UC Berkeley
Archaeological X-ray Fluorescence Reports

Title
Source Provenance of an Obsidian Clovis Point Base from Stoneman Lake, Arizona

Permalink
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w

Author
Shackley, M. Steven

Publication Date
2013-08-21

Supplemental Material
https://escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w#supplemental

Copyright Information
This work is made available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License, availalbe at https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

eScholarship.org Powered by the California Digital Library
University of California

www.escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL XRF LAB

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL X-RAY FLUORESCENCE SPECTROMETRY LABORATORY
8100 Wyoming Blvd., Ste M4-158 Albuquerque, NM 87113
USA

SOURCE PROVENANCE OF AN OBSIDIAN CLOVIS POINT BASE FROM STONEMAN LAKE, ARIZONA



by

M. Steven Shackley, Ph.D., Director
Geoarchaeological XRF Laboratory
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Report Prepared for

Chris Merriman
Department of Anthropology
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

21 August 2013

www.escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w

INTRODUCTION

The analysis here of the obsidian Clovis point base indicates that it was produced from the Partridge Creek (Round Mountain dome) source in the Mount Floyd Volcanic Field in northern Arizona north of Ash Fork (Table 1). This is the first Clovis I've seen produced from this source. Usually, these artifacts from the Coconino Plateau or Transition Zone are produced from the Government Mountain source (see Shackley 2005). No discussion is offered for this single sample. I gave a Round Mountain source sample to Chris for comparison.

LABORATORY SAMPLING, ANALYSIS AND INSTRUMENTATION

All archaeological samples are analyzed whole. The results presented here are quantitative in that they are derived from "filtered" intensity values ratioed to the appropriate x-ray continuum regions through a least squares fitting formula rather than plotting the proportions of the net intensities in a ternary system (McCarthy and Schamber 1981; Schamber 1977). Or more essentially, these data through the analysis of international rock standards, allow for inter-instrument comparison with a predictable degree of certainty (Hampel 1984; Shackley 2011).

All analyses for this study were conducted on a ThermoScientific *Quant'X* EDXRF spectrometer, located at the University of California, Berkeley. It is equipped with a thermoelectrically Peltier cooled solid-state Si(Li) X-ray detector, with a 50 kV, 50 W, ultra-high-flux end window bremsstrahlung, Rh target X-ray tube and a 76 μm (3 mil) beryllium (Be) window (air cooled), that runs on a power supply operating 4-50 kV/0.02-1.0 mA at 0.02 increments. The spectrometer is equipped with a 200 l min^{-1} Edwards vacuum pump, allowing for the analysis of lower-atomic-weight elements between sodium (Na) and titanium (Ti). Data acquisition is accomplished with a pulse processor and an analogue-to-digital converter. Elemental composition is identified with digital filter background removal, least squares empirical peak deconvolution, gross peak intensities and net peak intensities above background.

www.escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w

The analysis for mid Zb condition elements Ti-Nb, Pb, Th, the x-ray tube is operated at 30 kV, using a 0.05 mm (medium) Pd primary beam filter in an air path at 200 seconds livetime to generate x-ray intensity Ka-line data for elements titanium (Ti), manganese (Mn), iron (as $Fe_2O_3^T$), cobalt (Co), nickel (Ni), copper, (Cu), zinc, (Zn), gallium (Ga), rubidium (Rb), strontium (Sr), yttrium (Y), zirconium (Zr), niobium (Nb), lead (Pb), and thorium (Th). Not all these elements are reported since their values in many volcanic rocks are very low. Trace element intensities were converted to concentration estimates by employing a least-squares calibration line ratioed to the Compton scatter established for each element from the analysis of international rock standards certified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the US. Geological Survey (USGS), Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology, and the Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques in France (Govindaraju 1994). Line fitting is linear (XML) for all elements but Fe where a derivative fitting is used to improve the fit for iron and thus for all the other elements. When barium (Ba) is analyzed in the High Zb condition, the Rh tube is operated at 50 kV and up to 1.0 mA, ratioed to the bremsstrahlung region (see Davis 2010; Shackley 2011). Further details concerning the petrological choice of these elements in Southwest obsidians is available in Shackley (1988, 1995, 2005; also Mahood and Stimac 1991; and Hughes and Smith 1993). Nineteen specific pressed powder standards are used for the best fit regression calibration for elements Ti-Nb, Pb, Th, and Ba, include G-2 (basalt), AGV-2 (andesite), GSP-2 (granodiorite), SY-2 (syenite), BHVO-2 (hawaiite), STM-1 (syenite), QLO-1 (quartz latite), RGM-1 (obsidian), W-2 (diabase), BIR-1 (basalt), SDC-1 (mica schist), TLM-1 (tonalite), SCO-1 (shale), NOD-A-1 and NOD-P-1 (manganese) all US Geological Survey standards, NIST-278 (obsidian), U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology, BE-N (basalt) from the Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et

