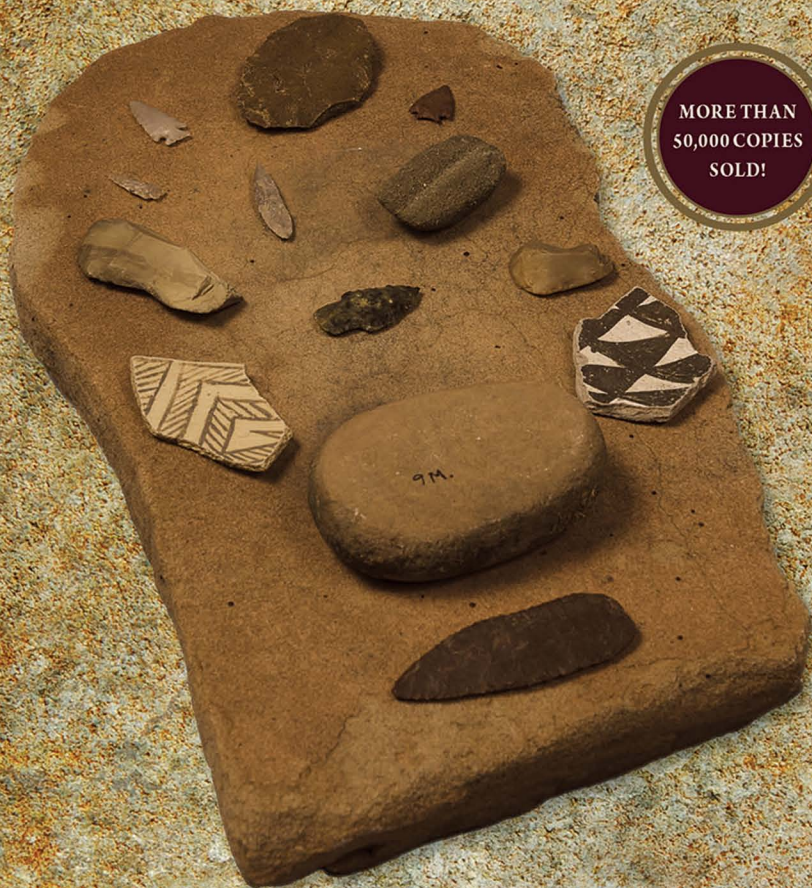


THIRD EDITION

Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGIST



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C. G. YEAGER

Foreword by **GEORGE C. FRISON**

Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts





Illustration 1 Petrikin's Hill arrowhead,
Greeley, Colorado.

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THE PRUETT SERIES

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This third edition of Arrowheads and Stone Artifacts is dedicated to my wife, Sue, who refused to allow cancer to prevent her from hunting arrowheads. She continues to be the most caring, compassionate, and generous person I have ever known. For almost fifty years, she has been the best artifact hunting companion a husband could ask for.



Illustration 2 Sue Yeager at homestead site in central Wyoming.



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Foreword

Anyone who frequents the great outdoors stands a good chance of encountering artifactual evidence of earlier inhabitants. Such an experience can affect individuals in different ways. At the age of four, while trailing along horseback behind a herd of cattle on the family ranch in Wyoming, I noticed a strange appearing stone. Not knowing what it was, I put it in my pocket and that evening my grandmother identified it as the most unusual artifact she had ever seen. From that day on, I was hooked on archaeology and went through all of the stages of collecting and finally, realizing that archaeology was more than gathering artifacts, decided to pursue the subject through the academic discipline of anthropology, a decision I have never regretted.

The other extreme is exemplified by an old sheepherder I knew who would pick up artifacts, lay each one on a flat rock and smash it with another rock, and then throw the pieces as far as he could. This all changed on the day he discovered he could trade a complete projectile point for a drink at the local bar in town. One result of this was displays of artifacts glued to boards with no record of provenience and little if any archaeological value.

Between these two extremes lies a large group that, from a wide variety of experiences, have become hooked on archaeology as an

avocation. They occupy many different walks of life and a good share of their spare time is occupied in the pursuit of artifacts and learning more about them. Most of these individuals read the relevant literature, are serious in making worthwhile contributions to archaeology, and maintain a good level of cooperation with professional archaeologists. Collectively, avocationals have shared information that has led to the identification and study of sites that provide a large share of the present data, particularly in the area of Paleoindian studies where sites are often small and the forces of nature rapidly expose and destroy evidence. We need the practiced eyes of knowledgeable avocationals who can spot this kind of evidence and bring it to the attention of researchers.

