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Cover: Selected artefacts of the Szenger collection (Péntek, 2025). Compiled by Attila Péntek.

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Zsolt Mester

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Some lithic artefacts from Mexico in the America–Collection of the Museum of Ethnography in Budapest

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Abstract. The America–Collection of the Museum of Ethnography in Budapest houses a small archaeological collection, donated originally to the Hungarian National Museum by Ede Szenger. Besides various ceramic objects, the collection contains some lithic artefacts, mostly bifacially manufactured projectile points. The exact origin of the lithic artefacts is unknown, but indirect evidence suggests that they come from the southeastern part of Tamaulipas State, Northeastern Mexico). This paper describes the lithic artefacts that can be analysed satisfactorily based on the typology lists available to the author.

Keywords: Mesoamerica, Mexico, Tamaulipas State, Huastec culture, projectile points

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1. Introduction

Ede Szenger (1833–1904), a field surgeon in Emperor Maximilian's army, was one of the few Hungarians who had participated in the Mexican campaign (Bánó 1906, p. 169). Szenger worked as the head surgeon of the Austrian military hospital in Pueblo until the emperor's death, which he witnessed. He settled in San Luis Potosí, where he established his medical practice. During his ten years in Mexico, he travelled extensively throughout the country, publishing a book about his travels after he returned to Hungary (Szenger, 1877). After his return to Hungary, Szenger donated his ethnographic and archaeological collection of 70 objects to the museum in 1875 and 1899. Almost all items in the collection originated from Mexico. He appended an inventory list to his 1875 donation, which contained a short description of each object with its size and provenance, titled "Inventory of the Mexican antiquities brought from Mexico and donated to the Hungarian National Museum by Dr. Ede Szenger" (NMI 1/1875). Aside from the entry in the Accessions Register, only a letter of gratitude from Vilibald Semayer has survived about the 1899 donation (NMI 93/899). This list reveals that most of the objects came from San Luis Potosí State (Los Pinos, Rioverde), where he was active as a physician, from neighbouring northern Veracruz State (Tanguian [sic!], Tanquián to southwest of Tampico) and from the Mexico City area (Teotihuacan, Popocatepetl area) (Gyarmati 2008). Concerning the biography of Ede Szenger, see also, Bodó (2007), Szállási (2008), Szente-Varga (2012), and Venkovits (2014).

The Szenger collection also contains 13 pieces of chipped stone. Although the provenance of the finds is uncertain, this small assemblage of artefacts includes some interesting projectile points, which justify a brief description of the finds. Basic artefact dimensions were measured with the "box method" (Debénath & Dibble, 1994, p. 19). In the typological study, the identification of the individual finds was based on numerous literature (García Cook, 1967; MacNeish, 1958;

Parry 2002; Suhm & Krieger, 1954; Suhm, & Jelks, 1962; Tolstoy, 1971). Since the author's earlier article (Péntek, 2024) discussed several technological issues concerning the production of lithic artefacts in Central America, we will not discuss them here. The inventory numbers (inv. no.) of the artefacts are in brackets. In Fig. 1, settlements, some archaeological sites mentioned in the text, and the Huasteca Region in Northeastern Mexico can be seen.

2. Description of the collection

(2024.24.1). Proximal fragment of a parallel-edged prismatic blade. On the upper face, there are two guiding arrises, lines formed by the meeting of two removal negatives. The cross-section is sub-triangular to trapezoidal. The distal end is broken due to some non-anthropogenic force. Its talon (the remnant of the striking surface) is smooth, "bird wing" shaped. The entire lower face shows concentric shock wave ripples. The upper face shows traces of abrasion to strengthen the core rim, removing overhangs or destructive projections. There are intensive use-wear traces along both lateral edges. Dimensions are length (80.3) × 20.3 × 4.5 mm and the weight is 8.9 g. The raw material is black, opaque obsidian. (Fig. 2.1)

(2024.24.2). Distal fragment of a parallel-edged prismatic blade. On the upper face, two guiding arrises are visible. The cross-section is trapezoidal. The presumed proximal end is accidentally broken, indicated by a tongue-shaped breakage (lower position). The distal end is inclined from left to right, truncated in an oblique line. There is use-related retouch along both lateral edges. Dimensions are (66.9) × 18.1 × 4.1 mm. Weight is 6.8 g. The raw material is black obsidian, translucent on the edges. (Fig. 2.2)

