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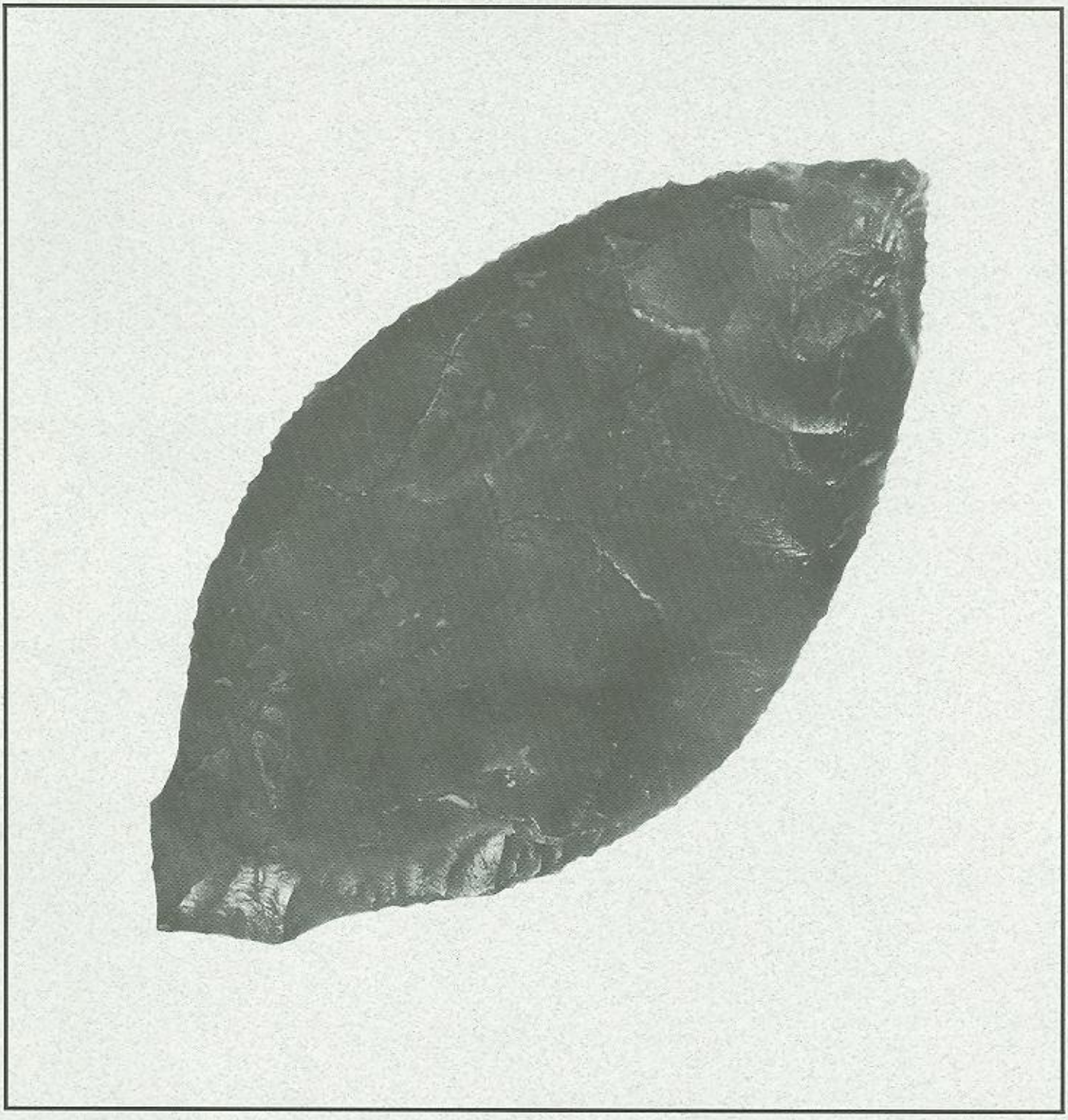

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Cover: Stemmed Burial Point. Courtesy Dr. Max Pavesic.

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THE DEMOSS SITE: A MATERIAL CULTURE AND FAUNAL UPDATE

by

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Patricia A. Gamel, Boise State University
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INTRODUCTION

In 1985, the accidental discovery of the 6,000 year old DeMoss burial locality, 10-AM-193, exposed a spectacular array of artifacts and human remains in a high mountain valley of western Idaho (Green et al. 1986). The burial was unintentionally disturbed during backhoe excavation in the development of a spring. Approximately seven feet below ground surface, cultural material was detected in a gravel/sand lens. This lens capped the granitic bedrock from which the spring water emanated. The gravel/sand lens was overlain by marl. Within the gravel/sand lens a massive prehistoric burial was displaced. The interments were not only impacted by direct backhoe probes but the eventual placement of a tile capping the spring created a suction-like action which further jumbled the encountered items. The preliminary publication of this discovery revealed a minimum of 22 individuals and 236 stone tools. In September of 1990, the landowners contacted the Office of the State Archaeologist to report that in finalizing the spring development additional cultural and human osteological materials had washed out.

This report is an update of the artifact inventory and previously unreported faunal remains. Emphasis is placed on artifact classification and faunal identification. The earlier report (Green et al. 1986) summarized the lithic technology of the recovered chipped stone items. In addition, previously unreported artifact types, i.e., non-chipped stone, are included in this account. Research is continuing on site geomorphology and the human skeletal population. Currently, the skeletal remains of a minimum of 60 disarticulated individuals have been identified (Todd Fenton, personal communication). Future publication plans of the DeMoss site include various specialized studies, including the physical anthropology, and a final report synthesizing the combined research effort.

BACKGROUND

The DeMoss site is the most recently discovered burial locality dating from the early Archaic period of western Idaho (Meatte 1990). Eight sites have been identified in west-central Idaho primarily along the lower reaches of the Boise, Payette and Weiser Rivers and the adjoining Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border (Pavesic 1985:Figure 3.1). The DeMoss site extends the distribution of Western Idaho Archaic Burial Complex sites to the headwaters of the north-flowing Little Salmon River, although the south-flowing Weiser and Payette river headwaters are equidistant in latitude (Figure 1).

Western Idaho Archaic Burial Complex sites are distinguished by an exceptional array of stone tools and associated ritual items (Pavesic 1985, 1992). The burials are located away from habitation sites and the term "complex" refers to several observed traits, including "preferred burial locations, ritual treatment of the dead, and distinctive kinds of artifacts" (Pinney 1985:28). The western Idaho artifact inventory includes turkey-tail points, large cache bifaces, Cascade and side-notched points, obsidian preforms, pipes, *Olivella* beads, red ochre and micaceous shaft-smoothers among others (Green et al. 1986; Pavesic 1985). Likewise, the burial locales "appear to be cemeteries of corporate kin-groups, presumably extended families or possible lineages" (Pavesic 1992:290).

Currently, the DeMoss site is the oldest directly dated burial locale in western Idaho. A corrected radiocarbon age of 5965±60 years (WSU 3426) was obtained from a bone sample (Green et al. 1986:33). In comparison, an uncorrected radiocarbon bone date of 5790±170 B.P. (WSU 1487) is reported from the Braden site (Harten 1975:72-73) and calibrated hydration dates of Timber Butte obsidian average 4048±70 B.P. at Braden and cluster to 4203±85 B.P. and 4424±53 B.P. at the Rosenberger site (Pavesic 1985:78). Furthermore, the DeMoss site association of Cascade and side-notched

