

An Interesting Anthropological Find From the Lake Michigan Region

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The antiquity of man in America always has been a topic for much discussion. Until recently it has been supposed that man was a com-

paratively late arrival upon this continent. This belief has been much altered by several discoveries of human remains and man-made tools in association with the skeletons of Pleistocene mammals. The most notable of these was made at Folsom, New Mexico.

The discovery at Folsom gave conclusive evidence that the region was inhabited by man at the close of the great ice age. At a depth of four to thirteen feet, spear or javelin points were found among skeletons of an extinct species of bison. After a careful study of these remains, Dr. Barnum Brown, Curator of Fossil Reptiles of the American Museum of Natural History, placed them at the close of the Pleistocene period. It is highly probable that these Late Pleistocene mammals were hunted and killed by the men who used the points on their weapons.

Typologically, these points are very much unlike the characteristic surface finds, left by the later American aborigines. The typical "Folsom point" is too large to have been used on an arrow, but instead was affixed to a small spear or javelin. It is thought by some authorities that these javelins were hurled with considerable force by means of the throwing stick. The point itself tapers towards its concave base, the widest part being nearest

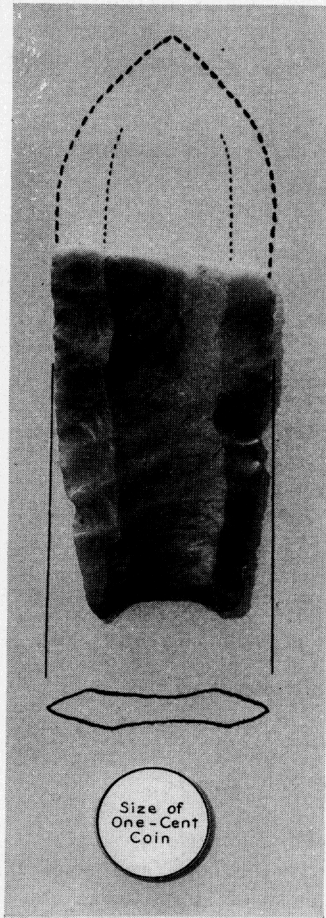


Fig. 1.—POINT OF "FOLSOM"
TYPE FOUND IN LAKE COUNTY,
ILLINOIS.

the anterior end. There is a smooth longitudinal groove, formed by the removal of a single long flake, on each side. The materials used for this weapon are jasper or chalcedony.

Several years ago an artifact that had all the Folsom characteristics, was found by the author in Sec. 11, Libertyville Township, Lake County, Illinois. It is made of chalcedony and is an almost exact facsimile of those found at Folsom, N. M. The pointed end is missing, but the largest part of the piece is still intact. It was excavated by a ditch digging machine; so unfortunately, the exact depth of the find could not be determined. The field in which it was found is of yellow-gray silt loam and had been under cultivation for years. Several arrow points and other artifacts of the Middle Mississippian culture had been found on the surface here, but there was nothing else that could have been associated with the "Folsom type".

This find may be of little consequence, but is, nevertheless, worthy of mention. The fact that there were no other remains in association with it, and that it was not found *in situ*, decreases its scientific value. However if typology were given the significance it has in Europe, there would be little doubt that some connection exists between the Lake County point and those found at Folsom. It would, therefore, be a reasonable conjecture that Northern Illinois had human inhabitants in Late Pleistocene times. On the other hand, the finding of a point identical to the late ice age points of Folsom may be merely a coincidence.