

Encircling the Four-Sided Triangle: Making Sense of a Wayward Artifact Collection

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In 2008 while engaged in public outreach related to the George Frederick Clarke Artifact Collection, David Black was given a shoebox containing 13 artifacts by staff members of the L.P. Fisher Library, Woodstock, New Brunswick. To his surprise the artifacts had been professionally catalogued. Honours archaeology students at the University of New Brunswick quickly discovered that this collection had circulated from a farm at Three Brooks in Victoria County, to the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John, and, subsequently, to the Fisher Library. We students decided to analyse and research the history of this collection in order to complete the fourth side of this triangle.

In the course of our investigations, we discovered that about one hundred artifacts were recovered by Mr. and Mrs. Carter C. Edgar and family from their farm at Three Brooks. These artifacts were revealed in their potato field following ploughing and harvesting activities (Clarke 1968:196; see also Sanger 1971). Fifty-three artifacts from this collection were loaned to the New Brunswick Museum where they were catalogued by Dr. William MacIntosh in 1936.

Clarke (1968:196, 201; and unpublished notes) collected artifacts from the Edgar farm, which he named the Three Brooks site, on several occasions. We believe that Clarke was involved in bringing the C.C.E. artifacts to Woodstock, since a lanceolate biface made of banded quartzite, bearing the number "C.C.E. 24328", was found in the Clarke family home when the George Frederick Clarke Artifact Collection was donated to UNB. This artifact was illustrated by Clarke (1968:11, 139). While the artifacts from the shoebox all appear to date from the Late and Terminal Archaic Periods (4500-2700 B.P.), the artifacts collected from the Three Brooks site by Clarke suggest a much longer time span. This suggests that the Edgar potato field may have intersected an Archaic portion of the site.

These three flaked and ground stone axe blades were made by modifying pieces of volcanic tuff. They exhibit distal ends ground to produce edges suitable for cutting. Two artifacts display use-wear in the form of small striations parallel to the long axis indicating use as hafted wood-working tools. ~Analysed by Michael R. Wile



These grooved, ground stone axe blades were made from volcanic materials. Both artifacts bear damage from use-wear and plowing after burial. They were probably hafted to wooden handles and used as heavy wood-working tools. ~Analysed by Margaret H. Cornfield



225 YEARS
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the George Frederick Clarke collection

This quartzite biface from the George Frederick Clarke Artifact Collection connects G.F. Clarke to the C.C.E. Collection.