In the 1986 edition of this book, the late Dr. H. Marie Wormington, that venerable First Lady of North American Paleoindian studies, clearly stated the obligations imposed on avocational archaeologists. (1) Keep accurate records of what you find. (2) Maintain contacts with researcher so that an important site or other forms of data will not slip through the cracks. (3) Educate yourself so that you can intelligently discuss and transmit the results of your findings to others.

Things have changed for avocationals in the last few decades. Collecting on federal and state lands is severely restricted and, as a group, private landowners are more deeply and rightfully concerned about the liabilities that can develop through trespassing. During this same time period, the methodology of archaeology has radically changed placing a much greater onus on the avocationals to keep abreast of new developments. However, this revised edition offers the serious avocationals a directive for pursuing an interest and at the same time contributing in positive ways to the scientific descriptions of archaeology.

—George C. Frison

Preface to the Third Edition

One of the few criticisms I am aware of regarding this book over the past thirty years has been that it contained no color. This third edition, therefore, has been created primarily to solve this problem by adding an acceptable amount of meaningful color. Other minor corrections and revisions have been made that have been necessitated simply by the passage of time.

All of the photographs in both the first and second editions were originally printed in black and white; color printing was simply not an option. There were, however, a surprising number of original photos available that were first taken as color prints. As a result, these have now been used in the third edition to replace the previous black-and-white photos. In some instances, acceptable color prints have now been used that were not included in either of the first two editions. They are acceptable now because the subject matter is the same.

Some color photos now stand out and are obviously more valuable to the reader. These are the maps and the map legends and the various flint materials that are clearly more useful to the reader in color than black and white. Other color photos are now more aesthetically pleasing to the eye than they previously were in black and white, such as the archaeological site photos.

Another aspect of hunting and collecting artifacts is the adequate display of the artifacts. It's always sad to find a beautiful collection of artifacts stored in coffee cans and cigar boxes. I discovered that even when artifacts are framed, they are often relegated to a dark corner of a basement room. This all changed, however, when I came up with what I refer to as "art frames." I started by cutting nice photos out of a magazine and framing them in shadow boxes with an assortment of stone artifacts, usually arrowheads. Upon my wife's suggestion, I began framing color prints of my own pastel artwork in the shadow boxes with some of our better arrowheads. All of a sudden, these frames qualified for wall hangings in the living room of our home.

Historically, we have found several broken arrowheads for every whole arrowhead we picked up. We were aware of an age-old practice people had used of making various designs with these broken points, which were then framed for display. I came up with a couple of such framed designs that I have included in the category of art frames.

Over the years, we have had several nice stone artifacts and some historical artifacts given to us by friends. They were so nice that we couldn't simply box them up to rarely be seen again. As a result, a commemorative art frame was made of artifacts found by a shepherd a hundred years ago on a homestead in western Nebraska. In addition, another regular frame was made of larger stone artifacts found in the Midwest, probably in the area of Missouri. A third frame was made of a variety of stone artifacts found in northern Colorado and southern Wyoming.

Also, I have assembled a nice assortment of "plastic casts" of representative projectile points—one frame consisting of Paleo points and another consisting of Archaic and Woodland Era points. These plastic casts were in most cases made by Jim Chase and Shane Klobberdanz and were used by me originally when giving archaeology talks to school students and others. The casts themselves are plastic reproductions of genuine projectile points. Also, among the casts as shown herein are two restored points known as "Calf Creek" (Wray) and "Pelican Lake" (Glendo) points. This process involves taking a broken point and replacing the broken and missing portion with a

molten plastic material, thereby resulting in a point that appears as it did originally had it not been broken.

It is not unusual to find broken pottery when surface hunting for arrowheads and stone artifacts. Furthermore, smaller, smooth, oval-shaped “rubbing” stones are used in the pottery-making process and are often found today. This is the reason I have included pottery in the book. If I had it to do over again, I certainly would have taken color photographs. The way it is, I have been able to include one “art frame” devoted to pottery that does contain rubbing stones.

