A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE ARCHAIC POINTS FOUND AT THE GAULT SITE (41BL323) WITH CLOVIS POINTS FOR COMPARISON

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The cover art border design gracing Volume 4 features a representative sampling of archaic and Clovis projectile points from the Gault site which spans the entire human occupation of North America. Included in the border art are four 3-D renderings of Clovis points (at the corners) that were imaged by Dr. Robert “Zac” Selden and 2-D images of archaic points by Antonio Arcudi. They are in alphabetical order beginning in the upper left. For a description of each of the projectile points, refer to the article titled “A Visual Guide to the Archaic Points Found at the Gault Site (41BL323) with Clovis Points for Comparison” by Dr. Tom Williams on page xi or, inclusively, click on the image of interest. This is the first in a series of special cover designs for the JTAH by the talented team at the Gault School of Archaeological Research at Texas State University. Future covers may highlight subjects such as the Andice point collection, Folsom points, and the “older than Clovis” tool kit. On this cover, we encourage you to click the various images for “extra” content and click here for an appendix describing all of the points shown.

On the front cover, center panel: the painting featured on the front cover is Figure 9, page 19 from Article 1: Chasing the Phantom Ship: Revisiting Interpretations of the Boca Chica No. 2 Shipwreck on the Texas Coast. The scene illustrating the engagement off Brazos Santiago, April 3, 1836 is entitled “Invincible vs. Bravo”. This artwork was created especially for the Amy Borgens article by Peter Rindlisbacher (2017).
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Archaeological excavations at the Gault Archaeological Site (41BL323) have revealed an almost complete stratigraphic record of the prehistoric occupation of Central Texas (Collins 2002, 2004). Furthermore, ages obtained from Area 15 of the site confirms good stratigraphic agreement between the diagnostic artifacts, cultural horizons, and stratigraphic units (Rodrigues, et al. 2016; Williams, et al. 2018). This includes some of the earliest evidence for a projectile point technology in North America (Williams, et al. 2018). Like many areas in Central Texas, the combination of water, raw materials, and its position along the Balcones Escarpment provided abundant resources essential to survival.

The Gault Archaeological Site has a long history. The site takes its name from a previous landowner, Henry Gault, and the first scientific excavations were conducted there in 1929 under the supervision of J. E. Pearce. In 1990, David Olmstead reported a unique find; an Alibates Clovis point sandwiched between two limestone plaques with engraved geometric designs. This led to a site visit by Dr. Tom Hester and Dr. Michael Collins. This finding was followed in 1997 by the discovery of an extremely fragile mandible of a juvenile mammoth by the Lindsey family. These discoveries prompted the recent archaeological excavations at the site, which began in 1999 and lasted until 2002. As many archaeologists will attest, the most interesting findings came at the very end of the 2002 field season, when archaeologist Sam Gardner exposed cultural material stratigraphically below Clovis in a small test unit. This led to negotiations between Michael Collins and the Lindsey family that resulted in the purchase of the property by Dr. Collins and its donation to the Archaeological Conservancy. Between 2007-2014, Area 15 was excavated to expose the cultural materials below. With the cessation of excavations in 2014, research focuses on reporting these findings and how this early archaeological assemblage in Central Texas is redefining the search for the earliest human occupants of the Americas.

The front cover of this issue of the Journal of Texas Archaeology and History highlights two specific chronological periods in Texas. Firstly, in each corner you will find interactive 3D scans of four Clovis points that have been recovered from the site (Seldon et al. 2018). In between these, you will find an array of Archaic projectile points that have been recovered from the various excavations conducted between 1999-2002 and 2007-2014. This includes Early Archaic points such as the Hoxie and Martindale; Middle Archaic points including, Kinney and Nolan; and Late Archaic points including Pedernales, Marshall, and Bulverde. Clovis artifacts including, projectile points, blade cores, and diagnostic debitage have been recovered from a total of 9 excavation areas.

We will expand on these covers in the future to cover specific research projects currently being undertaken by the Gault School of Archaeological Research staff. The Gault School of Archaeological Research is a non-profit, 501(C)3 charitable organization dedicated to innovative, interdisciplinary research archaeology and education focusing on the earliest peoples in the western hemisphere and their cultural antecedents. The reader is encouraged to “click” around on the various cover images comprising the front and back cover border artwork to find and explore the additional rich content.
hidden there. Click here to open or download an informative “Appendix to the Cover Art containing this article, descriptive attribute data and a larger image of all projectile points shown on the front and back covers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sincere thanks go to Dr. Michael B. Collins, Dr. D. Clark Wernecke, and Nancy Velchoff at the Gault School of Archaeological Research. As some readers may well be aware, Texas projectile point typologies can divide opinion and every effort has been made to provide appropriate references. All of the types here were identified by Elton R. Prewitt, Dr. Robert Lassen, and Sergio Ayala as part of an ongoing analysis of the archaeological materials recovered from the Gault Site. Excavations at the Gault Site were funded in part by NSF Grant 0920549 to Texas State University, San arcos. The Gault School of Archaeological Research is funded with the generosity of private donors.

To learn more about the Gault Archaeological Site click here.
To find out about Dr. Zac Selden’s work at the Center for Regional Heritage Research click here.
To find out about the important research and working with the Gault School of Archaeological Research click here.
Text: Thomas J. Williams, Ph.D.
3-D Interactive Imaging: Robert Z. Selden, Jr., Ph.D.
Cover Border Artwork Images: Antonio Arcudi, Sergio, and Thomas J. Williams, PhD.
Central Texas Chronology sheets: Thomas J. Williams, Ph.D., text by Antonio Arcudi.
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“Gault at Night”
By Nancy Velchoff