
by Bill Finlayson

Our thanks are due to Sylvie Beyries for organising this three day meeting. As can be seen from the list of papers, a wide range of archaeological material was covered, and a wide range of approaches used. The meeting was an intense one from the sheer number of papers read, unfortunately leaving little time for discussion.

One major point for debate that appeared throughout the proceedings was the reliability of the 'high-powered' method of polish identification, based closely on Keeley's work. Some papers had very precise identifications based on this method, while others were more doubtful. H. Juel Jensen finding polishes that could be ascribed to different materials on different parts of the same denticulates if a straightforward use of classic polish identification was used. In an effort to resolve this problem at the end of the meeting two extra papers were given. One by Mark Newcomer and Roger Grace put forward the case that polish identification was not at all a reliable method of functional analysis, but formed just a part of a number of types of evidence that could be used only in conjunction. Hugues Plisson delivered a paper in response to this, defending the use of polish identification and its accuracy. Unfortunately the lack of time for discussion, a digression into some points over the statistical reliability of 'blind tests', and the fact that this debate occurred while many of the participants were having to leave, prevented a very useful discussion of the points raised.

Apart from that problem, the meeting was a success. Despite the debate, few of the participants seemed to overuse polish identification. Many useful discussions occurred outside the formal part of the meeting. Mark Newcomer's opinion that it was time we 'got our act together', while appreciated, is perhaps a little premature, for although there are now a surprising number of people working in this field, this is a very recent phenomenon. The general problem might be seen as one of having tried to do too much too soon.

The proceedings should be published by the end of summer 1987.

Papers

C. Sussman
Aspects of microwear as applied to quartz.

J. Knutson
Quartz reduction processes and tool use. A case study from the late Middle Neolithic seal hunting station at Bjurssel, northern Sweden.

J. and K. Knutson
A microwear analysis of flaked flint at the late Middle Neolithic seal hunting station at Bjurssel, northern Sweden.

D. Binder and G. Gassin
Debitage Chassean après chauffe: technologie et traces d'utilisation.

F. D'Errico
Le burin néolithique sur encoche ou 'bulino di ripabianca': approche fonctionnelle.

B. Chellidonio
Experiments on drilling technology: wear changes in tool-shapes and microwear.

S. Calley and R. Grace
Technology and function of microburins from Kumatepe, Turkey.

H. Juel Jensen
Denticulates in the Danish Neolithic: a functional puzzle

P. Anderson-Gerfaud
Outils préhistoriques et techniques de moisson des cereals primitives: problematique, première expérience a Lates

D. Frost
Essai d'étude sur les mecanismes d'enlevement produits par les facons agricoles et le piétinement sur des silex experimentaux.

P. Anderson-Gerfaud and H. Plisson
Les outils emmanches des lacs suisses

F. d'Errico and R. Reduron
traceologie et technologie: un dessin scientifique a inventer

K. Ataman and S. Calley
A preliminary study of Upsilon blades: a look at a new tool type

I. Sala
Processes of polish formation on flint tool surfaces

A. Vila Mitja
Formulation analytique de caracteres fonctionnels.

S. Beyries and F. Delamare
Surgisymetrie tridimensionelle, essai d'etude quantitative des traces d'utilisation

H. Plisson
Apercu sur la traceologie soviétique contemporaine.

J. Buller
Hafting, handling, and ochre stains

Papers given in absentia from R. Pullager and M. Winiarska-Kabacinska