analysis of the pottery sherds, the projectile points, or of the other types of artifacts.

When this is the case, the best chance that the professional has is to contact amateurs in the area, and to add to the information which he has from the material in their collections. In this manner, the amateur has a real chance to contribute to the larger archeological picture.

However, it sometimes happens that collections grow large, and it becomes difficult to remember just where a certain item was found. It may be easy to tell the site of the perfect bannerstone, the fine jasper point, the distinctively decorated pottery sherd—such finds were exciting, and they stick in one's memory.

But it is often different with the odds-and-ends of broken stone and pottery that find their way into the collecting bag, and later get washed along with the better pieces. Such remnants are often relegated to a shoe box and stored away on a bottom shelf.

However, it must be remembered that, to the professional, *all* artifacts, even fragments, are important. The handful of small, uninteresting sherds may match up with the handful he has found in a test or excavation to make up a sample worthy of analysis. The same is true of other artifacts; it is often the bits and pieces that furnish the most valuable information for study.

It is also true that, in some places, collecting has been going on for so many years that the topsoil has been mined of practically all of the

complete artifacts, and, when a survey is being made by an archeologist who does not have time to do adequate subsurface testing, the material in collections must be studied in order to give a complete picture of the culture being studied.

For these reasons, any good collection should be supported by a complete catalogue. This may sound like a lot of hard, uninteresting work, but if a few simple rules are followed, you can get a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction out of keeping an adequate record of the artifacts in your collection.

How to get started? One of the best methods is to use 8 x 5 cards, or, if no cards are available, 8 x 10 bond paper may be cut in half and used.

Fill in one side of the card in the following way:

Type:	Site:	Number:
Material:		
Provenience:		
Length:	Width:	Thickness:
Description:		
Remarks:		

These cards or paper slips can be made out by hand or on a typewriter in advance. If you know someone who has a mimeograph, the whole thing is easy. Just cut the above on both the top and bottom of the stencil, run through your 8 x 10 bond sheets, and then cut each

page into two forms. This will give you a supply that will last for years.

Filling in each card is simple. If you number your artifacts with India ink, all you have to do is place the same number on the card. Type refers to the kind of artifact: "arrowpoint," "bannerstone fragment," "netsinker."

"Provenience," of course, will be "surface" in most of the cases, but should you have been working with a spade in a shelter, try to record here the nature of the soil and the depth below the surface where the piece was found.

"Material" may, in some cases, be a little more difficult, but, if you are not sure, a question mark will fill the space until you find someone who knows more about minerals.

In the case of "Site," try to record the name of the owner of the field as well as its location. Most archeologists name sites after their owners.

Measurements can be made with any ruler, or, if you are a stickler for accuracy, buy an architect's triangular scale (ask for it by that name), which has graduations as fine as 1/48th of an inch.

"Description" is no more than a thumbnail word-sketch of the artifact. "Triangular arrow-

point, concave base, tip broken off" will give you an idea of how to fill this space.

"Remarks" is for anything odd or notable about the piece or the finding of it. "Three of the same kind found together at the same spot" might be an example.

When this side of the card is finished, turn it over and make a rough sketch of the artifact. This does not have to be to scale, but in some cases you may want to draw both sides to show significant differences, or to make a cross section. This drawing will serve to complete your word-picture on the other side.

After a little practice, you will find that you can record a score of artifacts in no time at all. If you number your artifacts, and also use these numbers on the cards, placing the cards in numerical order in a shoebox, you will end up with a time sequence of the growth of your collection.

A collection of anything—books, jade carvings, pewter, or prehistoric Indian artifacts—is never wholly complete, and never will be. There is always the happy possibility of adding one more interesting piece. But any collection can be made a little more complete by complementing it with a good catalogue.

THE CAPE MAY POINT SITE

by RICHARD C. COOK

At the southernmost tip of New Jersey in Cape May County lies the borough of Cape May Point. Here, below the latitude of the Mason-Dixon line, the Lenni-Lenape fished and swam long before the white settlers arrived.

For the past twenty-five years, the author and his family have scoured the area for Indian artifacts. All of the finds have been surface discoveries. The vast majority of the artifacts were collected on a four-mile strip of beach at the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Nature's greatest excavator, the ocean, has been consistently eroding this area for the past forty years, and the strip of beach has been constantly moving inland. As a result, after every storm or exceptionally high tide, new artifacts are brought to light.

There seems to be little question, from the widely scattered distribution of the relics, that this area was primarily a summer rendezvous and consisted of groups of small fishing, hunting, and berry-picking sites. Apparently, there was a more permanent village near Lake Lily, which would have provided a ready and accessible fresh-water supply.

The character of the beach has changed but little over a large part of this region since the Indians first camped there. The swamps, that in places are just yards behind the dunes that border the beach, are loaded with cranberries, waterfowl, and muskrats. The beach plum, huckleberry, and blackberry bushes yield an abundance of fruit. The ocean and bay provide fish and shellfish available throughout the warmer months of the year. The deer that at one time were probably in fair supply have been reduced to a few stragglers, but squirrels and rabbits are still plentiful.

