This point type was named Kings Corner Notched by Marshall (1958:125–127). It is poorly defined and often becomes a catch-all category for small- to medium-sized dart points with deep corner notches, expanding stems, and straight to slightly concave bases. This has led to its confusion with other corner-notched points, even on a panregional scale (see O’Brien and Wood [1998:233–234] and Ray and Lopinot [2005:165]).

Description

Kings points are small (resharpened) to medium (unresharpened) corner-notched points that range in length from approximately 33 to 70 mm with a mean of 45.1 mm. Corner notches are relatively wide (range: 3.3–5.4 mm; mean: 4.3 mm) and deep, which isolate a moderately long stem (range: 9–13 mm; mean: 10.8 mm) that expands to the base. The corners of the stem are generally pointed, but may be slightly rounded. The notch angle (as measured relative to the base) of Kings points ranges between 46˚ and 66˚ with a mean of 56.8˚, which is higher than that of Stealth and Little Sac points and less than that of Afton points (Ray 2010:Table 5). The base is usually straight, but may be slightly concave or more rarely slightly convex. Light grinding is sometimes apparent by magnification or touch along the sides of the stem and base, but it is never as prominent as that on Table Rock points.

The blade on Kings points is slightly excurvate on unresharpened specimens, straight on resharpened specimens, and straight to slightly incurvate on extensively resharpened specimens. The edges of the blade on a minority of Kings points may be finely serrated (Marshall 1958:126), but they are never beveled. Unresharpened Kings points exhibit prominent pointed barbs that extend down from the shoulders at least half the length of the stem. Repeated resharpening of blade edges shortens overall length, makes the blade narrower, shortens the barbs, and eventually results in the entire loss of one or both barbs. Specimens that have lost both barbs are difficult to identify as Kings points. Maximum blade width (range: 19–33 mm; mean: 25.8 mm) is at the end of the barbs, unless extensive resharpening has removed both barbs and part of the shoulders. Although workmanship varies, final pressure flaking across the blade is generally controlled and perpendicular to diagonal to the long axis of the blade. Flake scars generally terminate at or near the midline, which creates a biconvex...
cross section. Maximum thickness (range: 4.1–7.7 mm; mean: 6.1 mm) is usually at the juncture of the blade and stem.

**Heat Treatment**

Kings points exhibit a high incidence of heat treatment. At least 75–95% of Kings points from the Patterson Spring site (23CN64), the Big Eddy site (23CE426), and various sites along the lower Sac River were heat treated (Ray 2005:311; Sandstrom and Ray 2004:222). The highest incidence of heat treatment is associated with Kings points made from Burlington chert and other similar light-colored, medium-grained cherts. Lower percentages of heat-treated Kings points are likely evident in areas where high-quality, fine-grained cherts occur (e.g., Reeds Spring chert in the upper White River valley).

**Distribution**

Kings points are common throughout the Ozarks region in Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. They may also occur north of the Missouri River, but in smaller quantities.

**Age**

Until recently, a definitive age for the Kings point type has been elusive. Chapman (1980:309) believed it may have first appeared during Archaic times and continued into the Woodland period, whereas others believe it is Middle to Late Woodland in age (Dickson 2002:174; O’Brien and Wood 1998:234). If it dates to both terminal Late Archaic and Woodland times, then it either existed as a specific type for at least 1,700 years, or two or more as-yet-undifferentiated types are conflated within a generalized Kings type.

Stratified deposits containing Kings points that overlie deposits containing Smith, Etley, and Williams points
and underlie deposits containing Afton points yielded five late-to-terminal Late Archaic radiocarbon ages between ca. 3800 and 3000 rcybp (Ray and Lopinot 2005:170). Two pit features from the Erwin site (23NE212) that contained Kings points and other points interpreted as Late Archaic and Late Woodland/Mississippian yielded radiocarbon ages of 3230 ± 60 and 3120 ± 60 rcybp (Webb 1993). Small-to-medium sized corner-notched points very similar to the Kings type found at the Labras Lake site in the American Bottom were associated with age ranges of ca. 3900–3400 and 3500–3100 rcybp (McElrath et al. 1984:46). Finally, a Kings-like point with a slightly convex base was associated with deposits that yielded radiocarbon ages of 3180 ± 70 and 3080 ± 70 rcybp at Fire Pit Cave (23SN871) in Stone County (Ray 1993:29–33).

Comments

Other terminal Late Archaic corner-notched points that might be confused with Kings points include Stealth, Little Sac, and Afton, especially Afton points that don’t exhibit a pentagonal-shaped blade. The notches of Afton points, however, were emplaced at higher angles and the cross section is flat rather than biconvex. Stealth and Little Sac points have shorter and narrower stems, and the notches are narrower and were emplaced at lower angles than for Kings points. Patterson Spring Corner Notched (Turner and Benn 1987) is another name that was briefly used in southwest Missouri for corner-notched points that are the same as Kings.

Although the issue is still open for debate, part of the association of the Kings type with the Woodland stage (especially the Middle and Late Woodland periods) may relate to mistaking similar Middle and Late Woodland period dart points with Kings points. For example, resharpened Snyders Affinis (or Landers) points that have straight bases resemble Kings. Similarly, Steuben (Perino 1968:Plate 47), Lowe (Perino 1971:Plate 30), and Rice Side Notched points that have prominent shoulders and/or short barbs resemble extensively resharpened Kings points.

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