

Indians of the Upper Texas Coast

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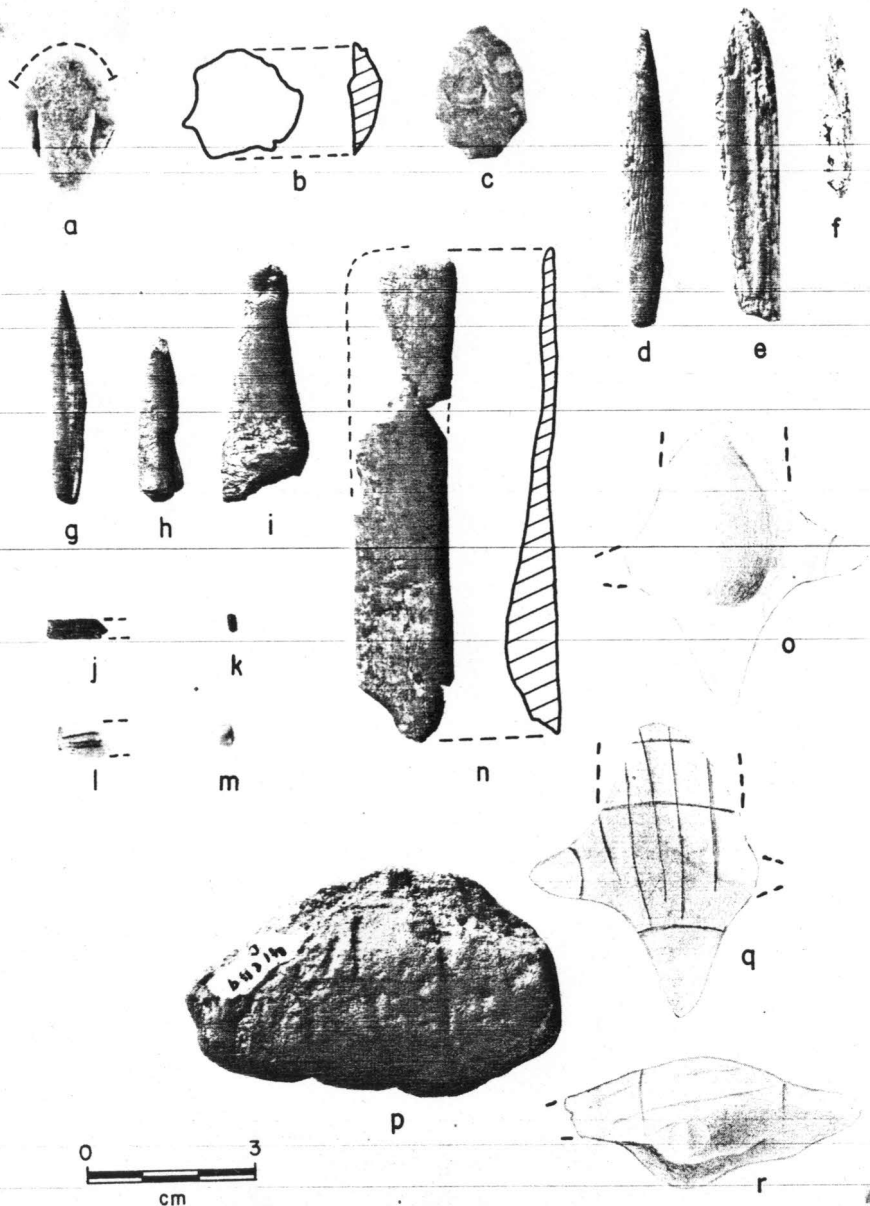


FIGURE 13.3 Other lithic, bone, ceramic, and glass artifacts. a, ovoid unifacial end scraper; b–c, round unifacial/biface tools; d, bone gorge (?); e–h, bone projectile points; i, socketed blunt point; n, bone spatula; j–m, European glass trade beads; p, sandstone net weight; o, q, r, ceramic turtle effigy (ventral, dorsal, and lateral views).

cord-impressed pottery (Figure 12.5g) all dating from the Clear Lake Period, namely, the Hunting Bayou Sites collection made by E. R. Ring and now in the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory; 41 HR 82 (O'Brien 1974:53); and 41 CH 46 (Dillehay 1975:124). Also, there is the net-like impression etched on the large *Busyon* shell pendant from Burial 4 at Harris County Boys School Cemetery (Aten *et al.* 1976:43-44). In this case, the pendant was either inside or situated next to a wallet or pouch made from an open, net-like weave. Although no similar materials are reported ethnohistorically, there is evidence from the Galveston Bay Area for a potentially wide range of woven materials.

Ceramic Turtle Effigy This specimen was collected from site 41 CH 40 by H. H. Hartman of Baytown, Texas who loaned it for study. It appears to be about two-thirds intact and, although the head is missing, it unmistakably is a representation of a turtle (Figure 13.3o,q,r). It is made from a medium-grained sandy clay (similar to that of the uplands Beaumont Formation) that has been fired to a light brown exterior color with a black core. In its fragmentary condition, the specimen is 47 mm long, 39 mm wide, and 19 mm high. It has been modeled into a stylized turtle shape. The back has been incised in imitation of the tail and limb apertures and of sculpturing on the carapace. The significance of this unique specimen, whether as a toy or a fetish, is unclear. However, turtles figure prominently in mythic stories, tradition, mortuary ritual, and subsistence throughout the southeastern United States. In the Galveston Bay Area, they are well documented in mortuary ritual and subsistence. Consequently, this specimen is of interest with respect to the local cognitive framework.

✓ *European Glass Trade Beads* A fragment of a dark blue, tube-shaped bead was recovered from 41 CH 110: 0-10 cm (Figure 13.3j). It is 3.7 mm in diameter and is similar to Type 61 of Harris and Harris (1967:145).

A small, white, donut-shaped glass bead was recovered from 41 CH 110: 20-30 cm (Figure 13.3m). It is 3.8 mm in diameter, 3.1 mm in length, and is similar to Type 44 of Harris and Harris (1967:144).

A fragment of a barrel-shaped white glass bead with three longitudinal blue stripes was found in Level 1 of 41 LB 4 (Figure 13.3l). It is 6.8 mm in diameter and is similar to Type 23 of Harris and Harris (1967:141).

A small blue, translucent, donut-shaped glass bead was recovered from Level 1 of 41 LB 4 (Figure 13.3k). It is similar to either Type 48 or Type 80 of Harris and Harris (1967:144 or 147).

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Archaeological investigations on the upper coast may have reached the stage at which a useful functional synthesis of the technology is possible. The physical