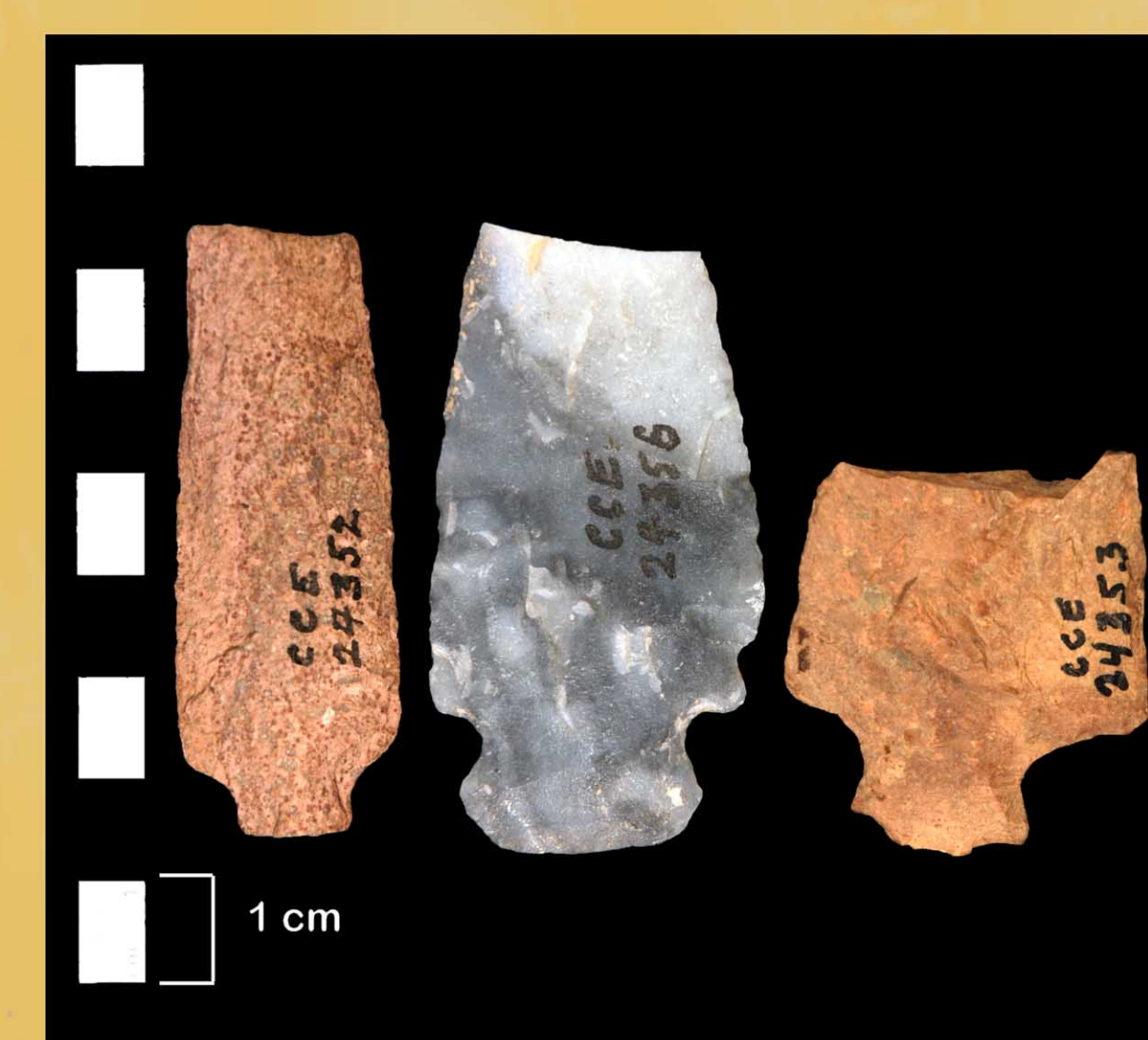
This unifacially retouched cortical flake was made from fine-grained sandstone from the Tobique area. It was probably used as a cutting implement for soft materials, such as hide, and not on tougher materials, such as bone. This style of technology dates is associated with the Late and Terminal Archaic periods.



