To the Point: Jakie Stemmed

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Drawings prepared by Del Thompson.

This point type is named after Jakie Shelter in Barry County, Missouri, where excavations were undertaken in 1955–1956 (Chapman 1960; Marshall and Chapman 1960). In his Masters Thesis, Marshall (1958) may have been the first to publish the name of this point as Jakie Stemmed; he included it, along with eight other point types ranging from Dalton to Stone Square Stemmed, in an “Early Non-ceramic Complex.”

Description

This is typically a medium to large expanding stemmed point with a concave base. However, the stem may vary from slightly to moderately flaring, and the base may vary from deeply to slightly concave (Sandstrom and Ray 2004:52). The sides of the stem also may exhibit burin scars (Ray 1994:25) and the basal corners range from being fairly pointed to broadly rounded or lobed.

Jakie Stemmed points have shoulders ranging from slight to prominent, but they are never barbed because the stem-shoulder juncture is upturned (Marshall 1958:109; Sandstrom and Ray 2004:52). The margins of the stems are typically, but not always ground. The blades of resharpened points are often serrated and on occasion beveled. However, the beveling tends to be slight and certainly not as prominent, nor as systematic as it appears on Late Paleoindian Dalton points and Early Archaic Graham Cave and Rice Lobed points (Sandstrom and Ray 1004:52). Depending on the quality of available raw material, heat treatment also may be common.

Age

A good age range for this point type has eluded researchers for years. Radiocarbon ages from Pigeon Roost, Graham Cave, and Rodgers Shelter (see O’Brien and Wood 1998:132) are all suspect due to depositional and postdepositional mixing. It is also suggested that the uncorrected radiocarbon age of 6150 ± 150 B.C. from the Casa Blanca site does not correctly date this type. Jakie points (N=40) predominated at Casa Blanca, so it was inferred that this Early Archaic radiocarbon age also was associated (Ray 1994). However, it now seems likely that the date pertains to an earlier component represented by far fewer Rice Lobed points (N=5) (Jack Ray, personal communication 2010).

Chapman (1975:251) tentatively defined a Middle Archaic age range of 5000–3000 B.C., whereas O’Brien and Wood (1998:132) have suggested a more restricted age range of 5000–4000 B.C. The latter early Middle Archaic age is certainly in line with the stratigraphic distribution of points at the Gnat Alley Woods site (Price et al. 2003) and at John Paul Cave (Ray 1995). At the latter site, the level (140–150 cm below surface) yielding a Jakie Stemmed point also produced an uncorrected radiocarbon age of 4905 ± 120 B.C. (Ray 1995:Table 3).

Distribution

The primary distributional area for Jakie Stemmed points is southwest Missouri, northwest Arkansas, and northeast Oklahoma. However, they also can be found in...
the eastern part of the Missouri Ozarks, and occasionally north of the Missouri River, extending into the northeast part of the state. Justice (1987:84) has suggested that the Jakie Stemmed type may be a “regional variant of a spatially broad early stemmed technology that includes Kirk Stemmed forms” found east of the Mississippi River and throughout much of the eastern United States (Justice 1987:84). As Ray (1994:21) has noted, other type names for similar, presumably cognate point forms found west of the Mississippi River include Fairfield and Uvalde of Oklahoma and Texas (Bell 1960:38, 92) and Johnson in Arkansas and Oklahoma (Perino 1968:40).

**Comments**

Marshall (1958:109) described Jakie Stemmed as a corner-notched point, but the notches on some examples also appear as broad side notches and it is preferable to just consider it as a stemmed point, as the original type name denotes. For a variety of morphological, technological, temporal, and distributional reasons, it is suspected that the Jakie Stemmed type has a close sequential evolutionary relationship with White River Side Notched points.

**References Cited**

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