

HISTORY OF THE ANDERSEN COLLECTION AND THE YUMA TYPE ARTIFACT

The arrowheads collected from the sand hills of northeastern Colorado and adjacent portions of Nebraska, with few exceptions, were recovered from acreage placed in cultivation, as required by law, when the land was homesteaded. Once the grasses that blanketed the hills and valleys for eons were destroyed by the plow, wind, a very powerful agent of soil erosion, began transporting the sand, grain by grain, from the fields to dunes on the adjacent grassland. The hole in the ground produced by deflation is called a "blowout."

Various soil sequences are revealed in blowouts. Some consisted of a medium to fine grained, buff to tan colored sand from the top to the bottom of the deflated area. Other blowouts revealed that beneath several feet of sand lay a black humus zone of varying thicknesses, which in turn overlay a thick blue gray marl containing the remains of gastropod shells, fresh water ostracod carapaces and occasionally fragments of mammoth remains. This marl zone, present in many blowouts in Yuma and Washington counties in Colorado, obviously represent clay deposited in fresh water lakes coincident with the presence of Paleoindians on the Great Plains. However, Paleoindian artifacts are frequently associated with fragments of barbed wire, broken china, glass, nails and the like, which Marie Wormington was loath to mention in her Colorado Museum of Natural History Popular Series.

The Andersen Artifact Collection started by accident on a Sunday morning in 1919. My father, Perry L. Andersen, and I were riding across a blowout on our ranch located approximately 16 miles south of Yuma, Colorado. My father stopped his horse, dismounted and picked up a beautiful mottled red and white arrowhead about two inches in length. This arrowhead started a family

hobby. My mother, Pauline, joined my father and me in collecting artifacts from the blowouts on the home ranch. Eventually we expanded our modus operandi to include all blowouts in Yuma and Washington counties in the vicinity of Yuma, Colorado.

By 1925, when I entered the University of Denver at Denver Colorado, the Andersen's had amassed a sizeable number of artifacts. Pride of the collection, especially those with unique shapes and flaking, was instrumental in seeking an audience with Dr. E. B. Renaud head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Denver and Frank Howland, Curator of Minerals and Geology at the Colorado Museum of Natural History (C.M.N.H.), located in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Renaud was not interested in what he considered to be Plains Indian artifacts; Mr. Howland, however, spent considerable time looking at the collection. He and I were particularly interested in one specimen that had an elongated flake removed from each side of the blade.

The importance of the above specimen became apparent in 1925 when a fluted projectile was found associated with an extinct (Pleistocene) bison recovered from a site excavated by C.M.N.H. in the vicinity of Folsom, New Mexico. Mr. Holand recalled that he had seen a fluted specimen in the collection; therefore, asked me to show the artifacts to Jesse D. Figgins, Director, and Harold J. Cook, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, both affiliated with C.M.N.H.

The presence of a Folsom type artifact in our collection made it suspect that other types of Paleoindian artifacts might also be present. This idea, espoused solely by Messrs. Cook and

Figgins in the late 1920s, led to their own personal input. Harold J. Cook visited Yuma to study the stratigraphy of the blowout that produced the Folsom; Jesse D. Figgins asked for our permission to send an artifact to the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, to be evaluated for workmanship and probable cultural affiliations. The actions taken by these men proved to enhance the scientific importance of the collection. Cook discovered a shouldered projectile in situ with its point concealed in blue gray marl, the oldest stratigraphic unit in the blowout; the American Museum's evaluation of the artifact sent by Figgins was that the workmanship excelled anything seen in North America and that the cultural affiliation probably is Middle Neolithic.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, scientists in Colorado apparently were more interested in widening the distribution of the fluted Folsom than promoting the idea that more Paleoindian artifact types were present in the Great Plains. In 1931, Cook published an article titled, "More Evidence of the Folsom Culture;" the same year Dr. Renaud published, "Prehistoric Flaked Points from Colorado and Neighboring Districts." Both papers extended the Folsom type artifact from New Mexico into Colorado.

In the early 1930s, Richard M. Snodgrass from the University of Chicago, photographed the artifacts from Andersen's Valley No. 4 location. His enthusiasm to learn more about the site led him to seek permission from the landowner to excavate, which would have been a first in the history of archaeological investigative

work in Yuma County. Permission was granted; however, it was short lived with no explanation given. The entire excavation consisted of a hole approximately 5 x 10 feet by one foot deep.

