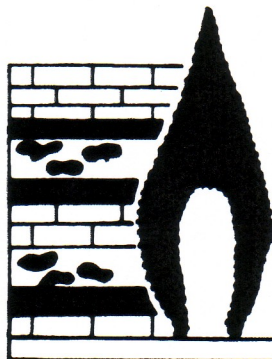

VI
**INTERNATIONAL
FLINT
SYMPOSIUM**

ABSTRACTS



SPAIN OCTOBER 1991

El Instituto Tecnológico GeoMinero de España, ITGE, que incluye, entre otras, las atribuciones esenciales de un «Geological Survey of Spain», es un Organismo Autónomo de la Administración del Estado, adscrito al Ministerio de Industria y Energía, a través de la Secretaría General de la Energía y Recursos Minerales (R.D. 1270/1988, de 28 de octubre). Al mismo tiempo, la Ley de Fomento y Coordinación General de la Investigación Científica y Técnica lo reconoce como Organismo Público de Investigación. El ITGE fue creado en 1849.

VI INTERNATIONAL FLINT SYMPOSIUM

I.S.B.N.: 84-00-07180-8

Depósito Legal: M-32909-91

Imprime: INTERNATIONAL COPY, S.A.

Editores: M.A. BUSTILLO y A. RAMOS-MILLAN

Diseño de portada: A. RAMOS-MILLAN y MIGUEL SALVATIERRA

A SYNTHESIS OF THE STUDIES OF "LITHIC WORKSHOPS" IN ANDALUSIA (SPAIN).

Antonio MORGADO and M^a Elena RONCAL

This paper attempts to deal with the problems related to the study of surface lithic assemblage, the so-called "lithic workshops". In order to achieve this aim we will summarize the research undertaken on this subject. We will take the region of Andalusia (Spain) as our starting point and from here we will proceed into a study of its theoretical and methodological bases.

It is not our objective to establish, once and for all, the meaning and application of the term "workshop", but rather to reflect upon the problems brought about by the use of this term. Indeed, this term has often been applied to the latest research in the Andalusian area. However, these works fail to take into account any previous considerations which could establish the ground rules for its appropriate usage.

From a semantic point of view, in prehistory the term "workshop" designates the whole formed by the functional scope for human behaviour plus lithic deposits, where the main activity is the exploitation of these resources. On the other hand, tradition has come to associate the term with any surface lithic assemblage within a paleolithic chronology. Thus, the use of such term seems to have been restricted to a number of archaeological sites within a predetermined chronological and cultural framework, which has resulted in a loss of its functional meaning. Nevertheless, this usage has sometimes been admitted to be incorrect, since the term "lithic workshop" ought to designate a site of direct utilization of raw materials. In spite of all this, scholars have continued to use the term to designate archaeological sites where the only evidence was large surface lithic assemblages.

The world of "lithic workshops" is complex not only because of its nature but also because of the multifarious conceptions of the term, so that its application depends on its definition and interpretation.

This complexity is even more obvious when one tries to classify the various manifestations these sites may have had in the past and which would display polymorphism of archaeological sites. Therefore the various classifications attempt a generalization of these hypothetical "lithic workshops". However, many of the inaccuracies or confusions in the classification, which can be appreciated in typologies of "workshops", are derived from the lack of a concrete definition of workshop. In order to clarify workshops we must set a basis for the definition of this concept, since the usual practice of taking it for granted according to archaeological relics could

result in unfortunate taxonomies. Hence its definition should be the product of a logical deductive process. On the other hand, the application of typologies is often based upon intuitives definitions which follow a series of predetermined ideas in respect to surface lithic assemblages.

For the time being, we want to point out that in order to achieve a correct classification an definition of the sites, we should bear in mind a number of factors whose hierarchy could be considered a taxonomic criterion. The factors have already been dealt with in other papers and could be: type of exploitation of siliceous deposits, position of each one of the workshops within the process of transformation of lithic material, the quantity and quality of raw materials, its re-use, etc.

Consequently, we suggest that the word "workshop" should be used in accordance with its conceptual meaning, which is restricted to extraction and/or lithic exploitation, i.e. in order to denominate and determine the behavioural scope where the first step in the exploitation of lithic resources takes place. This would disassociate the activities of transformation which take place within scope of subsistence, whose main function is not mainly lithic exploitation.

From this critical vision of the present times we intend to appreciate the functional problems that one may face when it comes to determining them as "lithic workshops". Similarly, we want to focus upon the narrow chrone-cultural parameters which determine the time dilatation of use of silicious deposits by prehistoric people; all this is the result of its intrinsic nature, due to the fact that it is a source or resource which could be diachronically used by prehistoric or even historic people.

This essay attempts to introduce the problem and question it, which is the reason why it poses a number of questions which would be the hypotheses and criteria of research for a correct approach to these sorts of archaeological sites in the future.

REFERENCES

- MARQUEZ ROMERO, J.E.(1988). El taller lítico del abrigo de los Porqueros (Mollina, Málaga) *Mainake*, X, pp. 25-50.
- MOLINA GONZALEZ, F., CONTRERAS CORTES, F., RAMOS MILLAN, A., MERIDA GONZALEZ, V., ORTIZ RISCO, F., y RUIZ SANCHEZ, V.(1986). Programa de recuperación del registro arqueológico del Fortín I de los Millares. Análisis preliminar de la organización del espacio. *Arqueología Espacial*, 8, pp. 175-201.

RAMOS MILLAN, A.(1986). La explotación de recursos líticos por las comunidades prehistóricas. Un estudio sobre economía prehistórica. *Cuadernos de Prehistoria de la Universidad de Granada*, 8, pp. 237-271.

RAMOS MUÑOZ, J.(1988). *Yacimientos líticos y poblamiento humano prehistórico del Alto Vélez, ríos Sabar y Málaga*. Tesis doctoral, Universidad de Sevilla, 1986.

VALLESPI, E.(1959). Bases arqueológicas para el estudio de los talleres de sílex del Bajo Aragón. Hacia una seriación de las industrias líticas postpaleolíticas bajoaragonesas. *Cesaraugusta*, 13-14, pp. 7-20.

VALLESPI, E., RAMOS MUÑOZ, J., MARTIN CORDOBA, E., ESPEJO, M. y CANTALEJO, P.(1988). Talleres líticos andaluces del Calcolítico y Bronce. *Revista de Arqueología*, 90, pp. 14-24.

VILASECA, S.(1953). *Las industrias del sílex a Catalunya. Les estacions tallers del Priorat i extensions*. Reus.