

Book Reviews

Lithics and Livelihood: Stone Tool Technologies of Central and Southern Interior British Columbia, by Martin P. R. Magne. Ottawa: Mercury Series, Archaeological Survey of Canada Paper No. 133, National Museums of Man, 1985. Pp. xxii, 303; 33 tables, 75 figures. Limited printing; free distribution.

Neophytes of statistical technique and lithic technology beware! Whether intentional or not, segments of this volume are readable only to those having a detailed knowledge of both. This is truly unfortunate. Buried in description of the various multiple discriminant analyses, the several applications of clustering and scaling, the many Chi-square tests and numerous other quantitative routines is a well-thought-out and laboriously conducted piece of research. It provides a new and directly applicable methodological framework for the analysis of debitage in studies of lithic technology. It also successfully applies that framework to an identification of settlement pattern variability using existing archaeological data from the interior of British Columbia.

In all fairness to the author regarding the readability of the manuscript, it was prepared as his Doctoral Dissertation in Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Thus, as with all graduate students, his focus for acceptance was not the profession in general but the members of his evaluation committee. Released as Archaeological Survey of Canada, Mercury Series, Paper No. 133, it is one of many dissertations published as a Diamond Jenness Memorial Volume. This series takes the university-submitted thesis as camera-ready copy without possibility of even minor change.

The underlying tenet of Magne's research is that lithic debitage, so widely ignored by archaeologists in general, has important interpretive potential for the identification of site use and, hence, settlement pattern variability. As he notes in several places, those studies relying solely upon tool type frequencies as a means of site interpretation run the risk of

error. Curated tools are carried away; debitage is not. Also implicitly understood as a rationale behind his work is the fact that many sites contain nothing more than debitage and, thus, a concomitant analytic framework is necessitated.

With the above in mind, and armed with an in-depth knowledge of prior lithic studies and a truly immense arsenal of quantitative applications, Magne specifies his goal: "to discover how lithic technology varies within a wide range of settlement strategies that were employed by late prehistoric inhabitants of central and southern Interior British Columbia." To accomplish this objective, he must first develop a methodological format within which regional archaeological data can be analyzed. This he does using controlled experiment wherein debitage, produced by several knappers, is quantitatively analyzed for the creation of a classificatory reduction stage typology. Upon completion of the experiment, Magne asserts a 70 percent overall degree of accuracy with experienced knappers. The utility of this classification is its potential to signify the presence and maintenance of various forms of manufactured tools, including expediently produced task specific items as well as those intended for long-term curation.

With the success of experimentation, the classificatory framework is applied to the analysis of thirty-eight previously collected late prehistoric site assemblages from the British Columbia interior plateau. This occasioned the reanalysis and classification of 861 tools and 14,705 pieces of flake and core debitage. These data subsequently are subjected to various quantitative analyses to test hypotheses focusing on (1) basalt and obsidian/chert patterns of curation, (2) assemblage composition and curation and (3) settlement pattern site types and their prediction from lithic technological studies. Of the three, the results of the latter will undoubtedly be of most interest to those involved in interior plateau studies. Here Magne asserts that "general settlement strategies can be reliably predicted from lithic assemblages in a complex mathematical manner." In short, he feels successful in his attempt to interpret five site categories, initially identified from features, using tool and debitage reduction classes.

The preceding analyses aside, the volume contains very readable chapters on lithic technology and hunter-gatherer mobility as well as summaries of the ethnographic and archaeological contexts for the historic territories of the Chilcotin, Shuswap, Lillooet and Thompson. Through an in-depth discussion of the "Mousterian facies problem," the former is used as an introduction to the significance and relevance of lithic tech-

nological studies. The latter provide regional orientation to the later analyzed data. A chapter devoted to the description of that data also is included.

In sum, what can one say about *Lithics and Livelihood: Stone Tool Technologies of Central and Southern Interior British Columbia*? It is not a volume that you will want to snuggle up with in front of a warm fireplace on a cold winter's eve. It does, however, provide new perspectives on debitage analysis as well as some insight into the relationship of lithic technology and settlement pattern variability on the British Columbia Interior Plateau, and the purpose of the Diamond Jenness Memorial Series has been thus well served. Unfortunately, this volume also may hold the distinction of being the last of the Jenness-dedicated Mercury Series to be published in the present format with free distribution, according to G. MacDonald of the National Museum of Civilization.

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Ethnic Conflict in Vancouver: An Empirical Study, by R. A. H. Robson and Brad Breems. Vancouver: B.C. Civil Liberties Assoc., 1985. Pp. 345.

This is not a book on ethnic conflict in Vancouver (as the title suggests), but a research report on a selective sample of attitudes toward racism and prejudice primarily among South Asians in a single neighbourhood (South Vancouver). This research grew out of the Neighbourhood Action Projects sponsored by the B.C. Civil Liberties Association in Richmond and South Vancouver.

The basic rationale for this particular project, according to its authors, was to seek answers to the questions, "How frequently do members of minority groups experience ethnic incidents? What kinds of ethnic incidents are minority group members exposed to? Which minority group members are most likely to experience ethnic incidents? How hostile are members of the majority society towards minority groups?" The researchers claim that until this project was conducted, there were no hard data to enable them to provide reliable answers to questions concerning the type and frequency of ethnic incidents in Vancouver. Therefore, they "decided to undertake a well-designed study that would fill the gap in our knowledge." Yet we are not informed what exactly an "ethnic incident" may be. Even the authors admit that contradictory beliefs were held by