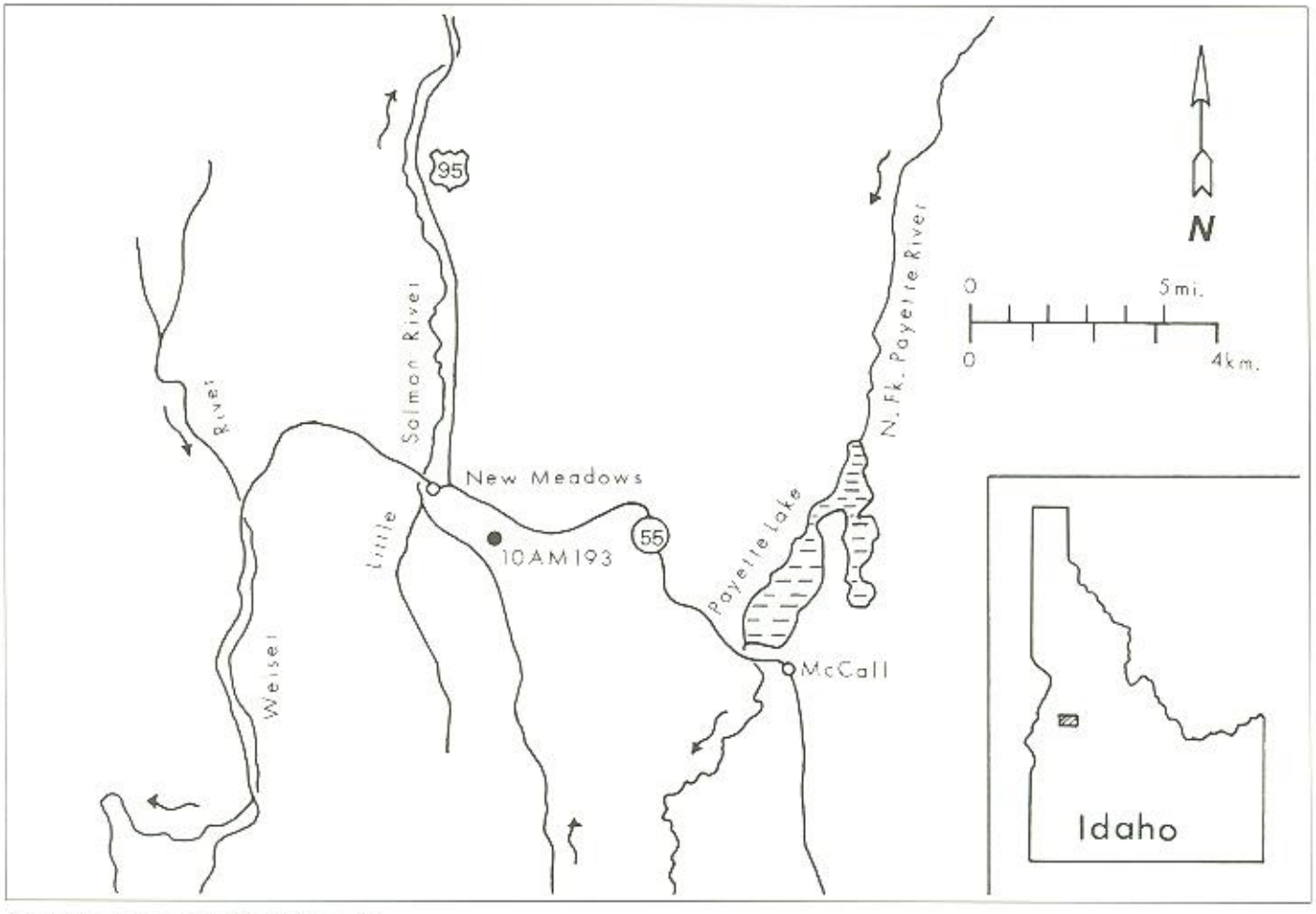

Figure 1. Location map of the DeMoss site.

points is characteristic of Late Cascade phase burials, 6500-4000 years B.P., at the Marmes Rockshelter in southeastern Washington (Breschini 1979). The DeMoss site thus represents one of the earliest prehistoric multiple-burial locales in western North America.

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

The DeMoss artifact collection is an outstanding example of burial specific behavior. The chipped stone artifacts, for example, number 460 complete or nearly complete typed specimens along with 26 miscellaneous non-typed bifacially chipped fragments. These items stand in sharp contrast to the paltry 120 pieces of recovered debitage. Of the 120 pieces of debitage, 28 are classified as utilized flakes, including 11 pieces from a single core, 66 micro-flakes, 24 pieces of shatter and 2 obsidian flakes detached by backhoe impact. Although the nature of the DeMoss discovery is a disturbed context (Green et al. 1986:31), cultural materials were easily distinguished from the sediment matrix and the recovered items were naturally cleaned, pre- and post-depositionally, by the spring water. The ratio of complete artifacts to debitage is certainly not what would be expected of habitation or workshop localities. This observation is also consistent with other western Idaho archaic burial finds (e.g. Butler 1980:122).

The hallmark traits of the Western Idaho Archaic Burial Complex are turkey-tail points and cache bifaces. These artifacts are the product of a macroflake technology noted for its quality of workmanship, specimen size and material selection. The collection typifies an artifact assemblage: "an associated set of contemporary artifact types" (Clarke 1968:230). While the assemblage is believed to be contemporaneous in time, the deposits most likely experienced multiple-burial episodes.

Earlier studies detailed the technological aspects of turkey-tail points, cache bifaces and other inventoried chipped stone categories (Green et al. 1986:33-38; Pavesic 1985:67-72). This report departs from these presentations by emphasizing diagnostic types. Thus certain groups of objects are reclassified. This is the result of a developing typology as new finds are made, comparing regional typologies, the burial context of the artifacts, and incorporating previous technological observations. Such an approach tends to lump specimens as opposed to the splitting which occurs in hierarchical systems based on attribute clusters.

All descriptions utilize standardized morphological attributes, such as outline form, blade elements and material. Lithic materials are generalized into macro-categories, thus, chert, chalcedony and other crystalline silicates are classified as microcrystalline silicates (MCS), and all fine grained basalts and rhyolites are listed as basalt. Attribute terminology follows Binford (1963) except for the addition of lenticular in transverse section description. Size ranges are presented for all classes and a

"+" sign signifies an incomplete specimen. All measurements are in centimeters.

Side-Notched Points (N=16) (Figure 2a-b)
Form: Triangular in outline with straight to slightly convex edges. Broad, tapering notches, primarily perpendicular to blade axis. Cross-sections range from planoconvex to lenticular. Bases vary from straight, convex, notched to "nippled".
Size range: 2.7-5.9 x 1.7-2.4 x 0.4-0.6 cm
Weight: 1.8-7.1 gm
Material: MCS (n=7), obsidian (n=6), basalt (n=3).
Comments: The category exhibits a tremendous variety of basal attributes for this time period (Green et al. 1986:Figure 7).

Corner-Notched Point (N=1) (Figure 2c)
Form: Squat, triangular in outline with straight edges. Broad corner-notching and straight base. Plano-convex is cross-section.
Size: 2.7+ x 1.8 x 0.5 cm
Weight: 2.2 gm
Material: MCS.

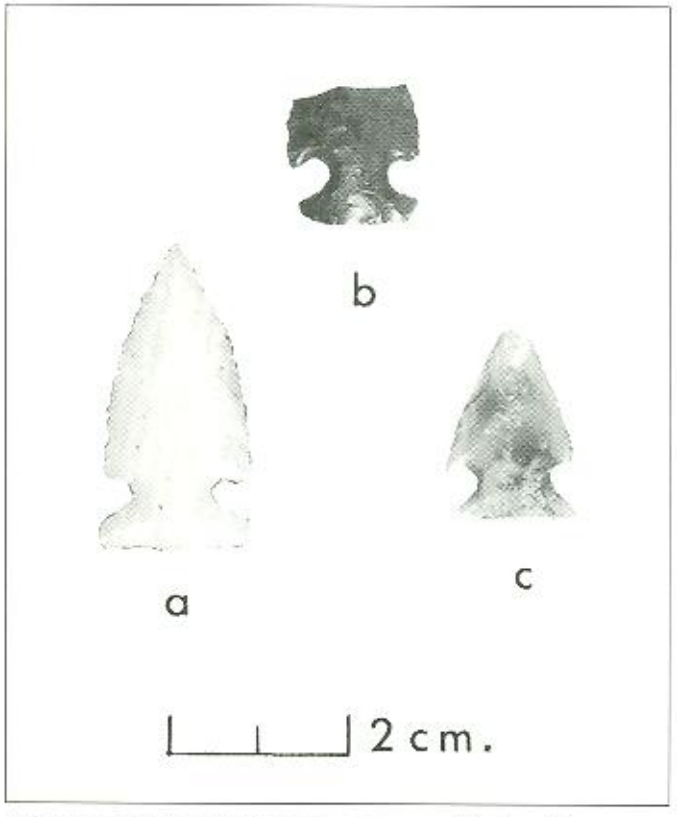

Figure 2. a-b, Side-notched points; c, Corner notched point.

