

THE METAL ARROW POINTS FOUND IN TEXAS
COUNTY, OKLAHOMA.

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The drouth and attendant dust storms of the past few years have been a boon to those persons who revel in the cultures of the past. Wind erosion on many a hill has removed the top soil and the vegetation, exposing the imperishable implements and artifacts of the American Indian, who once hunted buffalo, where the tractor now pulls the plow. As the anatomist cuts the flesh from the bone in order to study the human body, so the dust storms have flayed this country and exposed profusely for a time, reminders of a dead civilization.

A sheet of paper placed above an arrow point will effectively hide it. So will a layer of soil an eighth of an inch in thickness. But when that soil is carried into the clouds the point will appear upon the surface as clearly as the day it was dropped.

It is my purpose to discuss in this paper a type of arrow-point occasionally found in Texas County, Oklahoma, and the surrounding country. The paper contains many conjectures and few facts.

We learn in history that ancient man in Europe progressed through a stone age, into one of Bronze, and thence into an Age of Iron. The first bronze celts were shaped very similarly to those of flint, which had been used prior to that time. With the exception of copper, silver and gold, I know of no metal worked by an American Indian civilization. Janet Bond, in an article styled "The Aboriginal Chickashaw Nation," (Chronicles of Oklahoma, Dec. 1937, page 404) infers that at the time DeSoto visited the Chickasaws in Mississippi (1541) that they were using copper arrow points:

"As a precaution, however, they probably arranged for an arrow-making ceremonial. The arrow makers from all over the Chickasaw territory probably came to whatever town was the Great Town of the tribe for this ceremonial and went eagerly to work on their ammunition in case the peace treaty's smoke should dispel itself into a mirage."

"Their arrowheads were made of flint and other varieties of stone as well as bone, horn, antler, shell, wood and copper.²⁷ Slender flint arrow-heads were less than two inches long. Thick or strong arrowheads were much shorter. "Solid flesh being almost as resistant as rubber could not be penetrated by a large projectile unless" propelled by more force than a Chicksaw's arm could twang out of a bow.²⁸"

"The shape of the arrowhead was triangular or pointed oval and these the Chickasaws were making during this ceremonial were loosely attached to the shaft so that they would remain in the wound, for these arrows were meant for war. Had