Based on the generally accepted definition, the prismatic blade is a long, narrow, specialised blade, made mostly from polyhedral cores through pressure flaking or direct percussion. Prismatic blades very often have trapezoidal cross-section, sometimes very close in appearance to an isosceles trapezoid. However, they may have a triangular cross-section as well. Concerning blade production strategies in Mexico, there is a lot of literature available (see, for example, Crabtree, 1968; 1972; Tolstoy, 1971; Clark, 1982; Clark & Bryant, 1997; Parry, 1994; 2002; Darras, 2008; 2012). It is neither possible nor necessary to discuss these two artefacts in more detail here, since neither the age of the finds nor their cultural affiliation can be concluded.

(2024.24.3). Proximal fragment of a small-sized, irregularly shaped, unretouched flake. Its butt is punctiform. Dimensions are (19.7) × 15.5 × 3.7 mm. Weight is 1.0 g. The raw material is black obsidian, translucent on the edges. (Fig. 2.3)

(2024.24.4). Bifacially manufactured spear point; slightly asymmetrical to the longitudinal axis, that is, the debitage axis is different from the morphological axis. The cross-section is biconvex and triangular in plan view. The lateral edges are approximately straight and slightly convex. The barb on one side is damaged or shorter due to a knapping error. Dimensions are 53.4 × 32.6 × 8.8 mm. Weight is 9.8 g. The raw material is yellowish white "chert", cryptocrystalline or polycrystalline quartz, usually formed as nodules in limestone. The entire surface is shiny; this may be due to the properties of the raw material, taphonomy (geochemistry, soil conditions) or thermal effects. (Fig. 2.4)

The general type of the projectile point is "corner-notched with expanding stem, and barbed". The closest morphological analogies in Garcia Cook's typology are the Tecolote I points (1967, pp. 66–67, Lam. XII, 7–8). The measurement data for this type is 5.3 × 3.7 × 0.8 cm. In Tolstoy's typology (1971, p. 281, fig. 3, j) it is Lange point with broad flaring stem and barbs. According to the description of Suhm & Krieger (1954, p. 436, Plate 97; see, also, Suhm & Jelks 1962, pp. 203–204, Plate 102), the Lange points have a great morphological variety. Large triangular blades, the edges can be straight to convex, occasionally concave or recurved, and the shoulders are prominent and often well barbed. Stem edges expand, often straight, and the base is almost always straight but may be slightly concave or convex. The dimensions vary in a rather wide range, the total length is about 5 to 8.5 cm, and the maximum width across shoulders is 2.7 to 4 cm. Stems are 1.7 to 2.5 cm wide at the base. The given estimated age is 4,000 BC to 1,000 AD. The authors mentioned the resemblance to the Castroville type of points.

(2024.24.5). Bifacially manufactured flat arrowhead. In plan view, it has a regular triangular shape, symmetrical to the longitudinal axis, with a biconvex cross-section. The tip is broken in a straight line. The lateral edges are straight.