Cascade Points (N=58) (Figure 3)
Form: Leaf-shaped in outline with excurvate edges and rounded bases. Plano-triangular to lenticular in cross-section. Edge serration is common (n=37).
Size range: 4.0-8.4 x 0.7-2.7 x 0.4-0.8 cm
Weight: 2.3-16.5 gm
Material: Basalt (n=28), MCS (n=25), obsidian (n=5).

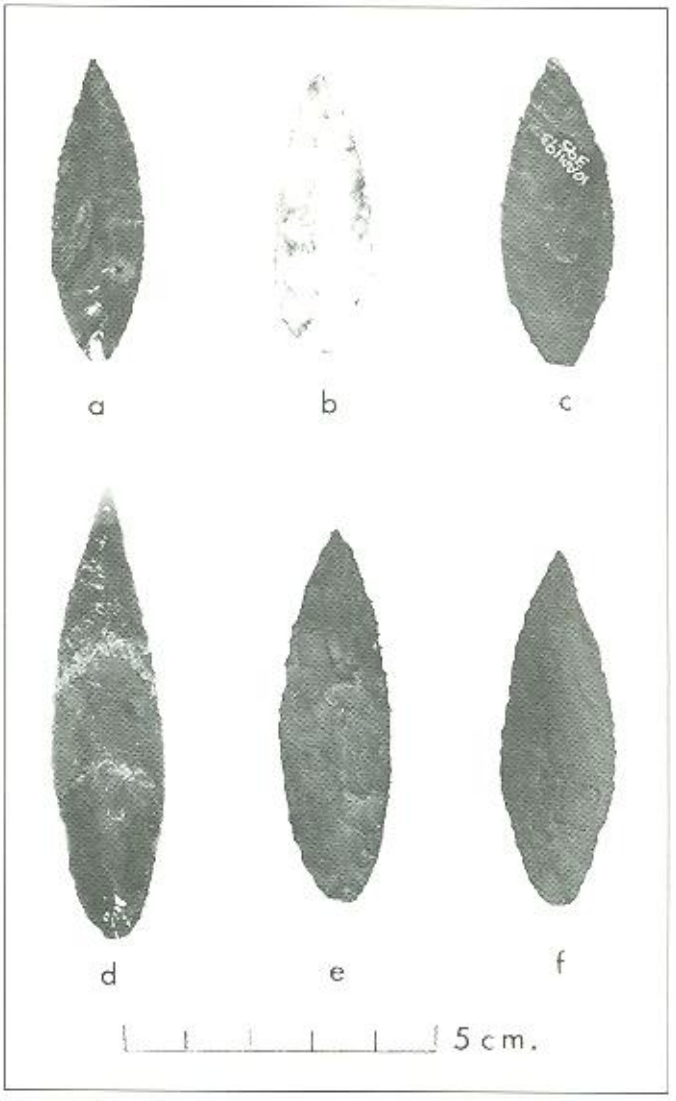

Figure 3. Cascade points.

Turkey-Tail Point (N=1) (Figure 4a)
Form: Elongated triangle in outline with slightly excurvate edges. Deep corner-notching creates rounded base with faint point. Biconvex in cross-section.
Size: 16.1 x 4.5 x 1.0 cm
Weight: 75.5 gm
Material: MCS.
Comment: This specimen may be the earliest turkey-tail point in burial context in North America.

Stemmed, Tapered-Base Point (N=1) (Figure 4b)
Form: Ovate in outline with excurvate edges and a chevron-shaped base. Lenticular in cross-section.
Size: 9.8 x 5.0 x 0.8 cm
Weight: 42.5 gm
Material: MCS.

Stemmed, Convex-Base Points (N=4) (Figure 4c-d)
Form: Three specimens are ovate in outline with excurvate edges. A fourth specimen is a slender triangle with straight edges exhibiting extreme reshaping of the original blade. All specimens have rounded bases and definite shouldering.
Size range: 7.8-13.7 x 3.3-4.6 x 0.6-0.9 cm

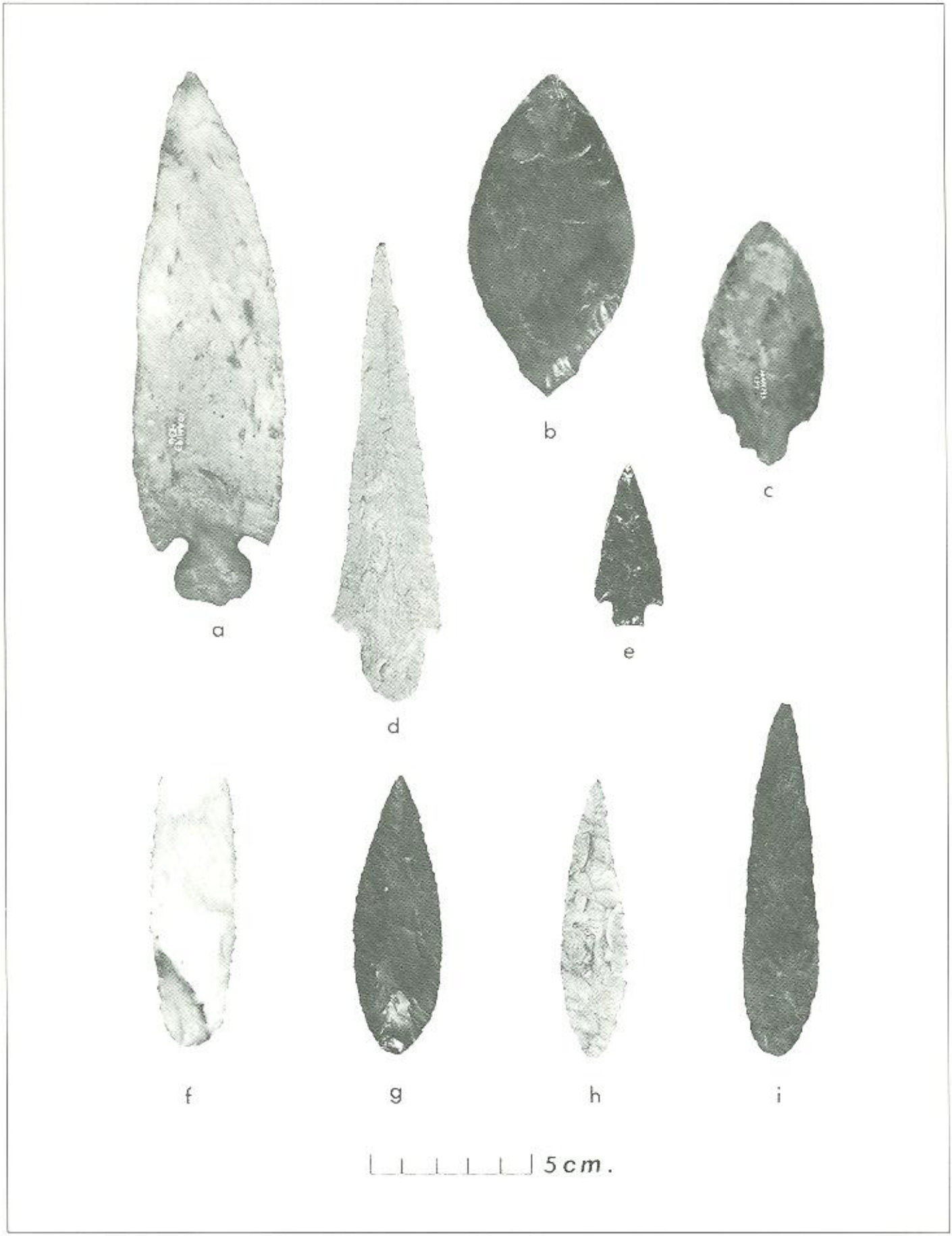

Figure 4. a, Turkey-tail point; b, Stemmed, tapered point; c-d, Stemmed, convex-base points; e, Stemmed, rectangular-base point; f-i, Large Cascade points.

