

(porcupine), and *Bison* sp. This humanly collected suite of utilized birds and small mammals seems to square with a possible Folsom occupation rather than one by Clovis hunter-gatherers. The co-associated lithic artifact macro- and microdebitage assemblage (7,474 flakes and 17 tools), described in detail and analyzed technologically and functionally from a formational perspective by Baumler (1996), yielded no additional clues to the cultural identity of this informative, stratigraphically discrete Folsom secondary refuse-discard surface feature. Distinguished were 21 lithic raw material groups (based on lithology, color, texture, and other macroscopic properties) selected by knappers for Folsom tool production upstream and maintenance (Baumler 1996) in contrast with those that characterize lithic selection for downstream Clovis Occupation 1: chert, chert/silicified sediment, obsidian, quartz crystal, quartzite, and agate versus Madison chert, olive-green chert, dark brown agate, and silicified limestone, as described by Greiser (Davis and Greiser 1992:239). Inter-locality variability as between the separately interpreted artifact functional classes might also be explainable by spatially related differential task performance, a possibility not yet fully examined.

The stratified Paleoindian occupations, sampled at two laterally separated and two different vertical scales at Indian Creek, are incorporated within a series of braided-stream and fan deposits that accumulated within a moderate-gradient, narrow bedrock-confined mountain valley (Albanese 1985; Ottersberg 1987). The archaeological stratigraphic samples are thus necessarily intercorrelated to derive an integrated time-stratigraphic-occupational sequence for the Indian Creek site section (irrespective of locality): pre-Clovis Glacier Peak tephra, c. 11,100 yr B.P.; Clovis-age, c. 11,000 yr B.P.; Folsom-age, c. 10,680 and 10,400 yr B.P.; Agate Basin, age indeterminate; and Hell Gap/Haskett, c. 10,000 yr B.P.

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## Towards the Testing of the Null Hypothesis for the Origins of Amerindians

German V. Dziebel

The archaeological picture of the human presence in the Americas remains inconclusive in view of the lack of technological parallels between Clovis bifaces and late-Pleistocene Siberian or East Asian assemblages. Alternatively, microblade industries that distinguish the Siberian Paleolithic beginning 23,000–20,000 yr B.P. are absent in the Americas.

The fact that Clovis-type industries tend to become younger and decrease in diversity and frequency in British Columbia and Alaska along the putative ice-free corridor further complicates the situation. Some archaeologists (Bryan 1991:21; Clark 1991; Dixon 1993:119; Müller-Beck 1967) suggest that a reverse south-to-north population movement from transglacial Alaska is no less possible than the traditional conception of Siberian hunters entering the New World from the northernmost tip of Asia. The recent discovery of an Americanoid fluted point at the Uptar site in northeast Siberia dated to 8,300 yr B.P. [<sup>14</sup>C] (King and Slobodin 1996), together with other Holocene complexes from the Northeast and the Amur River Basin (Ushki VII–VI, probably no earlier than 10,500 yr B.P. (Kuznetsov 1994:142); Osipovka; Serdyak; Avlondya, Ust'-Belaya; Novopetrovka; Khin'skaya; Glazkovo; Kullaty; Serovo; and others featuring bifacial points similar to the earliest American cultures—occasionally with the diagnostic fluting (cf. Chard 1974; Derevianko 1969; Tolstoy 1958)—led some researchers to hypothesize a reverse migration (technological diffusion) from America into Siberia in the early Holocene (Bryan 1978:309; Chard 1959; Dikov 1979a, 1979b; Hicks 1998; Slobodin 1999:487; Tolstoy 1958). One should also bear in mind that the only Asian late-Pleistocene/early-Holocene skull that shows distinct affinities with American Indian crania, namely the Upper Cave Zhoukoudian (Neves

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and Pucciarelli 1998), is probably *younger* (10,600 yr B.P.) (Kamminga 1992) than Clovis.

The emerging startling controversy in American archaeology is therefore that the Clovis culture long believed to have originated in the New World (Krieger 1964:55) shows not a population expansion from Asia but a migration from America into Asia across the Bering bridge. Paradoxically, *the Clovis First paradigm is in need of pre-Clovis sites in order to demonstrate archaeologically that America was actually peopled from the Old World.*

The lack of reliable archaeological sites in pre-14,000 yr B.P. America is consistent not only with the lack of human occupation but equally with small population size, isolation, and certain patterns of mobility among the earliest Americans. A single archaeological site in a region occupied by small isolated demes would be as important as a series of sites left by a rapidly growing or stable large population. Alternatively, the paucity of lithics in the American archaeological record is consistent not only with the lack of human presence but equally with a pattern of economic adaptation marginal in the Old World Pleistocene, namely, the one that lays emphasis on perishables (bone, wood, bark) on the one hand, and "soft" practices (foraging, trapping, driving) on the other. Thus the sudden proliferation of sites throughout the Americas around 12,000 yr B.P. may represent "the upper part of a sigmoid curve, with the base of the curve lying well back in the middle Pleistocene" (Gruhn 1997:30). The recent acceptance of Monte Verde II raises the probability that other pre-Clovis sites such as Cactus Hill (16,000–15,000 yr B.P.), Meadowcroft Rockshelter Stratum II (15,000–13,000 yr B.P.), Pendejo Cave (25,000–12,000 yr B.P.), Monte Verde I (33,000 yr B.P.), Pedra Furada (40,000 yr B.P.) indeed mark the presence of early inhabitants in the Americas.

The belief that humans colonized the Americas from Asia penetrated European consciousness well before science could give it any empirical or theoretical support. Since then the accumulation of data has been oriented towards making the evidence *compatible* with this assumption; as a result, the *null hypothesis* has never been adequately tested. For the history of any geographically distinct region, the null hypothesis boils down to the assumption that its population is not derivative of any other population. The lack of conclusive evidence for the peopling of the Americas from any Old World location is coupled with continuing uncertainty about the origins of living humans in the Old World (Smith and Harold 1997) to the effect that the discussion of the origins of Amerindians should be more sensitive to the necessity of noncontroversial rejecting of the null hypothesis for this continent. It seems that Pleistocene archaeology can greatly benefit from adopting the long-standing and well-supported tradition in population genetics (Chakraborty and Weiss 1991; Neel 1970; Ward 1997) to treat Amerindians as exemplary of the earliest human adaptive condition.

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