

## A CLASSIFICATION OF CAHOKIA PROJECTILE POINTS

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## ABSTRACT

The material here classified is from the surface of the camp sites which are located between the mounds. It represents the combined collections of three men over periods of twenty, fifteen, and twelve years respectively, and material secured from local farmers.

The 2523 arrowheads that can be classified range from  $\frac{5}{8}$  to 2 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length; 1020 (40.4 per cent) are triangular and 1503 (59.6 per cent) are notched. Of the 1020 triangular points, 672 (65.8 per cent) have slightly convex sides, 252 (24.7 per cent) have straight sides, and 96 (9.5 per cent) have slightly concave sides; 958 (93.9 per cent) have straight and 62 (6 per cent) have concave bases.

Of the 1503 notched points, 1284 (85.4 per cent) are side notched and 219 (14.5 per cent) are corner notched; 1217 (94.7 per cent) have straight and 67 (5.2 per cent) have concave bases. In the side-notched points the head is rather wide. The group of corner-notched points includes all that do not have wide heads. Some of these should doubtless be classed as side-notched but since the heads are not rectangular, they are not included in the predominating group.

Of the total number of arrowheads, 211 (8.3 per cent) have a notch at the center of the base; 208 are side-notched. They are worthy of special note on account of the materials and workmanship. Fifty-one are translucent, a few being made of highly colored almost transparent agate, and the chipping is of the finest, the arrowheads being thin, well made and regular, most of them completely chipped on both sides. Only a few are made from flakes.

Most of the base-notched points (177) have one pair of side notches and are known locally as three-notched points. A few have more than one pair of notches. In the multiple-notched points the primary pair of notches is considerably deeper than the more shallow secondary pair or pairs. There are seventeen five-notched points with one pair of primary and one pair of secondary notches; five seven-notched points with one pair of primary and two pairs of secondary notches; two nine-notched points with one pair of primary and three pairs of secondary notches; and seven points so closely notched that they are classed as serrated.

Twenty-one points which have no base notch have one pair of primary and one pair of secondary notches (four-notched); four have one pair of primary and two pairs of secondary notches (six-notched). In all multiple-notched points, the secondary notches may be above, below, or above and below the primary notches.

Fifty-five of the triangular and twenty-five of the notched points (3.1 per cent of the total) are serrated. Ten points have a highly polished strip down the center of one side. This polish is the same as that seen on bits of agricultural implements and suggests that they might have been made from chips from these implements.

The number of arrowheads is being increased each year. The collection is open for study and it is hoped that some time an archeologist will make a more scientific classification.