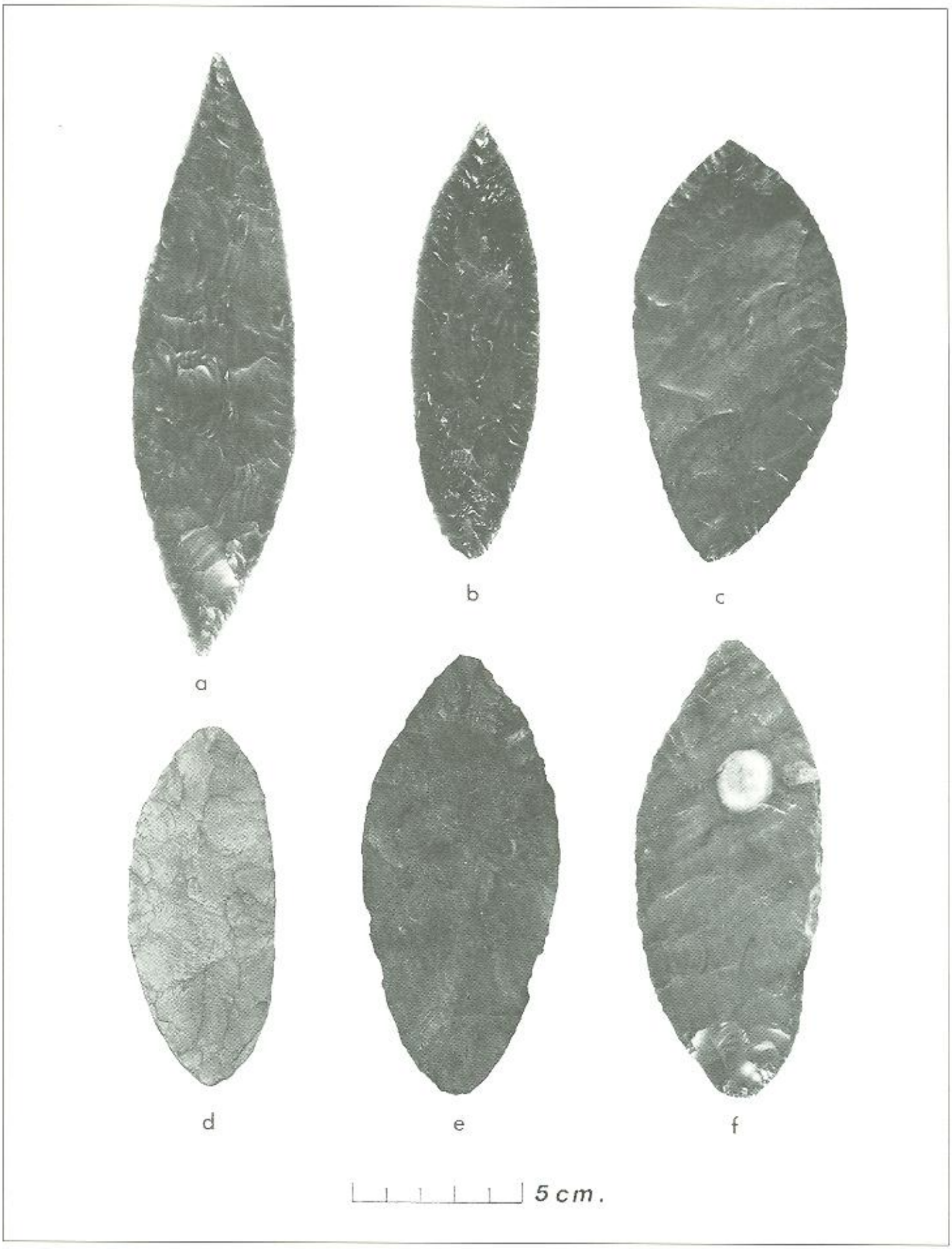

Figure 5. Cache bifaces.

Weight: 20.3-34.5 gm
Material: MCS (n=3), basalt (n=1).
Comment: The earlier report classified 3 specimens (cat. no.s 119, 139 and 186) as incipient turkey-tail points (Green et al.1986: Figure 9 a,f).

Stemmed, Rectangular-Base Points (N=3) (Figure 4e)
Form: Triangular outline with straight or slightly excurvate edges. Stems are formed by deep notching which creates a squared base. Plano-convex to biconvex in cross-section.
Size range: 5.0-11.0+ x 2.1-4.0 x 0.7-1.0 cm
Weight: 5.7-42.7 gm
Material: Obsidian (n=2), basalt (n=1).
Comment: The largest specimen (cat. no. 4) was originally classified as an incipient turkey-tail point (Green et al. 1986: Figure 9d).

Stemmed, Double-Notched Point (N=1)
Form: Leaf-shaped outline with slightly excurvate edges. The stem is notched twice on each edge and the base is pointed. Plano-convex in cross-section.
Size: 8.5 x 2.6 x 0.7 cm
Weight: 16.4 gm
Material: MCS.
Comment: Specimen is a bifacially chipped curved flake. Previously classified as an incipient turkey-tail point (Green et al. 1985: Figure 9b).

Large Cascade Points (N=19) (Figure 4f-i)
Form: Leaf-shaped in outline with straight to excurvate edges and rounded bases. Plano-triangular to biconvex in cross-section. Twelve specimens exhibit edge serration. One specimen (cat. no. 7) exhibits an awl-like tip.
Size range: 6.5-12.1 x 1.8-3.2 x 0.5-0.9 cm
Weight: 7.7-32.6 gm
Material: Basalt (n=8), MCS (n=7), obsidian (n=4).
Comment: While there is some overlap with the Cascade type this series of points is noticeably larger. The average size of the Large Cascade is 9.4 x 2.5 x 0.7 cm, 19.1 gm, contrasted to the Cascade size of 5.6 x 1.8 x 0.6 cm, 6.4 gm.

Cache Bifaces (N=97) (Figure 5)
Form: Ovate in outline with slight to extreme excurvate edges. Biconvex to lenticular in cross-section.
Size range: 6.7-22.2 x 2.8-7.9 x 0.5-1.6 cm
Weight: 14.9-187.6 gm
Material: Basalt (n=48), MCS (n=27), obsidian (n=22).
Comment: This category of bifacial artifacts is defined by their burial association and believed to be the final form. The specimens were earlier classified as bifaces with margin modification by pressure flaking or technique (Green et al. 1986: Table I, II; Figure 5). When margin modification occurs in standard intervals a distinctive "pie-crust" effect is apparent (Pavesic 1985:72). Two specimens (cat. no.s 148 and 513) are made on curved flakes.

Cascade Preforms (N=184) (Figure 6a-e)
Form: Ovate to leaf-shape in outline with excurvate edges. Tips and bases are excurvate to pointed. Plano-convex to lenticular in cross-section.
Size range: 4.5-12.0 x 1.8-3.7 x 0.5-1.1 cm
Weight: 5.6-32.6 gm
Material: Basalt (n=105), MCS (n=76), obsidian (n=3).
Comment: This category equals the previous classification of bifaces without margin modification by pressure technique (Green et al. 1986:Table I, II; Figure 11). Cascade preforms are noticeably smaller than the Cache bifaces and the preform determination is based on technological attributes (Green et al. 1986:334-337).

Bifacial Fragments (N=26)
Form: Variable.
Size range: N/A
Weight: N/A
Material: Basalt (n=9), MCS (n=9), obsidian (n=8).
Comment: Unclassifiable pieces of the above types. Collection includes 11 tips, 6 bases, 4 midsections and 5 miscellaneous specimens.