In a similar vein, historical objects are a common find when hunting stone artifacts, some of which can be quite unusual. Again, this is the reason I have included two color frames containing such items, a few of which have been given to us.

Originally, I had planned to say more about the use of GPS in the search for arrowheads and stone artifacts. Unfortunately, I don’t know enough about it to say much. I have, however, seen it used to pinpoint the exact location where a person was standing. In this regard, I suppose a person could prove whether they were on public or private land when used in connection with a map. Furthermore, I wouldn’t be surprised if a knowledgeable person could use it for more than this.

I would say that the third edition satisfies the notion that color should be an integral part of this book. In some instances such as flint materials and art frames the use of color adds much to the presentation and is, therefore, invaluable. In other cases, it is primarily pleasing to the eye. One thing is for sure—had I realized thirty years ago that there would ever have been any color at all in this book, I would certainly have taken many more color photographs.

Preface to the Second Edition

After fourteen years and excellent sales of the first edition of this book, it has become obvious to me that I have learned a lot since 1986 and that this book should be updated, expanded, and, in some cases, corrected. As I stated in the original edition, I do not claim to be an expert in the field of archaeology. I have, however, continued to study and have associated myself with a number of individuals who are far more knowledgeable than I am. Through this study and collaboration comes this revised edition, a practical guide for the amateur collector of arrowheads and stone artifacts that provides guidance on how to collect properly.

As the old saying goes, we never stop learning. Through self-education, reading, and continued study, a person can't help but learn more over a period of fourteen years. Also, as time passes, social attitudes change, and, as we all know, things that were accepted in the past or taken for granted may now be frowned upon or be controversial. Likewise, I now have a different attitude about some things as opposed to how I felt fourteen years ago. All in all, then, change is in order for this publication if it is to continue to educate and inform those avocationalists who are interested in archaeology. A reader of

this book in the new millennium should not be presented with outdated ideas from “way back in the 1900s”!

I have, therefore, attempted to improve upon this book by introducing the reader to some of those people who have educated me over the years and who have supported my efforts in revising this publication (see acknowledgments). Because of increased sensitivity in our society, I feel that first and foremost, a code of ethics of artifact hunting should be set forth, and this I have done at the beginning of the revision. In this regard, I have also included a separate chapter on what are generally referred to as “antiquity laws.” Many new laws and regulations have been passed by Congress, administrative agencies of the federal government, and state and local governments that affect amateur archaeologists. I have not set forth my interpretation of these laws as the legal advice of a lawyer, but simply my own opinion of them. I do not intend to create an attorney-client relationship with anyone who reads this book.

Next, I have included a new chapter, *Why Look for Artifacts?* Here I explain not only why I hunt artifacts, but why many others do, too. Hunting of arrowheads and stone artifacts is a wholesome and worthwhile endeavor and is not necessarily a destructive and disrespectful activity.

Chapter 6 has been revised and retitled, *Arrowhead, Spearpoint, or Knife?* What I once assumed was an arrowhead may have, in fact, been used as a spearpoint or knife. Likewise, what I once referred to as a spearpoint, primarily because of its size, may have actually been a stone knife. This chapter will help alleviate some of the confusion.

Since a substantial number of arrowheads—and other stone tools, for that matter—have been reworked, sharpened, or reshaped, I have now included a new section on this topic in chapter 6. Many people, myself included, have often wondered why a projectile point or tool appears to be poorly made or out of proportion. Reworking, of course, is the obvious answer to this question.

Today, a large number of nice artifacts are being found in riverbeds or creek beds. I have revised chapter 8 to include this type of site among the other types previously set forth in the original edition of this book.

Since “arrowhead hunting” can lead to many other fascinating and interesting discoveries, I have expanded chapter 9 on such incidental finds and have also included more information on pottery.

Chapter 10 has been included because my ideas on modern-day flintknapping have changed somewhat over the years. I once frowned on today’s flintknapping, but I have now discovered that it can be a useful tool in understanding archaeology. Professional archaeologists have frequently used modern-day flintknapping for valuable information in their study of lithic technology.

