Stone artefact production and exchange among the Northern lesser Antilles

Knippenberg, S.

STONE ARTEFACT PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE AMONG THE NORTHERN LESSER ANTILLES

Front-cover shows a St.Martin greenstone axe, a St. Martin calci-rudite zemi three pointer stone (both from the Anse à la Gourde site, Guadeloupe) and a Long Island flake core (from the Jumby Bay site, Long Island) set against the background of the Lesser Antilles in one of the grey-green colour hues of the St. Martin greenstone.

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To Jim

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Acknowledgements

In this context I wish to express my gratitude to all those individuals who have assisted me one way or another in the course of the present research. Participating in Caribbean archaeology and studying inter-island exchange networks starts by visiting as many islands as possible and cooperating with many local people, professional as well as avocational archaeologists. The regional scope of the research discussed in this study is well reflected in the large number of people from many different places who assisted my investigations. To stress the importance of "inter-island" contacts in particular and international cooperation in general, I would like to mention all of these individuals and acknowledge their help. I realize, though, that it is a long list.

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During the past few years I visited the islands of Puerto Rico, Anguilla, St. Martin, St. Eustatius, Antigua, Montserrat, Guadeloupe, La Désirade, Petite Terre, and Martinique. Furthermore, I spent some time at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, USA. Each location introduced something of its own flavour to my research. I spent a wonderful time in Puerto Rico in 1998. Dr. Jeffery B. Walker of the USDA Forest Service in this island deserves special thanks for providing me lodging and a laboratory in one of the research facilities of the USDA Forest Service in El Yunque Forest Reserve. Besides, he critically reviewed my attribute code list, helped me out during my analysis of the Sorcé materials from the island of Vieques and took me to the chert sources of Southwest Puerto Rico. Also, I want to express my gratitude to Reniel Rodríguez Ramos, now a PhD student at the University of Florida, Gainesville, USA, for the many discussions we had on lithic technology, for sharing many of his unpublished data with me and for providing me with the Moca chert samples. Furthermore, I would like to thank Louis Chanlatte Baik and Yvonne Narganes Storde of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, for allowing me to study the lithic materials from the Sorcé site on Vieques and to analyse some of the flint and chert artefacts geochemically.

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