Triangular Preforms (N=62) (Figure 6f-h)
Form: Squat to elongated triangle in outline with straight to excurvate edges. Bases are straight to excurvate. Plano-convex to lenticular in cross-section.
Size range: 3.2-10.2 x 0.8-4.5 x 0.5-1.2 cm
Weight: 3.4-27.8 gm
Material: Obsidian (n=42), MCS (n=16), basalt (n=4).
Comment: These items are believed to be preforms of side-notched points and they have been documented *in situ* at the Braden site (Butler 1980:122-123; Figure 9,upper). Seven specimens (cat. no.s 151, 161, 162, 295, 296, 453 and 490) are snapped cache bifaces modified into a preform. In addition, 8 specimens (cat. no.s 164 through 171) appear to be manufactured from a single MCS core and one specimen (cat. no. 167) has an awl-like tip.

Stemmed Knife (N=1)
Form: Elongated triangle outline with slightly excurvate edges. Stem produced by deep notching. Base is excurvate. Plano-convex in cross-section.
Size range: 5.9 x 2.4 x 0.6 cm
Weight: 7.8 gm
Material: Basalt.
Comment: This unifacial specimen was previously classified as an incipient turkey-tail point (Green et al. 1985:Figure 9c). The current classification is based on the unifacial nature of the specimen.

Ovate Knives (N=4)
Form: Round outline with extreme excurvate edges. Plano-convex in cross-section.
Size range: 4.6-5.9 x 2.3-3.4 x 0.6-1.0 cm
Weight: 10.0-18.1 gm
Material: MCS (N=4)
Comment: Manufactured on slightly curved flakes, these unifacial pieces exhibit margin sharpening. They are similar to Cascade preforms except for their unifacial character.

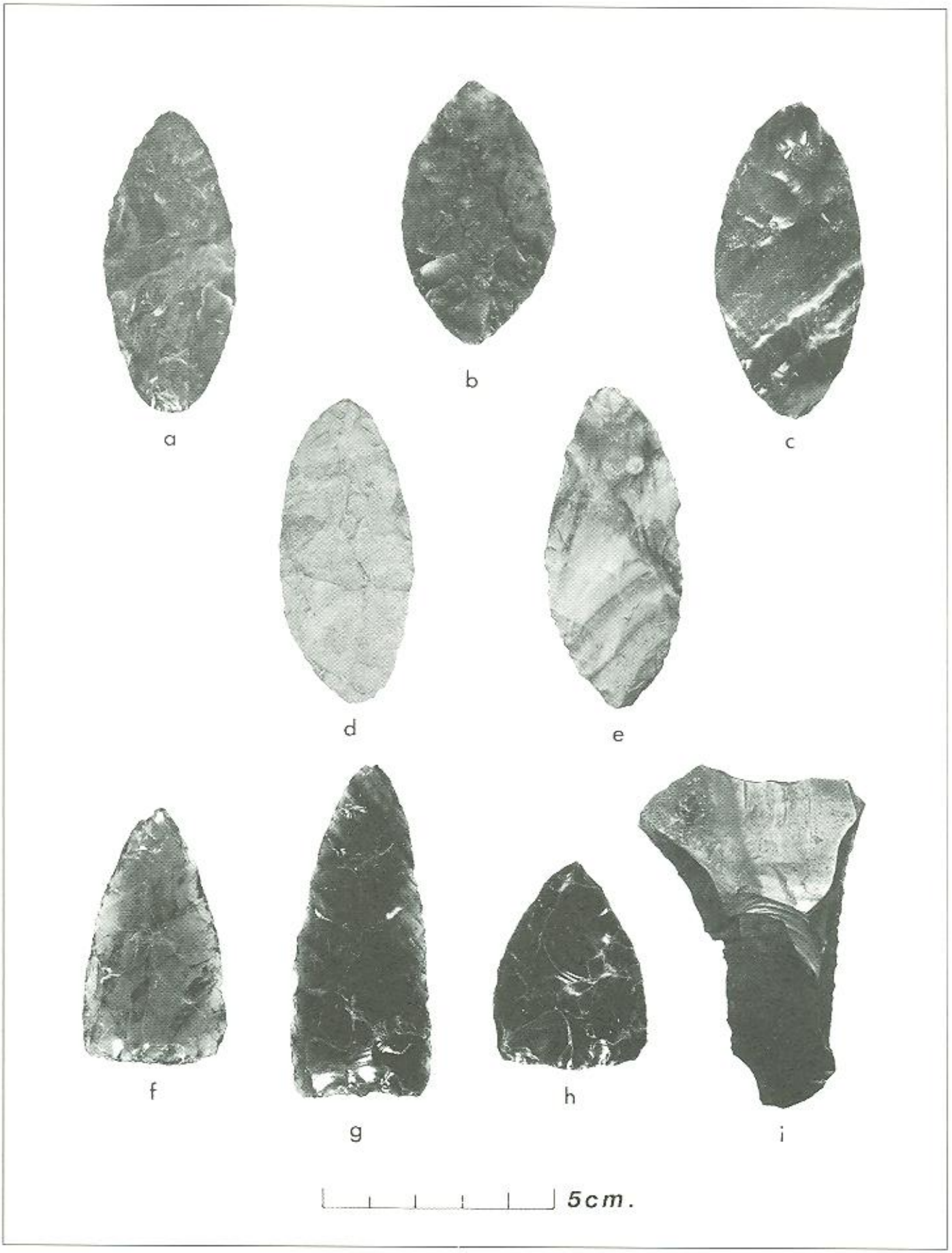

Figure 6. a-e, Cascade preforms; f-h, Triangular preforms; i, Flake scraper.

Flake Knives (N=5)
Form: Leaf-shaped in outline with straight to excurvate edges. Bases are straight to excurvate and tips are pointed. Plano-convex in cross-section.
Size range: 4.8+-8.9 x 1.7-3.1 x 0.5-1.1 cm
Weight: 4.0-23.9 gm
Material: MCS (n=3), basalt (n=2).
Comment: Specimens are made on unifacial blades.

Flake Scrapers (N=2) (Figure 6i)
Form: Wedge-shaped outline with straight to incurvate edges. Plano-convex in outline.
Size range: 5.8-7.3 x 3.8-5.0 x 0.6-0.8 cm
Weight: 13.3-20.3 gm
Material: MCS (n=2).
Comment: Specimens made on flat, expanding percussion flakes. One specimen (cat. no. 475) exhibits a burin-like point.

Modified Flakes (N=28)
Form: Irregularly shaped flakes exhibiting some degree of pressure retouch on lateral, proximal or distal margins.
Size: 1.1-5.2 x 1.2-2.9 x 0.2-0.7 cm
Weight: 0.5-3.9 gm
Material: MCS (n=26), obsidian (n=2).
Comment: It is difficult to establish if margin retouch is intentional or the result of dulling the edge in platform preparation.

Micro-Flakes (N=66)
Form: Minute irregular shaped flakes.
Size: Not measured.
Weight: 4.3 gm total
Material: MCS (n=40), obsidian (n=23), basalt (n=3).
Comment: Some pieces are tertiary pressure flakes; others appear to be miscellaneous secondary shatter.

Shatter (N=24)
Form: Irregular shaped primary and secondary decortication and thinning flakes.
Size: 0.9-4.2 x 1.5-5.9 x 0.3-1.7 cm
Weight: 0.5-35.2 gm
Material: MCS (n=18), basalt (n=5), obsidian (n=1).
Comment: A collection of decortication and random flakes.

Core (N=1)
Form: Cone-shaped.
Size: 6.2 x 4.9 x 3.5 cm
Weight: 69.9 gm
Material: Basalt.
Comment: The specimen is an exhausted core or core fragment and exhibits extensive step fracturing.

Ochre Pebbles (N=3)
Form: Rounded hematite spheres. Specimens exhibit some surface grinding.
Size: 1.5-1.9 x 1.2-1.7 x 1.0-1.5 cm
Weight: 0.8-3.1 gm
Material: Ferric oxide (n=3).
Comment: Two specimens are red/orange and one specimen is yellow.