I have added more precise information on cataloging and documenting a personal collection in chapter 11, and in chapter 12 I have included more information on amateur archaeological organizations and their activities.

In summary, every chapter of the first edition of this book has been revised, some to a greater extent than others, and six new chapters have been added. A glossary of archaeological terms and a recommended reading list have also been added. My hope is that these changes yield meaningful additional content for the reader. The study of archaeology continues to change as new advanced research techniques are developed, so there is, no doubt, a strong likelihood that this book may need to be revised again.

Acknowledgments

The third edition of this book includes a general updating of material, some of which appeared in the first edition published thirty years ago. This updating has primarily involved the addition of color whereas previously all the photographs, maps, and illustrations were in black and white. As such, the gathering and assessment of color photographs was pretty much my responsibility. As with any project of this nature, the cooperation and assistance of others is essential. No one person really does it all, by any means.

With this in mind, I would first like to thank Douglas Pfeiffer of Graphic Arts Books for his willingness to take on this project the first time I mentioned it. His enthusiasm from the beginning was quite helpful. Likewise, Jennifer Newens, Vicki Knapton, and Kathy Howard, also of Graphic Arts Books, have been a pleasure to work with. I am about as low-tech as they come and they were very patient and accommodating with me from the beginning.

Furthermore, Bill Standerfer of Wellington, Colorado, did an outstanding job with his professional photography of almost half of the new color photographs now found in the book. Also, Bruce Bergstrom, my artifact hunting pal of fifty years, furnished photographs that complement the book quite well. Likewise, my former secretary,

the late Dorothy Manning, provided artifacts found by her father that were a very nice addition to the book.

As with previous editions of this book, my appreciation goes to the Municipal Museum of Greeley, Colorado, in providing the photograph of the Petrikin home in Greeley. My appreciation also goes to The Stackpole Company of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for their permission to reproduce illustrations 23, 25, 26, 27, and 28. These well-drawn illustrations were originally found in *The Beginner's Guide to Archaeology* authored by Louis A. Brennan. In addition, the late George Stewart, who was an excellent flintknapper, made the contemporary items shown in illustrations 32 and 74. Garry Weinmeister likewise graciously consented to my photography of his artifacts shown in illustration 109.

I also want to thank my sister, Carolyn Millspaugh, for providing the Petrikin's Hill arrowhead that was photographed for the frontispiece. My appreciation also goes to the late Judy Wood for providing me with the artifact photographed in illustration 36. Likewise, I would like to thank Judy's husband, Norman Wood, who did an excellent job with some of the photography found in the book. Some of my antiquity law materials were assembled and provided to me by my longtime friend Bruce Bergstrom, whom I sincerely thank for his contribution. Bruce saved me considerable time and effort in my legal research. I would also like to express my appreciation to good friends Vince and Carol Sanchez for generously hosting my wife and me at their ranch in New Mexico on more than one occasion. They kindly allowed me to photograph the site shown in illustration 97. Another longtime friend, Steve Goodroad, was quite generous in giving me the artifacts shown in illustrations 99 and 100.

Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to the farmers, ranchers, and landowners who have allowed me, my family, and my friends to search for stone artifacts on their land over the past sixty years. Without this kindness and generosity, hunting arrowheads and stone artifacts would be impossible.

Introduction

A lifelong hobby began for me by accident more than sixty years ago on a hill on the edge of Greeley, Colorado. This hill, formerly known as Petrikin's Hill, was then owned and occupied by the late J. M. B. Petrikin, prominent Greeley banker, and was actually rural property located on the edge of town near a farm owned by Mr. Petrikin. The hill itself was the highest point in the immediate vicinity, and many years ago, with the absence of trees, there was, no doubt, a beautiful, panoramic view of the Cache la Poudre River valley to the north and the South Platte River valley to the south and east.

