

North Coast Range
Time-sensitive
Projectile Point Types

As displayed at J.J. "Jake" Jackson Museum,
Weaverville, California

Text, Artifact Classification, & Display Case Photos

by Trygve Sletteland

Artifact Drawings by Agnes Woodford

Exhibit Mounted & Installed circa 1984

NORTH COAST RANGE TIME-SENSITIVE PROJECTILE POINT TYPES

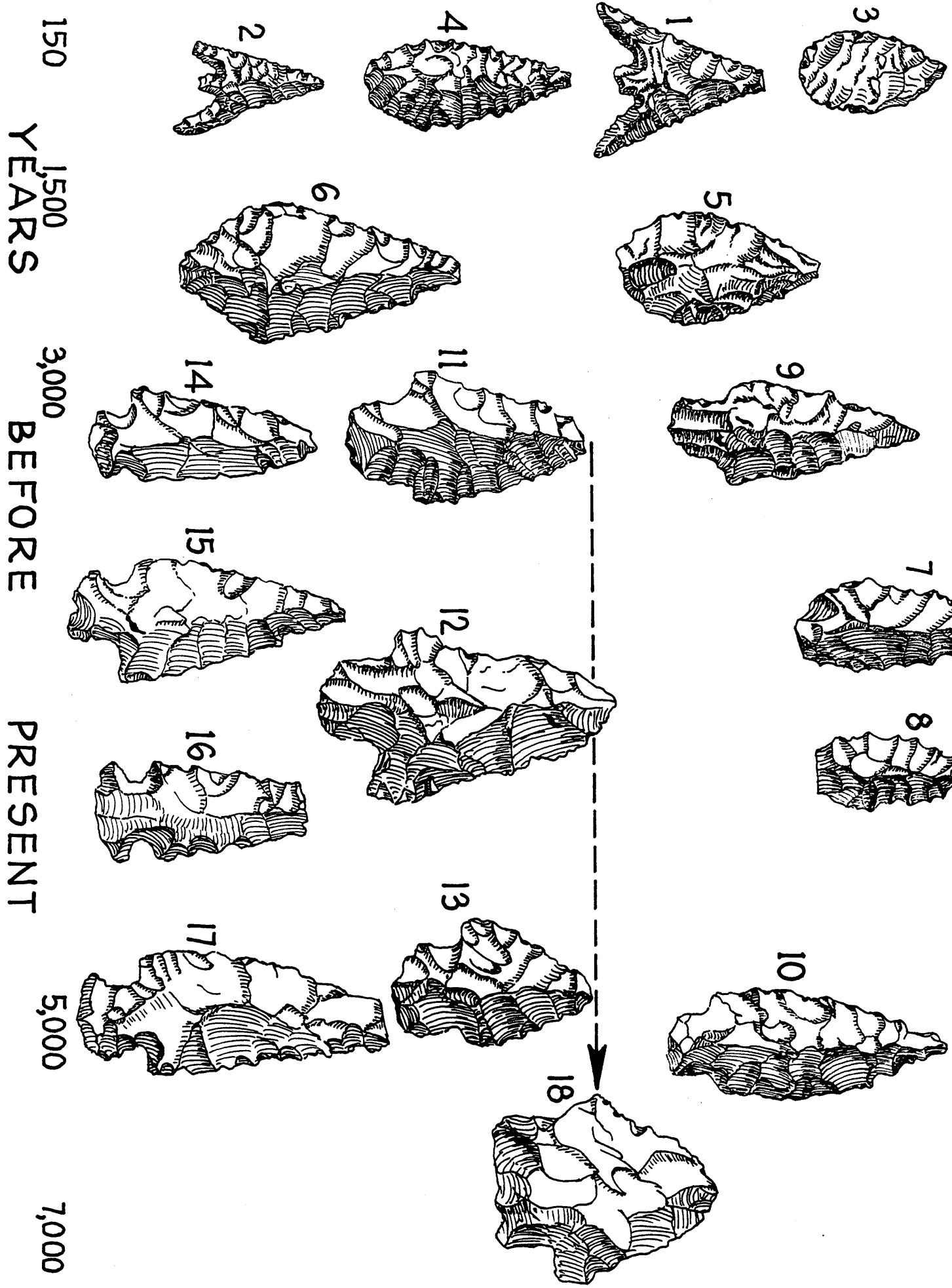
Projectile points--the stone tips for spears, darts, or arrows--are a part of the material culture of prehistoric man which has survived down to the present day. They are the artifact type most familiar to amateur collectors. The J.J. (Jake) Jackson Museum's Hotchkiss Collection consists of some 200 of these points, collected from the ground surface in the southwestern corner of Trinity County, California. Representative examples are included in this exhibit, prepared for and donated to the museum by Tryg Sletteland and Agnes Woodford of Redding.

