The article in this issue by Mike Meinkoth describes a series of so-called Raddatz points from a site in eastern Missouri. The name derives from excavations in the 1950s at the Raddatz Rockshelter in southcentral Wisconsin. There, a series of side-notched points with similar technological attributes were found in preceramic contexts (Wittry 1959). Justice (1987:69) subsumes numerous morphologically similar point types under Raddatz, including Godar from westcentral Illinois, Tama from Iowa, and many others.

### Description

The Raddatz is typically a medium-sized side-notched point. In the original definition, it was described as “basically of lanceolate outline with straight or concave (rarely convex) base and bold side notches” (Wittry 1959:44). The notches are primarily U-shaped, the ears are squared, and the bases are commonly ground. Unresharpened blades range from excursive to straight sided and serration “occurs in low frequency” (Justice 1987:67). The blades are biconvex in cross section and resharpening almost always occurred bifacially; therefore, beveled Raddatz points are rare.

### Age

The Raddatz point is Late Middle Archaic in age. Some of the best dates for Raddatz derive from stratified sites in Illinois where homologous forms have been identified as Godar. For example, Horizon 6 at the Koster site, which yielded numerous Godar points, dated (eight dates) to ca. 3700-2900 B.C. (uncalibrated) (Cook 1976:Table 16). Similar points identified as Godar were recovered from thick midden deposits at the Black Earth site in southern Illinois that dated (eight dates) to 4100-2700 B.C. (uncalibrated) (Jefferies 1982:Table 10).

### Distribution

This type is widely distributed if one includes the range of morphological correlates identified by Justice (1987). In this case, the range for Raddatz points extends from the Great Lakes to western Pennsylvania to northern Alabama to eastern Kansas and Nebraska. Thus, it essentially includes all of Missouri.

### Comments

This point type exhibits considerable variability with respect to size, stem morphology, and blade treatment. Some Raddatz points also can be confused with Graham Cave points since Raddatz points may have concave bases and serrations. However, Raddatz points generally have a shorter, wider, and thinner blade that is resharpened bifacially. The confusion attending the definition of side-notched types, as well as assigning type names to particular side-notched specimens, continues to occur largely as a result of the lack of recovery and systematic study of large collections from well-dated, single-component or unmixed stratified contexts.

### References