Shaft Smoothers (N=4) (Figure 7a)
Form: Two specimens have a elongated cobble-shape outline and two specimens are a rectangular tablet form. All specimens have parallel sides and have been purposely ground to finalize the form and to expose the mica sheen. All specimens exhibit a "U" shaped groove on the dorsal surface and two specimens are grooved on the ventral surface.
Size: 6.2+-16.0 x 3.7-4.0 x 1.8-3.2 cm
Weight: 51.1-290.0 gm
Material: Micaceous schist (n=4).
Comment: The largest specimen (cat. no. 547) is reconstructed from 3 pieces, a second item (cat. no. 241) consists of two pieces, a third (cat. no.s 539-541, 544) is in 4 pieces and the final item (cat. no. 547) is an end fragment. Mica glitter is barely visible in specimen cross-sections. The specimens exhibit a high silver sheen and the parent material is rose to grey/brown in color. Similar material is known to occur in exposed gravel near the historic mining community of Warren in central Idaho.

Schist Manuport (N=1) (Figure 7b)
Form: Thin, elongated tablet in phallic outline. The surface is ground and the specimen's shape appears to have been purposely enhanced.
Size: 18.0 x 5.1 x 1.5 cm
Weight: 163.9 gm
Material: Micaceous schist.
Comment: The object is grey with black flecks and exhibits a dense silver sheen.

Hammerstone (N=1) (Figure 7c)
Form: Water rounded wedge-shaped cobble. Battering occurs on tapered end with slight pecking on the corners. The ventral surface exhibits limited abrasion. Two flakes removed from the ventral surface provide finger grips.
Size: 7.0 x 6.2 x 3.0 cm
Weight: 232.7 gm
Material: Basalt.
Comment: The specimen exhibits extensive polish resulting from spring action.

Pebble Hammer (N=1)
Form: Elongated waterworn pebble. Minimal pecking at one end.
Size: 4.4 x 2.0 x 1.9 cm
Weight: 25.7 gm
Material: Quartzite.

Abrader (N=l) (Figure 7d)
Form: Bi-conical in outline, tapers toward ends. Tabular in cross-section.
Size: 7.4 x 3.4 x 1.7 cm
Weight: 28.1 gm
Material: Vesicular basalt.
Comment: Specimen reconstructed from 2 pieces. The ventral side is ground.

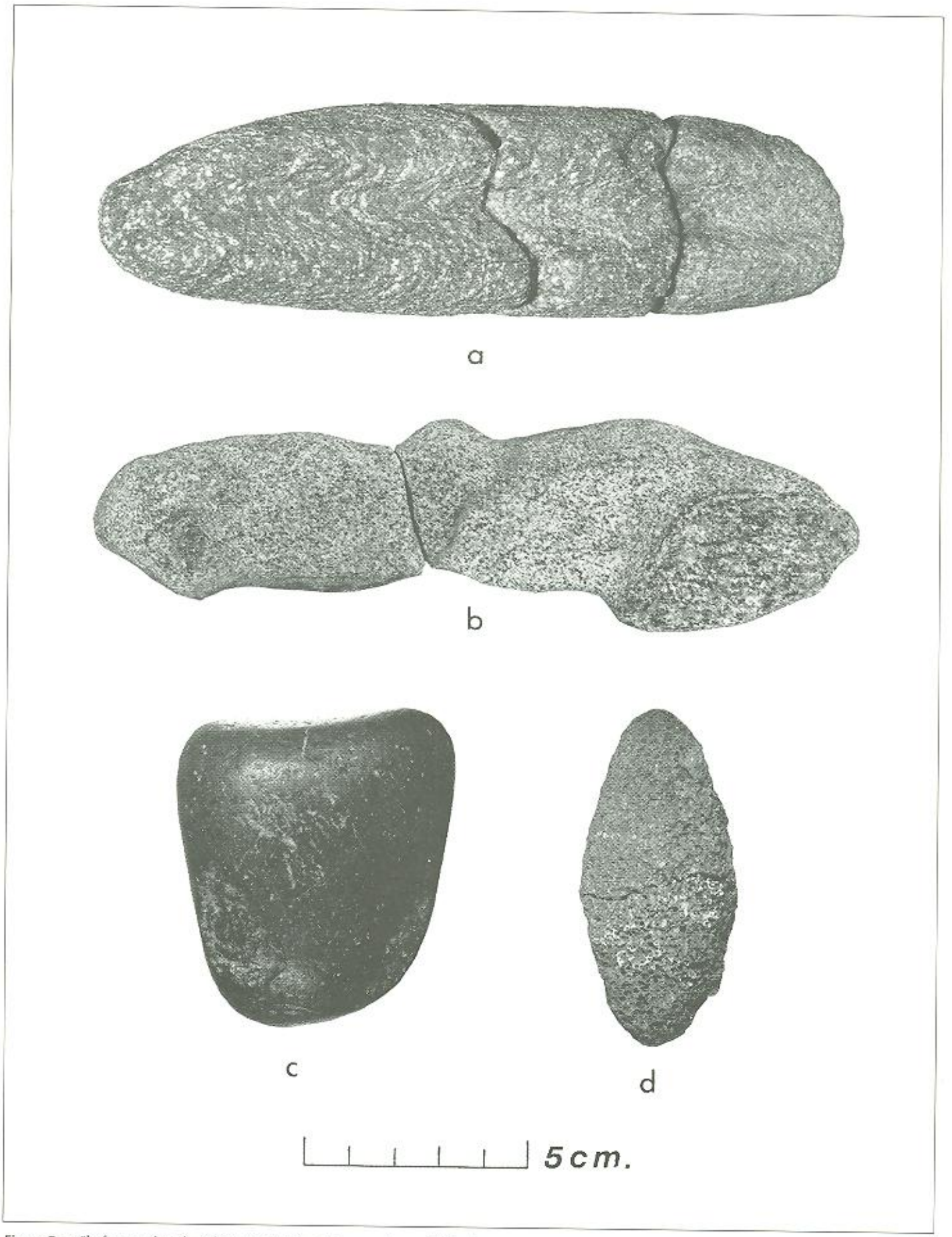

Figure 7. a, Shaft smoother; b, Schist manuport; c, Hammerstone; d, Abrader.

Bone Awls (N=2) (Figure 8a-b)
Form: The specimens are the tip fragments of bone awls. Both specimens are tapered with flat tips.
Size: 3.5-6.7 x 0.65-0.82 x 0.4-0.5 cm
Weight: 0.7-2.3 gm
Material: Bone (unidentified spp.)
Comment: Both specimens are made of compact bone, one specimen (cat. no. 274) could be antler. The larger specimen (cat. no. 555) exhibits a rounded tip and the smaller item (cat. no. 274) has a tapered tip. Surfaces on both specimens are slightly pitted and exhibit post-burial abrasion and staining.

Bone Needle (N=1) (Figure 8c)
Form: Well crafted needle tip; the "eye" is missing.
Size: 3.6 x 0.22 x 0.2 cm
Weight: 0.3 gm
Material: Bone (unidentified spp.)
Comment: Surface exhibits shallow surface pitting probably due to post-burial chemical erosion.

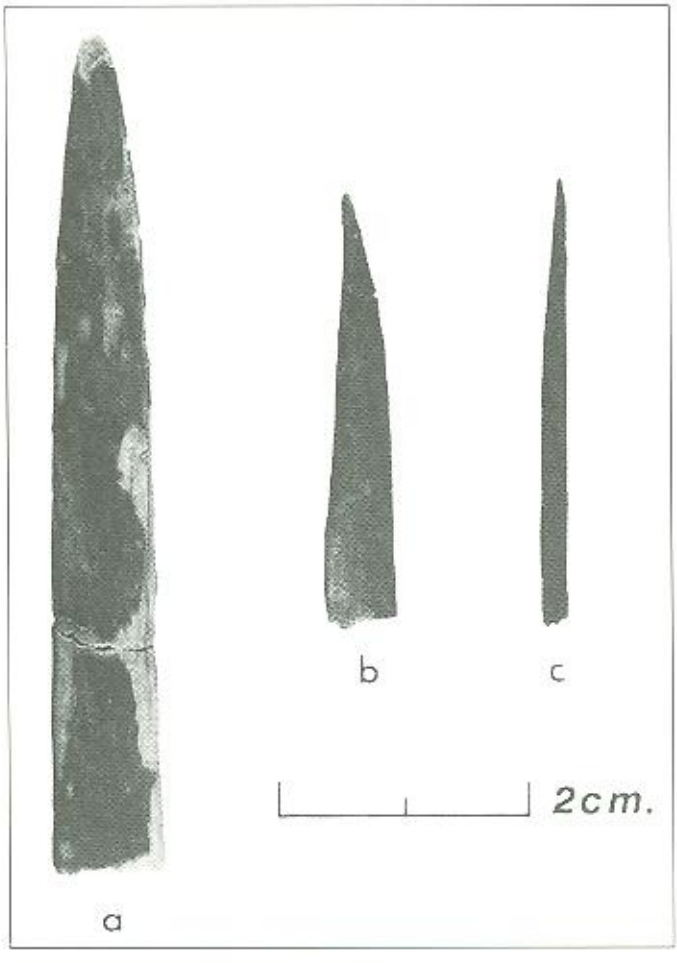

Figure 8. a-b, Bone awls; c, Bone needle.