Tall and aloof stands towering Signal Hill. This huge sand pinnacle, as legend has it, was used by the Indians as a point from which to issue smoke signals to distant hunters. Today on a clear morning from this vantage point, the irregular shore line of Delaware, twelve miles away, can sometimes be seen.

There have been a number of collections made from this large site. Our finds, however, have been the most numerous, and should represent a good random distribution of the stone industry of this site.

A listing of these finds is recorded on the chart on page 4.

STONE INDUSTRY

Flinty materials account for the overwhelming majority of the stone artifacts (86%). Argillite is the next most common material, but made up only 5 per cent of the total. Quartz, quartzite, and sandstone are rather sparsely represented. A very few specimens are of ironstone, porphyry, mica schist, and shale. Perhaps the most surprising feature is the minor occurrence of argillaceous material.

Arrowpoints—A total of 2,251 arrowpoints, whole or fragmentary, has been found. Plain-stemmed types account for about 35 per cent of the total. Lozenge-shaped points are next in frequency (15%) and triangular points account for almost 12 per cent. Most of the points show unusually fine work, rude points being in the minority. Arrowpoints account for a little over 74 per cent of the total artifacts (Plate I A).

Spearpoints—Of the 143 spearpoints, 34 per cent are of the plain-stemmed type and 20 per cent are of the convex-base type. Flinty materials account for only 80 per cent of the total as compared to 86 per cent for the arrowpoints. Spearpoints account for 4.7 per cent of the total artifacts.

Blades or Knives—The 77 knives or blades have for the most part a definite curved blade and notched base. These range in length up to four inches, and flinty materials make up 82 per cent of the total. Knives account for 2.5 per cent of the total artifacts (Plate I B).

Scrapers—A total of 231 scrapers was found. The end-scrapers account for over 40 per cent of the total. All scrapers account for 7.6 per cent of the total artifacts.

PETROLOGY AND TYPOLOGY

ARTIFACTS	Chert	Flint	Jasper	Chalcedony	Quartz	Quartzite	Argillite	Sandstone	Other	Total
<i>Arrowpoints</i>										
Triangular—Type 1	111	65	81	4	4	2	2	..	..	269
Plain-stemmed—Type 2	230	273	191	4	20	25	34	1	5	783
Right-angle-stemmed—Type 3 ..	17	22	13	..	3	..	4	..	2	61
Side-notched—Type 4	34	55	23	2	3	4	12	1	..	134
Corner-notched—Type 5	27	35	17	1	..	..	1	..	..	81
Bifurcated-base—Type 6	11	13	12	..	..	2	1	..	..	39
Lozenge-shaped—Type 7	86	171	63	2	1	5	13	..	2	343
Leaf-shaped—Type 8	29	80	27	2	3	5	18	1	2	167
Convex-base—Type 9	47	103	43	3	5	5	9	..	1	216
Unfinished and Fragments	41	69	28	..	3	5	12	..	..	158
<i>Spearpoints</i>										
Leaf-shaped—Type 1	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	4
Triangular—Type 2	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Convex-base—Type 3	3	18	2	..	3	..	2	1	..	29
Plain-stemmed—Type 4	7	26	..	..	3	9	2	..	2	49
Side-notched—Type 5 .....	..	9	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	11
Right-angle-stemmed—Type 6 ..	1	7	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9
Corner-notched—Type 7	2	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Fragments	1	18	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	20
<i>Blades and Knives</i>	14	38	10	1	2	3	8	..	1	77
<i>Scrapers</i>										
Thumb—Type 1	3	7	8	..	..	..	1	..	..	19
Side—Type 2	3	34	..	..	2	2	4	1	..	46
Retouched Flake—Type 3	2	11	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Discoidal—Type 4	10	32	8	..	2	..	4	..	..	56
End-stemmed—Type 5	9	37	14	1	..	..	4	2	..	67
End-triangular—Type 6	6	17	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	26
Keeled—Type 7 .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Irregular	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Drills</i>										
Triangular—Type 1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Straight—Type 2	1	6	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	15
Secondary—Type 3	5	13	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	23
Expanded-base—Type 4	3	8	3	..	..	2	2	..	..	18
Irregular—Type 5	2	4	6	..	..	..	1	..	..	13
Unclassified	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
<i>Miscellaneous Artifacts</i>										
Axes—Full groove .....	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Hammerstones .....	..	3	..	..	..	7	..	72	..	82
Pestles .....	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	7	..	9
Blanks and Rejects	26	42	23	1	6	4	1	..	1	104
Mortar .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Gorgetts .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5
Netsinkers .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	4
Pendants .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	25	26
Problematical .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gun Flints .....	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Anvils .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Hoe .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Totals	737	1252	589	21	61	85	142	97	32	3026

THE CAPE MAY POINT SITE

Drills—Of the 75 drills found, over 90 per cent are of flinty materials. Some of these exhibit extremely fine workmanship. The longest drill is just under three inches. Drills account for 2.4 per cent of the total artifacts (Plate II A).