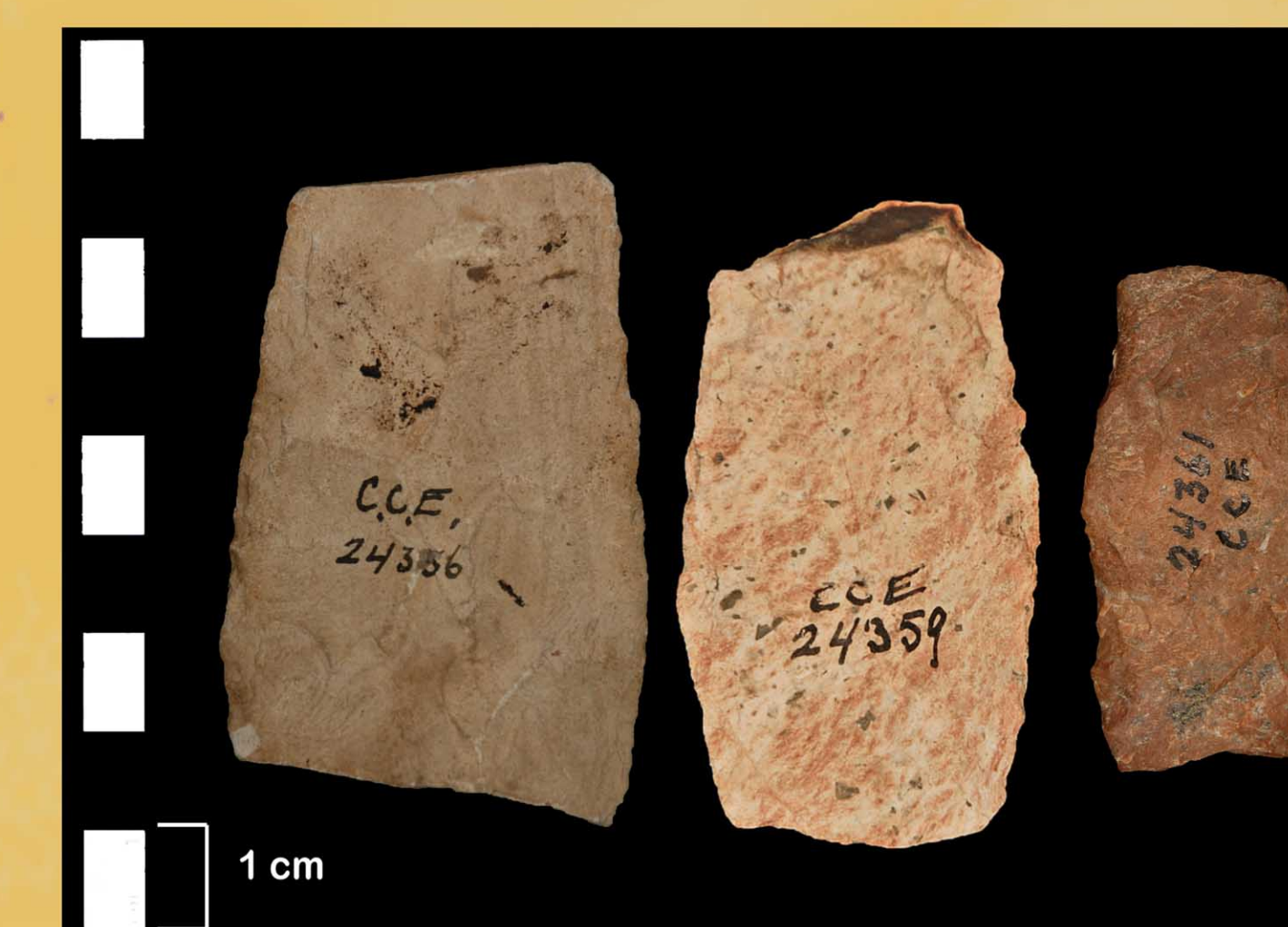
This bifacially retouched flake was made from an Ordovician-aged chert with radiolarian fossils. It was probably used as a cutting implement. The striking platform is still visible. This is common in blanks or unfinished artifacts which were carried for later use during the Late Archaic Period. ~Analysed by Kathleen S. Elaschuk



These stemmed projectile points range in material from porphyritic trachyte (C.C.E. 24353), to rhyolite (C.C.E. 24352), to Ramah quartzite (C.C.E. 24355). They may have been attached to darts or spears and thrown by hand or with a spear-thrower. Alternatively, they may have been hafted to short handles and used as knife blades. ~Analysed by Cindy G. Levesque



These three broken bifaces are all made of lithic materials collected in the Tobique River area. C.C.E. 24356 and C.C.E. 24359 are large lanceolates typical of the Late Archaic Period. The third biface (C.C.E. 24361) is smaller, more narrow, and less weathered, making it difficult to date with certainty. ~Analysed by Caitlyn J. Howard



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References Cited: Clarke, G.F. 1968. *Someone Before Us: Our Maritime Indians*. Brunswick Press: Fredericton. Sanger, David. 1971. *Deadman's Pool - A Tobique Complex Site in Northern New Brunswick*. *Man in the Northeast* 2:5-22.