The completeness of the DeMoss specimens, their size, condition and material reflect the specialized nature of the mortuary assemblage. The singular nature of the collection is the basis for the macro classification of types. An exception is the presentation of the stemmed points. This deviation is due to the earlier use of an "incipient turkey-tail" class (Green et al. 1985:38, Fig.9) which hindered regional typological comparisons. The turkey-tail point is a notched biface or a variety of stemmed point (Didier 1967) and several of the DeMoss specimens, and other western Idaho turkey-tails (Pavesic 1985) are morphologically comparable to Midwestern types (e.g. Fitting 1970: Fig.s 33&34; Mason 1981: Pl.6.5). The previous designation of incipient turkey-tail masked the overall stemmed point configuration familiar to areal researchers.

Additionally, many DeMoss specimens exhibit surface polishing due to spring activity and several artifacts have red ochre affixed to the surface. The spring action limits the utility of use-wear studies (Green et al. 1985:38) and biases the extent of prehistoric red ochre application. Future lithic studies will hopefully include x-ray fluorescence analysis of the obsidian specimens to identify parent sources and to aid in the reconstruction of regional prehistoric exchange systems (Meatte 1990; Pavesic 1985).

FAUNAL REMAINS

The non-hominid faunal sample recovered from the DeMoss site is a relatively small collection which yielded a surprising array of 14 confirmed genera (Table I) as well as unidentified artiodactyl and carnivore material (Table II). Twenty-eight single specimens, including the bone tools, were analyzed along with an assortment of microfuana remains. There are no taxonomic surprises in the collection, and no extinct or seriously extralimital species. The pronghorn is slightly outside of its historic range but expected in an archaeological assemblage where bones could have been imported as raw material resources or with meat and/or hide. The specimens were identified by utilizing the comparative osteological collection at the Idaho Museum of Natural History, Pocatello. Nomenclature for mammals follows Hall and Kelson (1959), and Peterson (1961) for birds.

Due to the nature of discovery, interpretation of species presence was made with caution. The association of faunal remains, either deliberate or fortuitous, with cultural activity remains equivocal except in the case of bone tools. The fragments of artiodactyl bone are reminiscent of camp or midden debris but observed smoothing of fractures and other surfaces obscures any marks (cuts, impact zones, flake scars) diagnostic of butchering or bone reduction. The combined effects of spring action, immersion in water, and water chemistry contributed to the distinctive character of the specimens. Many of the bones also exhibited varying quantities of matrix, clean spring sediments consisting of white or transparent quartz sand, other sands (black, tan, cream, orange and black iron stained), and relatively large mica flakes.

Bone preservation was generally good. Some specimens exhibit signs of post-depositional and post-recovery drying cracks and exfoliation. Other specimens, including the canid skull fragment, a few artiodactyl fragments and the microfauna appear to originate from surface deposits, as indicated by color (medium-brown to orange-brown), lack of surfacial rounding or sculpturing, sharp-edged break surfaces, root etching, rodent gnawing, and adhering soil and roots. The bone specimens also appear leached of organic fractions, proteins and fats, and internal compact bone is often "chalky" in tex-

ture. The specimens exhibit some surface mineralization, ranging from small patches, visible only under the microscope, to distinctive coatings, with no extensive mineral replacement of the bone. The predominant color of this mineralization is pinkish-tan to mauve. Surface coatings of this mineral were smooth (no granules or crystals visible at 50X under a microscope), often pitted with what appears to be bubble holes. Some of the mineralization coated natural openings or cracks in the bone, but does not penetrate to any degree. The composition of the coating is unknown; the mineral source may be either ground water, the bone itself, or a combination of factors.

Some specimens also exhibit a black staining, mostly in the form of small patches or dendrites that penetrated the bone along openings and cracks. At times, black stain occurred in larger surface patches. For example, one squirrel tooth was completely, glossy black and the pronghorn tooth showed extensive black staining of the enamel. The black stain is often iridescent, with a reddish cast where thicker, and is suspected of being a form of iron and/or manganese. Microscopically, this mineral stain takes the form of crystals and small granules, black and orange in color. In a few instances, faint localized black staining is similar to charring or heating.

It is impossible to specifically determine the intended prehistoric use of the faunal materials at the DeMoss site. Obvious assumptions include food items interred with the deceased and items of personal adornment. Conversely, selected items may be portions of ritual or ceremonial paraphernalia. The latter interpretation is certainly suggested by the recovered avian specimens (Table II) since they are all unmodified wing elements (e.g. Ubelaker and Wedel 1975). Lacking controlled provenience, any suggestion remains speculative. Regional comparisons of associated bird bone with human burials at this time period are likewise scanty or not satisfactory for interpretive purposes (Harten 1975:48;Rice 1969:82).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This report presents an updated inventory of recovered artifactual and non-hominid faunal remains from the DeMoss burial site in west-central Idaho. Twenty-seven artifact categories are offered including 19 flaked stone groupings and a variety of miscellaneous types. 486 complete or nearly complete typed specimens include the earliest dated turkey-tail point from western Idaho, a wide array of stemmed points, suggested Cascade point preforms and the spectacular schist shaft smoothers. The collection is highlighted by the overall quality of craftsmanship, completeness of specimens and selected lithic materials. Likewise, the limited faunal collection exhibits a surprising number of genera. The nature of the artifacts

TABLE I

DEMOSS SITE (10-AM-193) FAUNAL LIST

AVES

Gaviidae
Gavia immer (Common Loon)

Accipitridae
Unidentified medium-sized accipiter (hawk)

Tetraonidae
Dendrogapus obscurus (Blue Grouse)

Strigidae
Bubo virginianus (Great-horned Owl)

MAMMALIA

Lagomorpha
Sylvilagus sp. (Cottontail Rabbit)

Rodentia
Sciuridae
Spermophilus sp. (Ground Squirrel)

Geomyidae
Thomomys sp. (Pocket Gopher)

Castoridae
Castor canadensis (Beaver)

Cricetidae
Cricetinae
Peromyscus sp. (Deer Mouse)

Microtinae
Phenacomys cf. *P. intermedius* (Heather Vole)
Microtus sp. (Vole)

Carnivora
Unidentified large and small carnivores

Canidae
Canis sp. (Coyote/domestic dog)

Mustelidae
Mustela sp. (Weasel)

Artiodactyla
Unidentified medium and large artiodactyla

Cervidae
Odocoileus sp. (Deer)

Antilocapridae
Antilocapra americana (Pronghorn)

TABLE II

SUMMARY LISTING OF FAUNAL REMAINS
DEMOSS SITE (10-AM-193)

Species	Catalog Number(s)	Identifiable Elements	Total Number Specimens
Gavia immer	562 580	lt carpometacarpus rt, lt 1st wing phalanx	1 2
Accipiter	580	1st phalanx, wing; shaft carpometacarpus	2
Dendrogapus obscurus	561 563 579	lt ulna proximal lt humerus 1st phalanx, wing; proximal 2/3 scapula; coracoid; radius	1 1 4
Bubo virginianus	580	rt, lt ulnae	2
Unidentified birds	578	2 long bone shafts; 1 cf. radius shaft	3
Sylvilagus sp.	560	proximal metapodial	1
Spermophilus sp.	560	lower molar	1
Thomomys sp.	560	2 rt, 1 lt edentulous mandibles; 3 isolated teeth	6
Castor canadensis	576	distal rt tibia; proximal lt humerus (both immature)	2
Peromyscus sp.	560 567	rt edentulous mandible fragment rt edentulous mandible	1 1
Phenacomys cf. *P. intermedius*	560	molar	1
Microtus sp.	560	isolated teeth	5
Unidentified Rodentia	560, 576	isolated incisors; miscellaneous postcranial elements, including long bones and innominates	20+
Canis sp.	558	fragment dorsal cranium	1
Mustela sp.	560	canine tooth	1
Unidentified Carnivora	560, 576	canine fragment; small 3rd phalanges (small to medium sized carnivores)	3
Odocoileus sp.	559	antler fragment	1
Antilocapra americana	565 566	lt molar metapodial fragment	1 1
Unidentified Artiodactyla	560 577	tooth enamel fragments fragment innominate (immature)	2 1
Unidentified bone fragments (all mammalian; mostly from small to medium sized artiodactyla or medium to large carnivores)	273 275 556 557 564 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575	- - - - - - long bone shaft long bone shaft proximal rib long bone long bone long bone long bone long bone - - - small long bone cortical bone cortical bone	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

and faunal remains are believed to reflect the burial specific behavior of the collection.