Axes—Only two axes, both full grooved and of flint, have been found. One of these is quite small, 2.8 inches long and 1.8 inches wide, but beautifully made and polished. The other is ruder, and 3.8 inches long and 2.8 inches wide (Plate II B).

Gorget and Pendants—The gorgets are exceptionally fine; one contains three perfectly drilled holes and is 2.5 inches long and 1.7 inches wide. The pendants are remarkable because of their relative abundance (Plate II A).

Hammerstones—Almost all of the hammerstones are sandstone pebbles, either oval or triangular, and abraded on the edges. Hammerstones compose 2.7 per cent of the total.

POTTERY

Only nine large potsherds have been found. Because of the rigorous nature of the uncovering of the material by the ocean, it can be presumed that the bulk of the fragile pottery has succumbed to the battering surf. Despite this fact, however, it does seem peculiar that so very little evidence of clay manufacture has been uncovered.

The pottery fragments recovered all show evidence of sand and grit tempering and have

plain or corded finish. The interior surface of the ware is usually darker than the exterior. The color of the fragments ranges from tan to dark grey.

MISCELLANEOUS AND EUROPEAN MATERIAL

Twelve gun flints and fifteen clay pipe fragments have been recovered. Because of the nature of the site, it is impossible to ascertain whether this material was used by the Indians or the early European settlers.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Since the distribution of the artifacts was completely jumbled, the exact age of the site cannot be determined. It seems probable that it was occupied from at least Early Woodland times to the Contact period, with most concentration in the Middle and Late Woodland periods. From the artifacts, it seems certain that hunting, fishing and gathering were the most important occupations, and agriculture was minor. The site was probably primarily a summer area, with most of its inhabitants returning toward the center of the State during the winter months.

This site is certainly important since it is, and always will be, the most southern record of Indian life in the State of New Jersey. In addition, it is doubly important to me because it has afforded and will continue to provide a lifetime hobby.

SKUNK RUN, A PRE-MUNSEE VILLAGE SITE IN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

by PHILIP J. LAUNER

INTRODUCTION

In the summer of 1913, during the first archeological survey sponsored by the State of New Jersey, Max Schrabisch¹ located an Indian village site at Skunk Run, a brook which enters the Delaware River above the Dingmans Ferry bridge. Over the years, many artifacts from this

¹ Schrabisch, 1915.

site have been gathered by private collectors. Unfortunately, the bulk of this material is of little help in understanding the prehistory of this spot, because the artifacts were not catalogued, and the material from the Skunk Run site has become hopelessly intermingled with objects from other sites. So far as the author knows, his collection, gathered by surface hunting during the past twenty years, and a smaller

