BRICKER, HARVEY M. 1980 The uses of the past: Neolithic reworking of Palaeolithic flint artifacts. Paper presented to the symposium "Artifact analysis and behavioral inference", 45th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Philadelphia, PA, 3 May 1980.

Bricker, Harvey M. (Tulane) THE USES OF THE PAST: NEOLITHIC REWORKING OF PALAEOLITHIC FLINT ARTIFACTS. The prehistoric modification and re-use of even more ancient prehistoric artifacts has been noticed by many archaeologists, particularly those working with chipped stone industries. Reworked objects are, however, seldom numerous enough to offer much useful information about patterned behavior of the later artificers. An exception to this situation is provided by a multicomponent open-air site in southwestern France.

The site of Les Tambourets, in the French foothills of the Pyrenees, was occupied about 34,000 years ago as an early Upper Palaeolithic habitation site. After a long hiatus, it was occupied again during the Neolithic (ca. 3500-2000 B.C.) as the central part of a much larger zone of Neolithic occupation extending from the Garonne River (at the site of Terssac) south onto the higher terraces of the foothills (various sites). The majority of a large series of flint artifacts from Les Tambourets, from both excavation and surface collection, are completely patinated; they represent the Upper Palaeolithic (Châtelperronian) occupation. A few objects, of various ages, are completely unpatinated. Of major concern here is a series of over 2000 retouched flint tools that are completely patinated <u>except</u> for the retouch removals creating the tool, which remain unpatinated. These are reworked artifacts--tools made on already ancient, patinated blanks.

The object of the research reported here was to determine when in the prehistoric past the patinated flints had been reworked into tools and by whom. The dating cannot be resolved by available

stratigraphic and geochronologic data, except that it was post-Châtelperronian. An obvious hypothesis was that the reworking was done by the artificers of the only other major prehistoric occupation known from the site, the Middle and Late Neolithic peoples who left polished axes and other distinctive Chassean artifacts at Les Tambourets. Because, however, the scrapers, borers, and other reworked tools were made on large, heavy Châtelperronian blanks, specialists on the regional Chassean could find no obvious similarities between them and the normal Chassean tools made on blanks produced during the Neolithic.

The hypothesis of Neolithic reworking was tested using a multivariate cluster analysis of six attributes of end-scrapers--three of the blank itself and three of the scraping edge modification. Several end-scraper samples were used: three from the completely patinated Châtelperronian series, three from the reworked series in question, and one from the contiguous Neolithic site of Terssac. The results of the analysis indicate that the reworked end-scrapers from Les Tambourets represent Neolithic tools manufactured on previously patinated Palaeolithic (Châtelperronian) blanks. The blanks were chosen so that their dimensions and other characteristics conform more closely to the norms of the Neolithic artisans of Terssac than to those of the Châtelperronian artisans who produced the blanks originally.

The nearest flint source to Les Tambourets is, and was during both prehistoric occupations, at least two kilometers distant. By the time of the Neolithic occupation, erosion would have exposed at the surface many thousands of flint objects from the then outcropping

Châtelperronian occupation level (a process probably exacerbated by Neolithic agriculture). The large series of reworked flints at Les Tambourets appears to result from the decision of the Neolithic artificers to use the Palaeolithic habitation site as a flint "quarry" rather than to bring the same kind of raw material from several kilometers away.

Topics/Areas: artifact re-use, raw material procurement, stone tools, Palaeolithic, Neolithic, Europe

Audiovisual equipment required: 35 mm slide projector

Bricker, Harvey M. (Tulane) THE USES OF THE PAST: NEOLITHIC REWORKING OF PALAEOLITHIC FLINT ARTIFACTS. The site of Les Tambourets, in the French Pyrenees, had two major prehistoric occupations, Upper Palaeolithic and Neolithic. By the time of the Neolithic occupation, the Palaeolithic archaeological level had been extensively exposed by erosion, and many Palaeolithic flint artifacts must have been on the surface. A large number of these patinated objects were reworked into retouched tools, but their age or cultural affiliation is not apparent from classical typological diagnosis. Evidence from a multivariate cluster analysis is presented to show that Neolithic artificers used the Palaeolithic habitation site as a flint "quarry" rather than import Pyrenean flint from other sources.

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