As kids, my sister and I used to play on the hill with Mr. Petrikin's permission. One day, quite unexpectedly, my sister found a perfect arrowhead not too far south of Mr. Petrikin's home on an area of native soil left undisturbed, which probably looked the same as it did hundreds of years ago. Even though we were very young, we recognized the significance of what my sister had found, and the excitement I felt then is hard to describe. My curiosity got the best of me, and it wasn't long until I was visiting with Mr. Petrikin about the arrowhead. I learned that many arrowheads had been found in the past when a basement was dug under Mr. Petrikin's home on top of the hill. Mr. Petrikin explained to me that many years ago, an ancient prehistoric camp was



Illustration 3 The home of J. M. B. Petrikin on “Petrikin’s Hill” in Greeley, Colorado, as it looked in 1950. Note the native sod in the area of the prehistoric campsite. This site is now occupied by the student center of the University of Northern Colorado. Photo courtesy of the Greeley Municipal Museum.

located on the top of the hill, right where I stood talking to him. From that day on my interest in archaeology grew steadily—all resulting from that one small arrowhead. That arrowhead, still cherished by my sister, is featured on the frontispiece of this book. Petrikin’s Hill is now occupied by the student center of the University of Northern Colorado, and no trace whatsoever of its original inhabitants or the ancient campsite remains.

My thirst for knowledge of stone artifacts has been unquenchable since those early days. A grade school field trip on the South Platte River near Evans, Colorado, led to the discovery of another stone artifact, which again was found quite by accident. Later on, my grandfather, Earl Worden, took me to a ridge west of Loveland, Colorado, that is now occupied by a subdivision. There I finally found my first actual arrowhead. A few years later, shortly after I began to drive, a visit with relatives in Yuma, Colorado, led to a side trip where I found a beautiful spearpoint that I later discovered was a true Folsom point. This Folsom point, which is now framed, is shown in

INTRODUCTION

illustration 4. In the same area, I found five other arrowheads—all in less than ten minutes. This still stands as a personal record.

After several years of hunting artifacts in both Colorado and Wyoming, I made my home west of Loveland, Colorado, where my biggest surprise was yet to come. One day while working in my garden, I found part of a white arrowhead. Further searching in the area led to the discovery of other flint materials and arrowheads, and, as it turned out, my acreage contained a prehistoric campsite, as shown in **illustration 5**. Like so many others, this campsite is located just below a break in a ridge

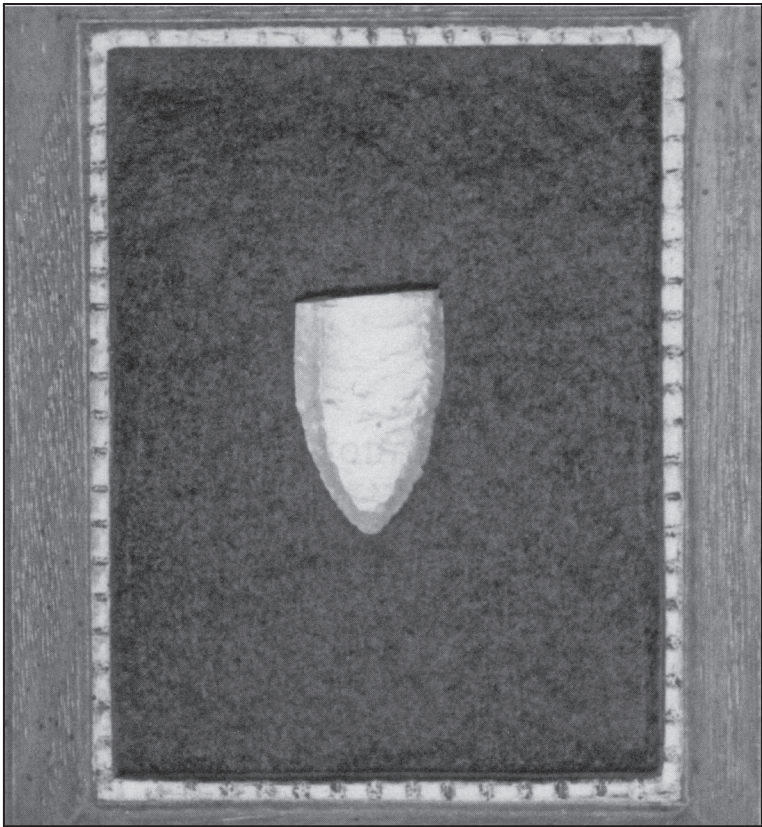


Illustration 4 The author's Folsom point, found south of Yuma, Colorado, in 1958, with only a small portion of the base missing. The Folsom is one of the oldest points and is not often found in many private collections.