www.escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w

Géochimiques in France, and JR-1 and JR-2 (obsidian) from the Geological Survey of Japan (Govindaraju 1994).

The data from the WinTrace software were translated directly into Excel for Windows software for manipulation and on into SPSS for Windows for statistical analyses. In order to evaluate these quantitative determinations, machine data were compared to measurements of known standards during each run. RGM-1 a USGS obsidian standard is analyzed during each sample run of ≤ 20 for obsidian artifacts to check machine calibration (Table 1).

Source assignments were made by reference to the laboratory data base (see Shackley 1995, 2005). Further information on the laboratory instrumentation can be found at: http://www.swxrflab.net/. Trace element data exhibited in Table 1 are reported in parts per million (ppm), a quantitative measure by weight.

REFERENCES CITED

Davis, M.K., T.L. Jackson, M.S. Shackley, T. Teague, and J. Hampel
2011 Factors Affecting the Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (EDXRF) Analysis of Archaeological Obsidian. In *X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) in Geoarchaeology*, edited by M.S. Shackley, pp. 45-64. Springer, New York.

Govindaraju, K.
1994 1994 Compilation of Working Values and Sample Description for 383 Geostandards. *Geostandards Newsletter* 18 (special issue).

Hampel, Joachim H.
1984 Technical Considerations in X-ray Fluorescence Analysis of Obsidian. In *Obsidian Studies in the Great Basin*, edited by R.E. Hughes, pp. 21-25. Contributions of the University of California Archaeological Research Facility 45. Berkeley.

Hildreth, W.
1981 Gradients in Silicic Magma Chambers: Implications for Lithospheric Magmatism. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 86:10153-10192.

Hughes, Richard E., and Robert L. Smith
1993 Archaeology, Geology, and Geochemistry in Obsidian Provenance Studies. *In Scale on Archaeological and Geoscientific Perspectives*, edited by J.K. Stein and A.R. Linse, pp. 79-91. Geological Society of America Special Paper 283.

www.escholarship.org/uc/item/26k7548w

Mahood, Gail A., and James A. Stimac
1990 Trace-Element Partitioning in Pantellerites and Trachytes. *Geochemica et Cosmochimica Acta* 54:2257-2276.

McCarthy, J.J., and F.H. Schamber
1981 Least-Squares Fit with Digital Filter: A Status Report. In *Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectrometry*, edited by K.F.J. Heinrich, D.E. Newbury, R.L. Myklebust, and C.E. Fiori, pp. 273-296. National Bureau of Standards Special Publication 604, Washington, D.C.

Schamber, F.H.
1977 A Modification of the Linear Least-Squares Fitting Method which Provides Continuum Suppression. In *X-ray Fluorescence Analysis of Environmental Samples*, edited by T.G. Dzubay, pp. 241-257. Ann Arbor Science Publishers.

Shackley, M. Steven
1995 Sources of Archaeological Obsidian in the Greater American Southwest: An Update and Quantitative Analysis. *American Antiquity* 60(3):531-551.

2005 *Obsidian: Geology and Archaeology in the North American Southwest*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

2011 An Introduction to X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) Analysis in Archaeology. In *X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry (XRF) in Geoarchaeology*, edited by M.S. Shackley, pp. 7-44. Springer, New York.

Table 1. Elemental concentrations and source assignment for the archaeological specimen and USGS RGM-1 obsidian standard. All measurements in parts per million (ppm).

Sample	Mn	Fe	Zn	Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Pb	Th	Source
STONEMAN LAKE	408	12633	77	234	11	44	93	57	39	37	Partridge Cr (Round Mtn)
RGM1-S4	292	13725	41	148	107	26	214	9	19	13	standard