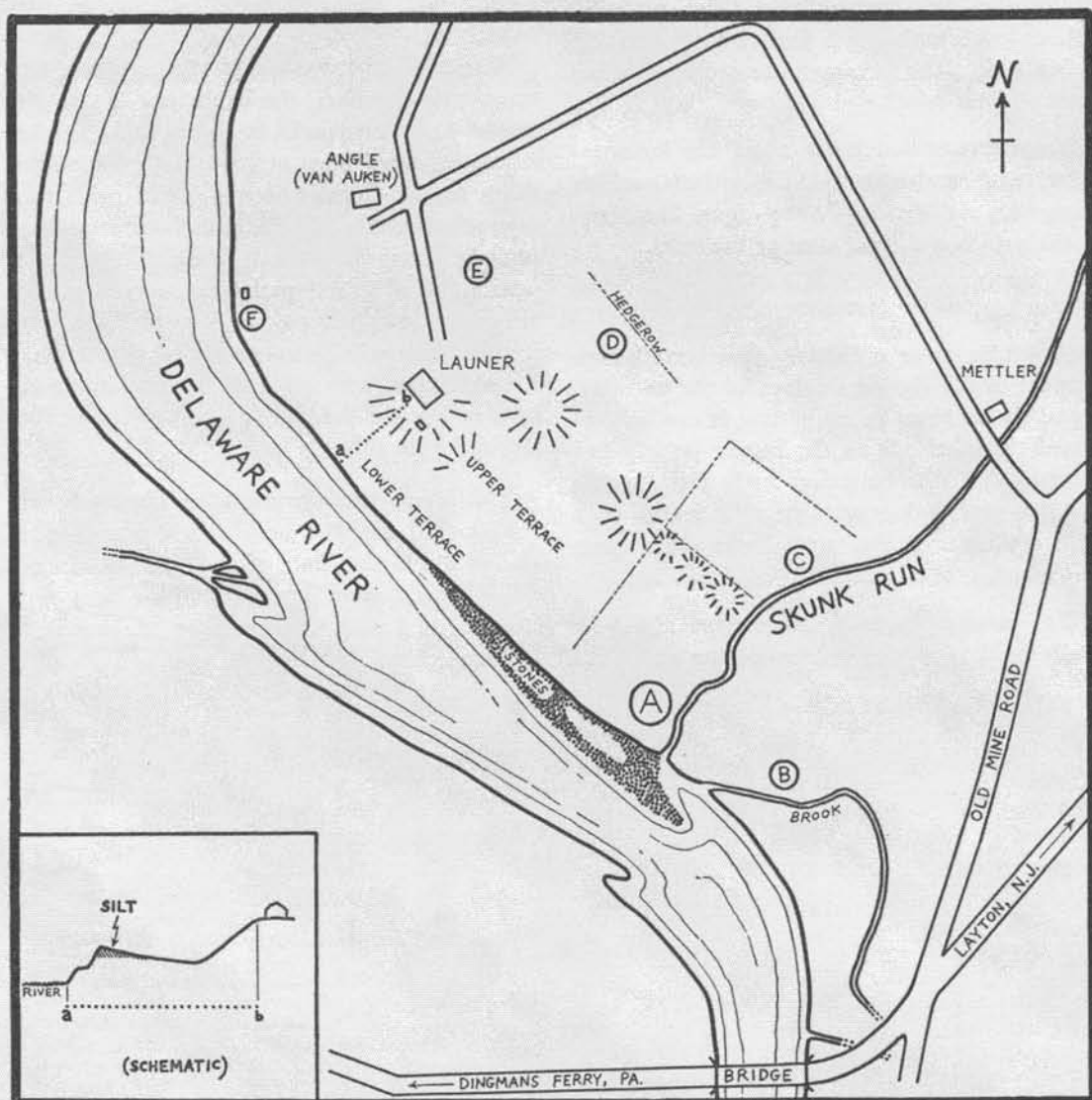


Figure 1. Map of the Skunk Run Site, Sussex County, New Jersey.

SKUNK RUN, A PRE-MUNSEE VILLAGE SITE IN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

collection of James L. Clark, Jr., of Westfield, New Jersey, are the only *catalogued* collections from the Skunk Run site.

The archeological evidence, to be described in this report, clearly shows that the village at Skunk Run antedates the Munsee horizon, and that the site was not occupied—except by occasional camping parties—during the time that the Munsee village at the Bell-Philhower site, four miles to the north, reached its zenith in late prehistoric and early historic times.

SITE LOCATION

The site is located (Figure 1) just north of the Dingmans Ferry bridge at the confluence of a brook, known locally as Skunk Run, and the Delaware River (21-14-8-1-4, 5, 7, 8).² The most heavily occupied area is location³ *A* on the north side of Skunk Run, on the old Mettler farm.⁴ Across Skunk Run to the southeast is location *B*, another area that shows evidence of occupation. In the field back from the river, at location *C*, there is a great deal of fire-cracked stone along Skunk Run, but artifacts are not abundant here. It is possible that sweat bathing was done at this location.

Just above the debouchment of Skunk Run a conspicuous beach of stones appears when the level of the river is low. An occasional artifact has been found here.

Extending northwestward from the main village site to the house of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Launer, the author's parents, are a series of knolls and terraces. The scattered artifacts found on these knolls and terraces are similar to those found on the main village site,

² The reader who is not familiar with site location by the "square system" should refer to Cross, 1941, p. 4.

³ Locations are shown on the map by circled capital letters.

⁴ Benjamin Mettler, whose house is shown on the map, has informed the writer that this farm originally belonged to his grandfather, and that the field of location *A* has been under cultivation for at least seventy years. When Max Schrabisch visited the site in 1913 this farm was owned by the original Mettler's great-granddaughter, who was married to Orrin Morgan. About 1932 the farm was acquired by the present owners, the Friedmans of New York City.

and it is thus convenient to include this material in the present study. On the upper terrace, a single burial, with no grave goods, was turned up by Mr. Mettler's plow. The plow-shattered bones were collected and are available for study in the author's collection. No other burials have been found at Skunk Run.

The lower terrace is deeply overlaid with silt. This silt layer is depicted schematically in Figure 1's inset, which shows a cross-section from the Launer house to the river. During the great flood of August, 1955, the author observed how rapidly this silty deposit could form. The flood, which reached point *b* (marker on C. A. Launer's lawn), left a thin covering of silt over the entire lower terrace. On the crest of the bank it left a few patches of silt 2 to 5 inches thick.

ARTIFACTS

Chipped Stone. Two hundred and seventy-three artifacts of chipped stone, some of which are shown in Plate III, have been found at Skunk Run. These chipped-stone artifacts are characterized by great diversity of material and form. Classification according to materials shows:

Argillite	34%
Yellow jasper	16%
Black flint	11%
Other	39%

The category "Other" includes a wide variety of flinty materials, many having attractive colors. The author has no desire to add to the confusion by attempting to name these various flinty materials, whose origins would be a study in itself. At Skunk Run, argillite and yellow jasper (both "down-river" materials) predominate, in sharp contrast to nearby Munsee sites where black flint is the preponderant material.

Raw material imported for making argillite chipped-stone artifacts has been found at Skunk Run: a large chunk of argillite (catalogue number 811), two large spalls (cat. nos. 334 and 1737, 1737 from location *D*), and five blanks (cat. nos. 303, 402, 477, 557, 1063). These pieces of raw material almost certainly came from the argillite beds exposed along the

Delaware River between Trenton and Milford, New Jersey.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE III

First row: 1—stemmed scraper, scraping edge worn smooth, yellow jasper (stem colored dark red by heating); 2—stemmed and barbed scraper, scraping edge worn smooth; 3—stemmed scraper or knife, wide shoulders; 4 and 5—drill or graver, very short point, yellow jasper; 6—base of drill, black flint.

