

Book Reviews and Notices

Field Guide to Projectile Points of the Midwest, by Noel D. Justice and Suzanne K. Kudlaty. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2001. xiii, 53 pp. Illustrations, appendixes. \$34.95 cloth, \$12.95 paper.

Reviewer Lynn Alex is public archaeology coordinator at the Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa. Her latest book is *Iowa's Archaeological Past*.

Many Iowans are artifact collectors, particularly of small, pointed, bifacially worked stone items called projectile points. Some of these relics were used as arrowheads, but others served as projectiles for darts or spears and as knives and scrapers. Over the past 13,000 years, native peoples throughout the Midwest fashioned various styles of projectile points. Changes in point types, reflecting functional, regional, and cultural differences, allow them to serve as diagnostic markers of time periods and cultural interaction.

Field Guide to Projectile Points of the Midwest is the most recent guide to the major types of projectile points found throughout the Midwest. It is short, only 53 pages, and composed primarily of individual type descriptions accompanied by black-and-white line drawings. An introductory section discusses the usefulness of projectile points for cultural and chronological interpretation, radiocarbon dating, and the role of the avocational collector. Three appendixes provide a brief outline of prehistoric cultural traditions, references to suggested readings, and locations of selected archeological centers where readers can obtain additional information.

Field Guide to Projectile Points of the Midwest is a reduced version of an earlier book by Justice (1987) that covers the topic more satisfactorily. This pocket-sized guide is intended as a convenient field reference and includes the major point types found in Iowa, but collectors new to the subject may find it difficult to use without knowledge of the inherent ambiguity of point typing and an awareness of the range of variation found within accepted types. Unfortunately, the authors fail to include references to useful Iowa publications (*Morrow's Iowa Projectile Points*, for instance) or local research centers (Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa). The statement that "all archaeological sites" are protected by law (x) is both misleading and, sadly, incorrect.

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