Finch & Co

THREE PRE-HISTORIC, LOWER PALAEOLITHIC FLINT STONE TOOLS

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THE LARGEST MARKED 'PICK. DOUBLE ENDED. TRANSITION. SOMME GRAVELS. ABB 1841' AND TO THE REVERSE '27'
THE LARGER ACHEULIAN BIFACE MARKED: 'SOMME GRAVELS. ABBEVILLE' AND TO THE REVERSE '16'
THE SMALLER ACHEULIAN BIFACE MARKED 'ABBEVILLE'
CIRCA 200-100'000 YEARS OLD
SIZES: 19CM LONG – 7½ INS LONG (MAX.)
10CM LONG – 4 INS LONG (MIN.)

LITERATURE

THE STONE AGE TECHNOLOGISTS PROGRESSIVELY IMPROVED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HAND-AXE. THE EARLY ABBEVILLIAN TYPE IN EUROPE HAD SOME SERIOUS DEFECTS DUE TO THE PRIMITIVE TECHNIQUE USED TO FLAKE THEM. ALTHOUGH THE TOOL MAKER HAD A MENTAL PICTURE OF THE REASONABLY EFFICIENT TOOL HE WANTED TO PRODUCE, HIS TECHNIQUE WAS TOO PRIMITIVE TO ALLOW HIM TO CONTROL THE SHAPE OF THE IMPLEMENT IN ANYTHING BUT A GENERAL WAY.

NEW TECHNIQUES GRADUALLY DEVELOPED AND FROM THEM CAME THE ACHEULIAN HAND-AXE WITH ITS STRAIGHT CUTTING EDGE, TAPERING SECTION AND TWO SMOOTH FACES. THIS FLINT TOOL WAS CREATED BY THE TECHNIQUE OF DETACHING LONG SHALLOW FLAKES WITH BLOWS OF A 'BATON' STRIKING VERY CLOSE TO THE TOOL'S EDGE. THIS PRODUCED A LESS CLUMSY, THICK SECTIONED HAND-AXE AND ONE MORE SYMMETRICALLY SHAPED. SOME OF THESE LATER ACHEULIAN HAND-AXES ARE THE MOST PERFECT EXPRESSION OF THE CORE TOOL CONCEPT.