Second row: 1—asymmetric knife or projectile point, argillite; 2—asymmetric knife, black flint; 3—projectile point, basal edge shows smoothing, yellow jasper; 4—asymmetric knife or projectile point, yellow jasper; 5—asymmetric knife, yellow jasper.

Third row: 1—broad knife or projectile point, argillite; 2—asymmetric knife or projectile point (stem broken off), argillite; 3—knife, yellow jasper; 4—base of broad asymmetric knife or projectile point, found at location *D*; 5—arrowpoint, purplish argillite.

Fourth row: 1—arrowpoint, argillite; 2—narrow bevelled arrowpoint, black flint; 3—notched arrowpoint, black flint; 4—arrowpoint, yellow jasper; 5—projectile point or knife having flaring shoulders and reworked point, yellow jasper; 6 and 7—arrowpoints, argillite.

Fifth row: 1—projectile point, basal edge and tangs rubbed smooth; 2—semi-lozenge projectile point, basal edge and tangs rubbed smooth, black flint; 3—side-notched arrowpoint; 4—broad-stemmed arrowpoint; 5—arrowpoint, dark gray argillite; 6—broad, stemmed point with tapering shoulders.

Sixth row: 1—side-notched arrowpoint, unusually small; 2—corner-notched arrowpoint; 3—straight-stemmed arrowpoint, black flint; 4—side-notched arrowpoint, black flint; 5—side-notched arrowpoint; 6—corner-notched, asymmetric knife or arrowpoint; 7—notched arrowpoint.

No attempt has been made yet to classify all of the chipped-stone artifacts from Skunk Run according to type or period. There are similarities, however, between many of these artifacts and those described as "Laurentian" and "Coastal" by Vernon Leslie in his careful study⁵ of surface collections from upper Delaware Valley sites. Notably scarce at Skunk Run are triangular arrowpoints with concave bases, which are so abundant on Munsee sites. (For example, of 116 projectile points found by Ritchie⁶ at the Bell-Philhower site, 114 had the characteristic triangular pattern.) Witthoft⁷ reports that an abundance of small triangular points characterizes the periods he calls "Late Woodland" and "Early Historic." From the almost complete absence of triangular points at

Skunk Run, one would conclude that this site was not occupied during these periods.

Rough and Polished Stone. Given below is an inventory of the rough and polished stone artifacts found at Skunk Run.

- 15 flat, notched netsinkers
- 7 partly grooved, round pebble sinkers (like the one illustrated in Plate 24a, Figure 2, of Cross, 1956)
- *1 trimmed, rectangular, notched sinker (?) (like those described in Launer, 1948)
- 13 pitted hammerstones
- 3 unpitted hammerstones
- 1 rubbingstone
- 1 sinewstone
- 2 sharpeners
- 2 pestles
- 1 tiny pestle (length $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches)
- *1 discoidal stone
- 3 polished celts
- 7 polished celt fragments
- 9 chipped celts
- 2 rude grooved axes
- 1 hoe
- 1 ground knife, made by grinding a crescent-shaped edge of a spall
- 1 notched pendant
- 1 fragment of a drilled, red slate gorget
- *1 drilled bannerstone
- 1 drilled bannerstone fragment
- *1 notched bannerstone
- 1 grooved bannerstone fragment
- 9 unclassified

Additional comments about the artifacts marked with an asterisk are given below:

1. Only a single trimmed, rectangular notched stone has been found at Skunk Run, while at nearby Munsee sites this type of artifact is found in great abundance. Since my note (Launer, 1948) appeared in the *Bulletin*, I have come to regard these odd artifacts as a reliable indicator of late prehistoric and protohistoric Delaware or Munsee times in the upper valley of the Delaware. This lone specimen from Skunk Run is one of the few bits of evidence that the Munsee visited this spot occasionally.
2. A splendid specimen, believed to be a discoidal game-stone, is made from an unusually hard stone (quartzite?). Rust marks show that despite repeated blows from farming implements, the stone remained unscratched. It is elliptical in outline (axes— $5\frac{3}{8}$, $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches). The faces, slightly convex, retain the natural surface of the stone. The edges have been pecked flat. The thickness at the

⁵ Leslie, 1946.

⁶ Ritchie, 1949, p. 173.

⁷ Witthoft, 1949.