Chronologically, the DeMoss site, and related western Idaho burial deposits, fit neatly within the Cascade phase as defined on the lower Snake River of southeastern Washington (Leonhardy and Rice 1970; Bense 1972). The Western Idaho Archaic Burial Complex differs from other Plateau manifestations in its deliberate burial wealth and apparent economic success of anchoring a north-south trade network recognized by *Olivella* shell beads and obsidian (Pavesic 1985). Cascade folks can no longer be viewed as generalized, multipurpose hunters-gatherers in the Intermontane West. Their socio-economic sophistication and apparent kin-group stability in western Idaho is reflected in burial lot size, technological richness, and formalized ritual and symbolism (Pavesic 1992).

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SHORT CONTRIBUTIONS

BOOK REVIEW

THE FIRST AMERICANS: SEARCH AND RESEARCH

Edited by Thomas D. Dillehay and David J. Meltzer. CRC Press, Boca Ratan, Florida, 1991. X+310 pp., hardcover, no price given, maps, illustrations, tables, references, index.

Reviewed by Mark G. Plew
Boise State University

This book is a much needed overview of the history and status of studies of human antiquity in the Americas. Unlike much of the ongoing debate about the nature of early human arrivals and occupations, this book attempts to not only summarize the present knowledge of early Americans but provide a discussion of ways in which archaeologists can move beyond rhetoric to solutions of problems.

Meltzer and Dillehay's "overture" introduces the volume and the range of its contributions. Their remarks nicely prepare the reader for the volume's contents and forewarn those of polemic deposition. The book consists of four sections: Section I is an introduction to the problems surrounding early migrations. Section II discusses tools for resolving the controversy while Section III considers the implications of Old World migrations and disease ecology to the problem. The final section includes commentaries by Thomas Lynch, Lewis Binford and conclusions by Dillehay and Meltzer.

The introductory chapter by Meltzer which constitutes the first section of the book, discusses the controversy with special reference to whether there is a "paradigm" bias which has inhibited the search for pre-Clovis occupations. This chapter is well crafted and addresses what is one of the most fundamental problems in Paleo-American research. Meltzer's opinion is that no "paradigm" bias has existed which has caused us to reject legitimate claims of antiquity. Though some will dispute his assertions, the chapter is thoughtful and the basis for further discourse.

The second section of the book consists of a series of critical and informative essays on the "tools" providing a basis for resolving the controversy. The initial essay by Nicholas Toth summarizes the conditions for documenting Pre-Clovis occupations. This includes what Toth considers relevant categories of evidence which he evaluates in some detail. Importantly, Toth provides what he considers to constitute the "minimum" archeological evidence for earlier human occupation of the Americas. His query regarding the existence of a problem for study may be a valid one. Yet, some may find problematic his assertion, that as an Old World prehistorian, he has no preconceptions about the peopling question, when he refers to pre-Clovis supporters as exhibiting the "fervor of an over-zealous religious cult" (p.54). R.E. Wright critically evaluates the radiometric measures of antiquity. His is a detailed and useful evaluation of the varying potentials of different techniques with specific consideration of the reasons underlying the controversial nature of certain techniques. Wright summarizes the paleo-environmental record as it relates to early migrations. His discussion of the variable models of entry is well structured and provides a useful framework for discussion. Beyond the traditional litany of highly generalized constructions, he discusses major regional human adaptations. Wright remains open to a greater antiquity for South America and observes the need to focus upon the search for sites south of the ice fields based upon his conclusion that no legitimate barriers to migration exist prior to the coalescence of the two great North American ice sheets.

The final two papers raise fundamental questions regarding the comparative methods used to evaluate the presence of an early human occupation in the Americas. The first by Karl Butzer uses a range of geological and geomorphic data in observing that there is a relatively low density of pre-12,000 year old sites in the Africa as well as the New World. He attributes this to many factors but importantly notes that since Old World occupations are much older than those of the Americas, the infrequency of sites can not be used to negate the pre-Clovis argument. More importantly, he argues that variability in environment and other factors effecting population, suggest the probability of site locations in areas which have received little attention.

Michael Collins paper which echoes an awareness of the methodological biases of past studies, tackles the question of why there are so few traces of Pleistocene remains from caves and rockshelters. Collins points to the dynamic nature of rockshelter and cave deposits noting the constant state of change and asserts that many de-

posits old enough to contain evidence of pre-Clovis, no longer exist or are deeply buried. The later point is underscored by his assertion that archaeologists have focused their attention on excavation of Holocene deposits while neglecting those contexts which might provide evidence of earlier horizons.

The third section of the volume is less cohesive Chapter 7 by T. Douglas Price examines certain of the questions regarding migrations in the Americas from the point of view of a Europeanist. Though Price raises a number of interesting points, including the greater homogeneity in assemblages of the European Pleistocene, his primary conclusion is that the greater charge of American scholars is the simple acquisition of additional data.

An interesting, if largely hypothetical contribution is James Beaton's paper on colonization. Beaton suggests that archaeologists on both continents could benefit from a better understanding of general colonization processes. He introduces the idea of "colonizing logic" which concerns the colonization of "megapatches". Importantly, he discusses the implication to the archaeological record of variable colonizing strategies, noting the highly variable evidence associated with differing types of "settlers and explorers." His ideas seem particularly useful in resolving some of the questions concerning early South American occupations. The final paper by Dillehay concerns the disease ecology of early migration. The paper dovetails nicely with Beaton's notions about colonization. Though largely hypothetical, Dillehay makes an interesting argument for the importance of disease upon early American populations and their migrations.

The final section of the book contains commentaries by Thomas Lynch and Lewis Binford as well as a conclusion by the editors. The Lynch paper is a useful and fair assessment of the volume. Lynch respectfully disagrees with a number of authors. Not surprisingly he finds troublesome Wright's unqualified acceptance of Monte Verde and Pedra Furada. Yet he is open, if cautious about the new ideas and approaches offered by contributors. Binford argues that addressing the peopling issue requires a detailed analysis of hunter-gatherer peoples documented on a global scale with an explanation of documented variability. He asserts that only in theory building can these questions be answered. Binford's view is that explanatory theory is largely absent from the book. Dillehay and Meltzer reiterate the major points of the book: processes of migration and the need for new inquiries in existing contexts. Further useful is a seven point delineation of the "specific lessons" of the volume. A number of points are particularly important. The problem of inconsistent data and the ambiguity of standards or proofs are seen as critical as is distinguishing between the antiquity of sites and the cultural patterns of periods. Equally important is the recognition that geological/geophysical strategies within an interdisciplinary approach must provide for a greater integration of local, regional and hemispheric systems of migration. One of the most relevant points is that the greater antiquity of human occupation of the Americas is relatively unimportant in contrast with the need to explain the greater processes underlying the events.

This volume is an important overview of the issues and questions surrounding the "First Americans". It is up-to-date and well written. It will be of considerable use to professional archaeologists and should have a large public and student audience.

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