

CENTRE D'ETUDES NORDIQUES

TRAVAUX DIVERS

12

PAYNE LAKE, UNGAVA PENINSULA,
ARCHAEOLOGY, 1964

ARCHEOLOGIE : LAC PAYNE
PENINSULE D'UNGAVA, 1964

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Québec - 1966

PART IV

THE ARTIFACTS COLLECTIONS

The accompanying arrangements of illustrated artifacts are based upon associations of various kinds — sometimes because of superposition, sometimes by reasonably close occurrences at the same level, but more often because of their occurrence above, in, or beneath a particular soil stratum or house floor. While they have been grouped without regard to position inside or outside House 10 and even include a few specimens from other sites, this information is provided in all cases, both in the text and in the captions. In the highest or trade-goods zone, it is doubtful if this makes the slightest difference. In the two lower zones, as we shall see, the place of occurrence becomes critical.

Figure 6 : Associations, trade goods. Nos 1, 7-8, and 17 are from the highest level of House 10; Nos. 2-5, 9-14, 16 and 18 are from the highest level of a trench between Houses 8 and 9; Nos. 6 and 15 are from the Rosary site, an exclusively historic occurrence.

No. 1 is a cut nail with hand-forged head. It could be fairly early in the 19th Century. No. 2 is possibly a gun part; the imprint of grasses is clear in the rust.

No. 3 represents 7 trade beads, 6 of which are in red, pink, medium blue, and white glass — apparently identical with beads found in the Chimo earth rings and, in that situation, dating some time after 1865. The exception, lower left, is a red bead with white centre. Although its place in time has not been determined, Dr. Rousseau and I believe that it is much earlier than the others. Another item that may

FIGURE 6



FIG. 6 : Trade-goods associations (Nos. 1, 7-8, and 17 are from the interior of House 10; Nos. 6 and 15 are from the Rosary site; remainder from parts of the Michéa site). No. 1, cut nail; No. 2, gun part; Nos 3 and 6, beads; No. 4, etching on soapstone; No. 7, clay pipe stem; No. 5, used flake; No. 8, knife base?; No. 9, scraper; No. 10, flake from bifacial tool; No. 11, asymmetric "knife"; Nos. 12-14, bone plates; No. 15, leister prong; No. 16, drilled bone; No. 17, "burin"; No. 18, slate scraper.

assist one day in dating these finds is the pipe stem, No. 7, with a hole-diameter of ca. 1.8 mm.

No. 4 is a remarkable etching in soapstone. The curvature of the portrayed animal's back seems to fit neither bear nor caribou. The short tail could be the result of a slip of the engraving tool, but the ribs and legs seem quite purposeful (ribs are often represented in primitive art).

No. 5 is a used flake; No. 8 could be a slightly modified flake, used or intended for use as a knife or a projectile point; No. 9 is a very crudely chipped scraper; No. 10 is the familiar "worked flake" resulting from retention of a biface edge and part of the opposite face when struck off.

No. 6, of course, represents 2 of the 8 beads from which the Rosary site takes its name. The maximum and minimum sizes are shown. Although jet black in appearance, a rich ruby color appears when strong light penetrates the thinner portions. There is much irregularity in the numerous facets. The hole expands from 1 mm. at one end to ca. 3.5 mm. at the other.

No. 11 is an asymmetric unifacially-flaked knife. The peculiar form will be discussed under Figure 5.

Nos. 12-14 are small bone or antler plates of unknown purpose, straightcut and rubbed smooth. No. 13 has a transverse groove. A similar but narrower and deeper groove crosses one edge of No. 14, which specimen also shows one side of a drilled hole.

No. 15, from the Rosary site, is presumably a leister prong. The basal slot is cut irregularly and its bottom is rounded, not like a saw cut.

No. 16, of unknown purpose, is a remarkable specimen in that the large hole seems to have been drilled with a wood bit. The thin sill so familiar to carpenters is still present, showing that the bit was not pushed through, and the sides of the hole bear the spiral scoring that would be expected.

No. 17 provides evidence of the burin concept in this zone, having a primary flake struck from either edge. Late occurrences of this technique were noted at Lake Abitibi.

No. 18, in slate, shows heavy use-wear, probably as a scraper.