Projectile points can sometimes be dated by studying the materials of which they are made, such as obsidian, or by association with other datable materials, such as charcoal, bone, or wood. Projectile point styles changed over the years, much as objects of modern manufacture do. Once a range of dates has been established for a distinctive point type, other closely similar points can be assigned a date within that range. Such a procedure has been followed with the Hotchkiss Collection points. They have been classified in accordance with a typology recently developed for the North Coast Range by the late Professor Martin Baumbhoff, who taught archaeology at the University of California, Davis. This regional typology of time-sensitive projectile points is based upon the work of archaeologists who have done surveys and excavations throughout the North Coast Range.

Much less is known about the prehistory of the extreme northeastern part of this province, which lies just within Trinity County, than is known about the southern part, which includes the area surrounding Clear Lake, and the Borax Lake and Mt. Konocli obsidian sources. The points in the Hotchkiss Collection were found in the area around Lake Mountain, which was formerly inhabited by the North Fork Eel River Wallaki and other unknown tribes before them. The southern Athapaskan Tribes, the linguistic group to which the Wallaki belonged, were distinct from the Wintu of the Trinity River region, separated from the Trinity drainage by South Fork Mountain. The 95 named Wallaki villages, which existed as late as 1861-62 when the Wallaki were practically exterminated, were usually located along major streams.

The points were tips for wooden projectiles used to hunt the large and small game which abounded in Wallaki territory. The two most important species were black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk. Of the eight point types shown here, the first two (smaller ones) at the left were used with the bow and arrow after its development in California at least 1500 years ago. The remaining six (larger) point types were used before that time and date back as far as 7,000 years. These points tipped thrusting spears or large darts thrown with the atlatl, a device which extended the hunter's arm and thus increased the leverage and force with which the weapon could be hurled at his prey.

NORTH COAST RANGE TIME MARKER PROJECTILE POINT TYPES



NORTH COAST RANGE PREHISTORIC PERIODS & THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

YEARS BEFORE PRESENT	CULTURAL PERIOD	ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX	CHARACTERISTIC ARTIFACTS		INFERRED PRIMARY SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES
			PROJECTILE POINTS	GROUND STONE	
	HISTORIC				
1,000	EMERGENT	SHASTA (HELENA III)	GUNTHER BARBED (DRAWING Nos. 1 & 2)	HOPPER MORTAR & PESTLE	ACORN GATHERING, FISHING, HUNTING WITH BOW & ARROW
2,000	UPPER ARCHAIC	↑ (HELENA II)	LARGE EXCELSIOR (5 & 6)	BOWL MORTAR & PESTLE	SEED COLLECTING, HUNTING WITH ATLATL
3,000	MIDDLE ARCHAIC	↓			
4,000	MIDDLE ARCHAIC	MENDOCINO ↑ (HELENA I)	HOUX STEMMED (9-13)	BOWL MORTAR & PESTLE WITH MANO & METATE	
5,000		↓			
6,000	LOWER ARCHAIC		BORAX LAKE WIDE-STEM (18)	MANO & METATE	SEED & NUT COLLECTING, HUNTING WITH ATLATL, SPEAR
7,000		BORAX			
8,000		LAKE			
9,000					
10,000	PALEO-INDIAN		FLUTED (FOLSOM OR CLOVIS-LIKE: NOT ILLUSTRATED)	NONE	BIG GAME HUNTING WITH SPEAR
11,000					
12,000					