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PROBLEM TOOLS

by DONALD DILATUSH

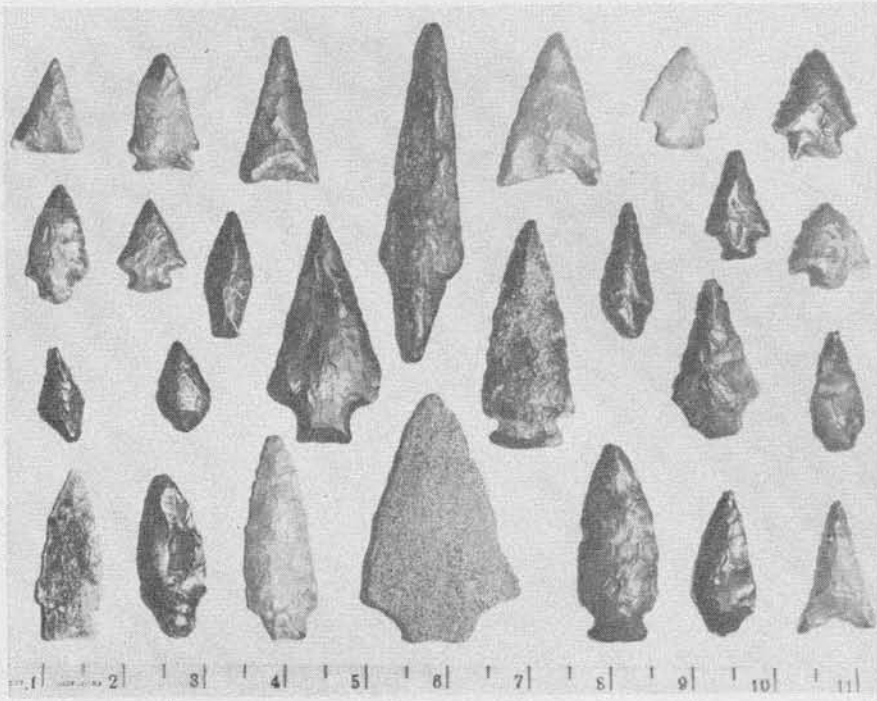
Two weathered argillite implements, carefully made, are shown on Plate V A, and Plate V B, Nos. 1, 3. Each has a pointed, wedge-shaped end with a flat under-surface. The end which apparently was held by the user rises from the plane of the under surface to provide clearance for the fingers over the object being worked on. Each flake was removed with skill to produce the proper angle for use and the right shape and place for the fingers of the user's hand. This would assure a firm grasp if the tool were slippery from grease or blood. The working end of the smaller tool measures 3 cm. across, 4 cm. long. Over-all length is 6.6 cm. The larger tool has a working end 4 cm. across, 4.8 cm. long, and an over-all length of 10 cm.

They were found a half-mile apart along Edges Brook, a tributary of Crosswicks Creek

in Mercer County, New Jersey, in a long, narrow band of temporary camp sites upstream from the Allinson Farm site and about seven miles from the Abbott Farm site. Artifacts found near these tools, in order of prevalence, are: scrapers and knives, projectile points, hammerstones, celts, axes, and pestles. All are surface finds.

These tools could have been used in skinning and cleaning animals, to separate bark from trees, or to punch holes in skins or bark for lacing. Their shape and careful make suggest a specific use.

Illustrated for comparison is a sandstone adze found nearby (Plate V B, No. 2).



A

B



PLATE I. ARTIFACTS FROM THE CAPE MAY POINT SITE

A. Arrowpoints. B. Blades and knives.



A

B

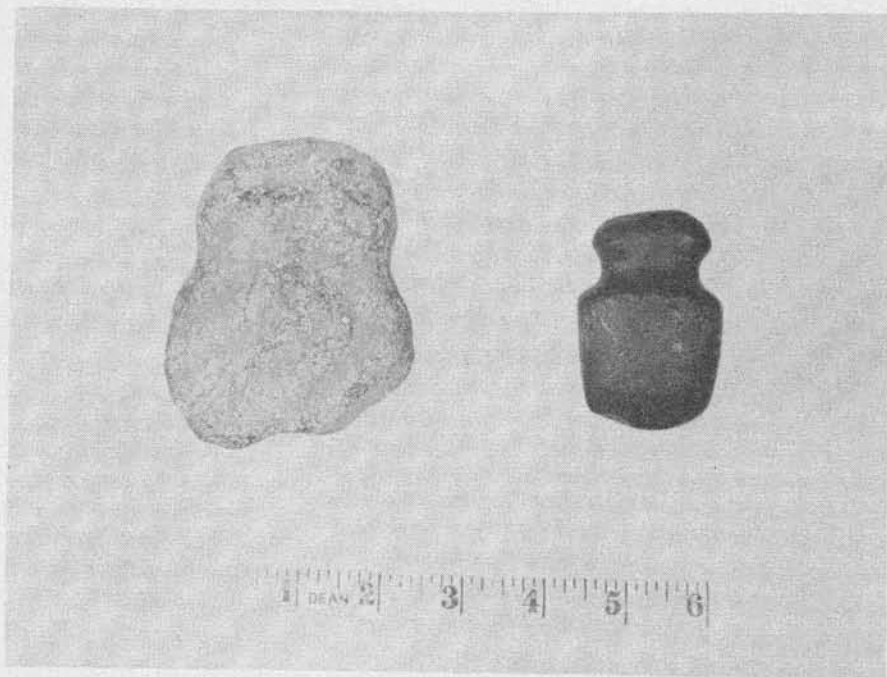


PLATE II. ARTIFACTS FROM THE CAPE MAY POINT SITE
A. Drills, gorgets and pendant. B. Grooved axes.

