

effects such as urban expansion, road and dam construction, farming and witless looting. Hence, one could scarcely imagine a more stimulating time to be engaged in Canadian archaeology.

Perhaps a century after Confederation, the end of the beginning of the study of Canadian prehistory is near. Many of the interpretations offered in the following summary of that prehistory may eventually appear foolish in the clearer light of future research. It is suggested that what will endure is an appreciation that Canada has, not a 100 or 400 years, but perhaps 40,000 years of heritage—and, as archaeologists reveal it, Canadians will be broadened and enriched by that vast and varied background.

### Prehistory of Eastern Canada

Eastern Canada, consisting of Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, south of the treeline, can be roughly divided into two major archaeological areas—Northern and Southern. Physiographically, the Northern area coincides with the Canadian Shield and the predominantly coniferous forests that cover northern Ontario, most of Quebec, and Newfoundland. The Southern area incorporates southern Ontario, the Eastern Townships and the St. Lawrence Valley of Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces, an area of predominantly hardwood forests.

There is clear evidence that the faunal and floral resources of the Southern area were able to support a far greater prehistoric population than the less kindly endowed Northern area. The richer archaeology of the south, however, has been complicated by the development of local cultural groups which interacted with each other and outside areas in a highly complex fashion. Conversely, the Northern area is characterized by a high degree of cultural similarity which allows certain general interpretations to be drawn from relatively limited archaeological data.

The sequence for both areas has been simplified and this review is intended to serve only as a rough outline of the prehistory of Eastern Canada. There is no reasonable doubt that new data will alter the current picture.

The earliest evidence of man in Eastern Canada dates between 10,000 and 11,000 years ago. In that period small bands of hunters, whose archaeological marker is a distinctive chipped stone lanceolate dart point, roamed the Southern area near the edge of the glacier which covered the north. These people were part of an extensive but thinly distributed population which entered the New World from Asia and rapidly occupied most of North America. Described under the archaeological term "Clovis" the dart heads of these early hunters have been found in direct association with the remains of extinct fauna such as the mammoth and mastodon, although direct evidence for the hunting of such animals in Eastern Canada is lacking.

The events that follow the Clovis occupation are somewhat complex. In western North America the Clovis culture became differentiated into a number of regional complexes which, on the basis of a shared stone-flaking technique called rippled flaking, are collectively termed "Plano". The Plano people like their Clovis ancestors were big game hunters who preyed predominantly on the bison although this generalization is naturally subject to the availability of other large mammals and the regional absence of the bison. Eastward penetration by Plano people seems limited to the Southern area of Ontario and the southern fringe of the Northern area of the same province, which was still covered by glacial ice 9,000 to 7,000 years ago. Their incomplete and weak migration into Eastern Ontario may be explained by the presence in the area of an earlier population. Although the data are very incomplete it appears that, as with Plano, the earlier Clovis population in the east evolved into various regional complexes which have been called Archaic. Early representatives of the Archaic cultures were, therefore, already in possession of most of Eastern Canada before the eastward movement of the Plano cultures began. Indeed, a number of sites have produced associated early Archaic and Plano artifacts indicating that the two populations were in direct contact with one another. Through a series of gradual stages, the Archaic population of the Southern area became more diversified with