Also sometime in the early 1930s my cousin, Bert Mountain, became a full fledged partner with the Andersen's in their quest for Paleoindian artifacts. His presence was timely because my interests were rapidly moving in the direction of other fields of endeavor.

After rejecting my invitation to examine the Andersen Collection of artifacts in 1925, Dr. E. B. Renaud invited me in 1931 to postulate the evolution of the Paleoindian artifact types in our collection. The two reference points I had upon which to base evolutionary trends were Harold J. Cook's discovery of an artifact in the fresh water marl and the Folsom point found in the same blowout when the humus layer overlying the marl was exposed by wind erosion. What ever Dr. Renaud said that I said in his 1932 publication titled, "Yuma and Folsom Artifacts: New Material," is wrong. Also partially wrong was including a multitude of artifact types under the name "Yuma Artifacts," which was perpetrated in 1933 and 1939 in two publications by Jesse D. Figgins titled, "Folsom and Yuma Artifacts." The 1939 article was identified as Part 2.

By the late 1930s, the Andersen Artifact Collection had attained international exposure. Perry Andersen received an invitation from Dr. Edgar B. Howard, Professor of Anthropology at Bryn Maur College, to attend the International Symposium on

Early Man to be held March 17-20, 1937, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. My father could not afford to make the trip; however, Marie Wormington, associated with C.M.N.H., selected 50 artifacts from the Andersen Collection (personal communication with my father) to be exhibited at the symposium. The following scientists from foreign countries were present:

G. H. R. von Koenigwald, Paleontologist
Bandoeng, Java

W. C. Pie, Paleontologist
Paris, France

Dorothy A. E. Garrod, Reserch Fellow,
Newham College,
Cambridge, England

Kaj Birket-Smith
Nationalmuseat
Copenhagen, Denmark

Oswald Menghin, Prof. of Prehistoric Archaeology
University of Vienna
Vienna, Austria

Robert Broom
Transvaal Museum
Pretoria, South Africa

The question in my mind is, were the 50 artifacts exhibited under the name Andersen? I ask this because casts of recognizable Andersen artifacts, exhibited in the Harvard Museum in Boston, are identified as Colorado Museum of Natural History (C.M.N.H.) artifacts.

In the 1930s and 1940s, archeological publications bearing references to the Andersen Artifact Collection probably were responsible for many scientists visiting Yuma to see the collection and frequently to visit the blowouts. Noteworthy visitors were: Dr. A. E. Jenks, University of Minnesota; Dr. Paul Mac Clintock, Princeton University; Dr. Barnum Brown, American Museum of Natural History; Dr. E. B. Renaud, University of Denver; Marie Wormington, Colorado Museum of Natural History; and I believe, Dr. Edgar B. Howard, Bryn Maur College. All of the above scientists visited my father while I was in college or working in Utah. The only visitors I helped entertain in Yuma were from the University of Nebraska -- Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, his bride and Dr. Loran B. Easley.

Creeping into the literature in the late 1930s and early 1940s were the names Dent, Edan, Clovis, Scotts Bluff and many more artifact types, which previously were described as "Yuma" type artifacts. Obviously a purge of names was needed; Dr. Marie Wormington accepted the responsibility. Sometime between 1939 and 1949 she restricted the Yuma type artifact to a blade that had a length-breadth ratio of about 4 to 1 and had fine flaking that appeared to cross the convex face of the blade uninterrupted. These specimens, recovered from Andersen's Valley No. 4 locality, were unique to Valley No. 4. It was also the only site in which the artifacts were directly associated with bison bones that never were speciated.

This concludes the early history of the Andersen Artifact Collection, permanently placed in the University of Nebraska's Archaeological Research Collection at Lincoln, Nebraska. It is difficult, in retrospect, to evaluate the importance of the collection in expediting the acceptance of more than one type of artifact attributable to early man in North America. This much is certain, post-mortem thanks are due Frank Holand whose memory extended the Folsom artifact range from New Mexico to Yuma, Colorado, before many scientists knew the Folsom artifact existed; Harold J. Cook who found an artifact stratigraphically older than Folsom; Jesse D. Figgins whose appreciation for master-craftmanship sent an artifact from Andersen's Valley No. 4 locality to be evaluated by the American Museum of Natural History; and Dr. E. B. Renaud who was open minded enough to reverse his 1925 opinion of the Andersen Artifact Collection.

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