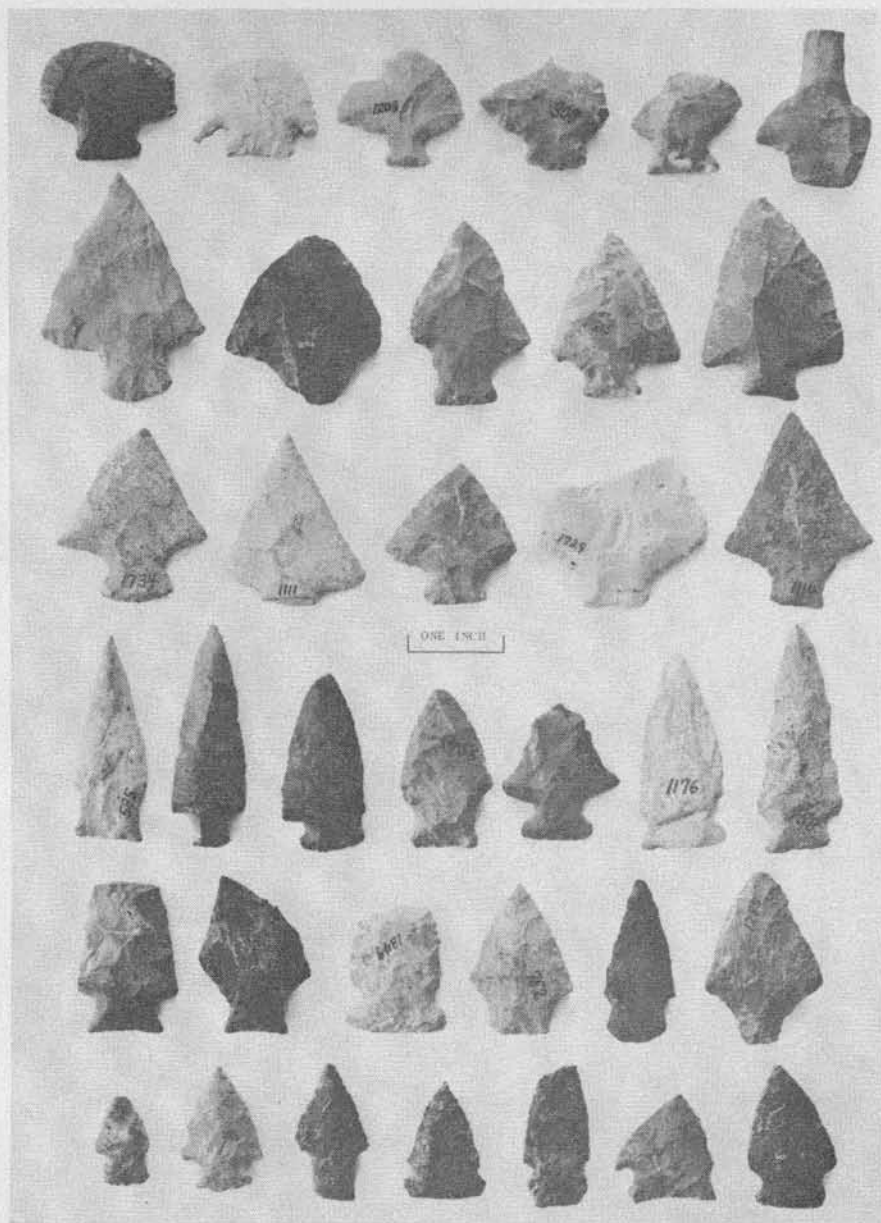
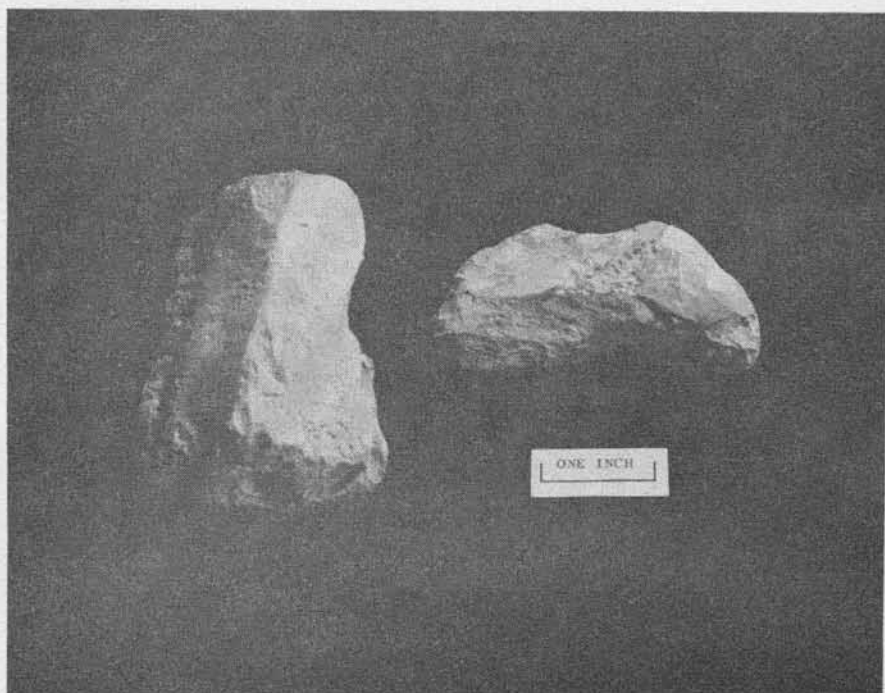


