To the Point

Packard and Scottsbluff

Neal H. Lopinot

Packard

**Description:** This point type represents a relatively narrow lanceolate form. The blade exhibits very systematic flaking that terminates at the midline. This causes it to be thickest throughout the middle of the blade and diamond-shaped in cross section. Grinding can extend from one third to one half of its length. It is widest at or slightly above the midpoint and contracts toward the base, which can be slightly convex, straight, or slightly concave.

**Age:** Its age is still somewhat uncertain, although it appears to postdate Dalton. Some classify it as a Late Paleoindian point, while others consider it to be an early Early Archaic type. Packard points were associated with four radiocarbon ages of 9888 ± 90 b.p., 9830 ± 70 b.p., 9770 ± 80 b.p., and 9416 ± 193 b.p. at the type site, the Packard site, in northeastern Oklahoma (Wyckoff 1985:14). A date of 9950 ± 50 b.p. was recently obtained for deeply buried deposits that yielded a Packard point at the Jameson site (23CN579) along the James River in Christian County, Missouri (Ray and Lopinot 2005:280).

**Distribution:** Although very uncommon, it likely occurs throughout most of Missouri. Closer scrutiny of similar previously and newly collected lanceolate points is needed to better define its distribution in the state.

**Comments:** Often confused with Agate Basin and sometimes referred to as “Eastern Agate Basin,” the Packard point is thicker and may date later in time (Ray 1998: 145). Points identified as Agate Basin have been recovered from a number of Missouri sites, including the lower levels of Arnold Research Cave and Graham Cave, but many of these points may, in fact, be Searcy (sometimes termed Rice Lanceolate) points.

Some Packard points can be distinguished from resharpened Searcy points in that Packard points are never beveled or serrated. The flaking on Searcy points is also less systematic. For the novice, Packard points also might be confused at times with Nebo Hill points, but the flaking on Packard points is generally much finer.

Scottsbluff

**Description:** Scottsbluff is a large point with weak shoulders (no barbs), a straight to slightly expanding stem, and a straight to slightly convex base. The stem is often wide in comparison to the blade. The blade is never beveled. Most specimens are well made and exhibit fine collateral flaking across the blade. It is lenticular in cross section.

**Age:** This type is Early Archaic. A time range of about 8750 b.p. to 8350 b.p. (6800-6400 B.P.) has been given for Scottsbluff (Justice 1987:49), but earlier radiocarbon dates have been reported for several sites in the Plains. At Big Eddy, a radiocarbon date of 9,525 ± 65 b.p. was obtained for a Scottsbluff occupation level.

**Distribution:** Scottsbluff points are rarely found and often manufactured from exotic lithic material (e.g., Ray 2000: 128-129). They occur most commonly in the western and northern prairie regions, but they are probably distributed throughout Missouri.

**Comments:** Resharpened Hardin points (those without barbs) resemble Scottsbluff points, and it may be that Hardin and Scottsbluff were contemporary points, one made principally by people living in the central Mississippi Valley and the other made primarily by bison hunters in the High Plains and adjacent regions. Justice (1987:51) notes some differences between the two, particularly the fact that resharpened Hardin points often exhibit beveled blades and Scottsbluff points do not.
References

Justice, Noel D.

Ray, Jack H.


Ray, Jack H., and Neal H. Lopinot

Wyckoff, Don G.

Figure 4. (a) Packard from 23GR151-C; (b) Scottsbluff from 23DL157.

Figure 5. Packard points and hafted end-scraper from the Packard type site, Oklahoma (photos of casts provided courtesy of Don Wyckoff).

Figure 6. Scottsbluff from the Montgomery site (23CE261).

Figure 7. Scottsbluff points. (a) 23CE519, (b) 23CE491, (c) 23CE444, (d) 23CE519, (e) 23CE435.