

BOOK REVIEW

Prehistoric Stone Tools

by
Robert N. Converse

In the 1960s Robert Converse first wrote the book *Ohio Stone Tools*. Illustrated with black and white drawings, the book has sold thousands of copies and has been the only such publication of its kind. The drawings of stone tools, although well-done, were black and white and could not show the colors and textures of the hundreds of varieties of stone used by prehistoric tool makers. After its forty year run, he was persuaded to do a totally new book with color photographs of the myriad of stone tools used by prehistoric people in the Ohio Valley and adjacent areas. His life-long experience with these unique artifacts — and his writing skills — have produced a book which will probably be a basic learning text for both avocational and professional archaeologists for many years.

Not only does Converse describe and picture the numerous traits and manufacturing methods seen in stone tools, but he reveals the idiosyncrasies in design that many scholars overlook — subtle depressions, abrading, and other unusual and often unexplainable aspects of the stoneworker's craft.

The subject of hafting is rarely researched — but in this book there are numerous examples of the hafting of stone tools used by primitive cultures around the world. A subject in itself, the hafting methods used thousands of years ago reveal many surprising aspects of this little known but integral part of prehistoric stone tool use.

The types of axes, pestles, celts and adzes, as well as numerous other previously unreported tools, are seen in this well-illustrated volume. Converse details the various aspects of axes, pestles, celts, adzes, hammerstones, chisels and examples of the thousands of stone tools found over the entire Midwest.

Of great interest are the full-color illustrations of the various kinds of stone used in the prehistoric stone tool kit as well as the varieties of stone seen in some tools but not in others.

This 180 page book will be a must for all collectors, scholars and researchers and will provide a new look at a widespread but little-known aspect of archaeology which has been long neglected.

Elaine Holzapfel, Greenville, Ohio

Included in this issue of *The Ohio Archaeologist* is an order blank for this new book. It is being offered at a discounted price for early purchase. Don't wait — order now!