PLATE III. CHIPPED STONE ARTIFACTS FROM THE SKUNK RUN SITE



A

B

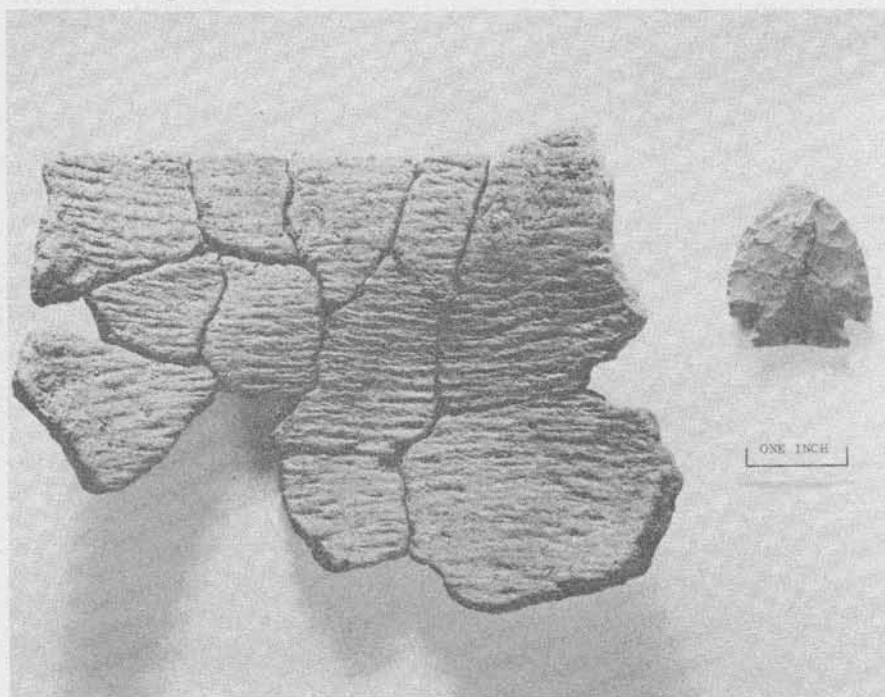


PLATE IV. STONE ARTIFACTS AND POTTERY FROM THE SKUNK RUN SITE

A. Bannerstones. B. Pottery and yellow jasper knife, found together in a pit on the lower terrace. (This view shows the inside of a restored rim fragment.)



A

B

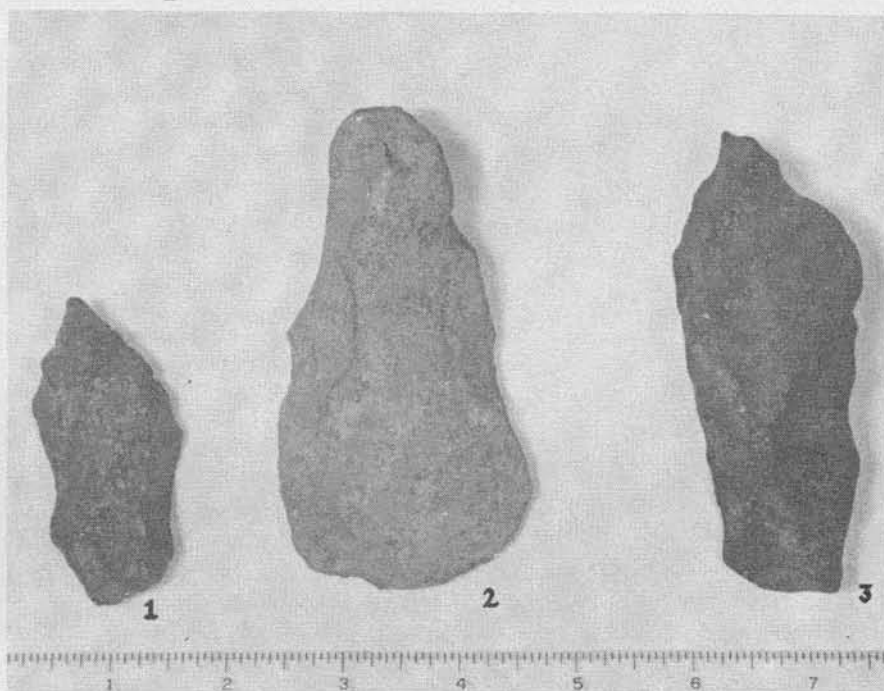


PLATE V. ARTIFACTS FOUND ALONG EDGES BROOK
A. Problematical implements. B. 1 and 3: Rear view of the problematical implements shown in A. 2: Adze or chopper.

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