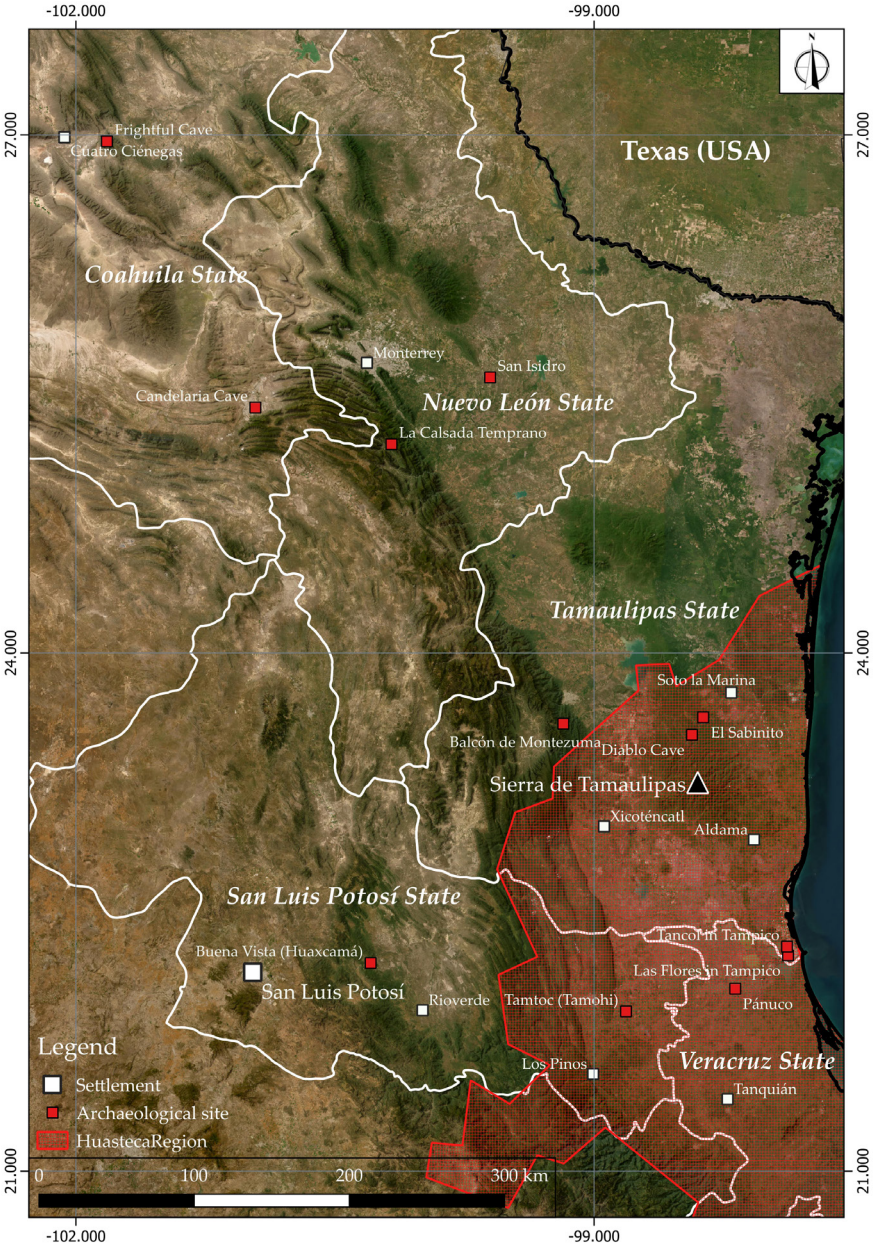

Fig. 1. Settlements, some archaeological sites, and the Huasteca Region in Northeastern Mexico (Map courtesy of World Imagery).

The butt and bulb are not visible, they have been removed with fine removals. The length of the slightly converging stem is 6.7 mm, and the shoulders are straight. Dimensions are [33.5] × 20.1 × 5.9 mm. Weight is 1.0 g. The raw material is a whitish-grey, slightly coarse-textured "chert". (Fig. 2.5)

The general type of the projectile point is "with contracting stem". According to Suhm & Krieger (1954, pp. 438–439, Plate 98; see, also, Suhm & Jelks 1962, pp. 205–206, Plate 103), the triangular blade of this Langtry point may have straight to concave or recurved edges. Shoulders are prominent to widely outflaring, often uneven. The barbs may sweep widely outward, and the stems are long, generally contracting. The dimensions vary in a rather wide range, the total length is about 4 to 7 cm and the maximum width across the shoulders is 2.2 to 4 cm. Stems are 0.6 to 1.6 cm wide at the base. The given estimated age is uncertain, an unknown time before Christ to 700 or 800 AD. Garcia Cook (1967, p. 61, Lam. IX, 7–8) classified the Langtry point in the class of "*Familia IV, Muescas que eliminan esquinas*" (Notches that eliminate corners), without giving any details.

(2024.24.6). Bifacially manufactured arrowhead. It is regular in plan view, symmetrical to the longitudinal axis. The lateral edges are slightly convex and it has a flat biconvex cross-section. The tip of the arrowhead is broken. The right side of the concave base is broken. Dimensions are [35.5] × 21.0 × 3.9 mm. Weight is 2.3 g. The raw material is yellowish-white "chert". (Fig. 3.1)

The general point type is "corner-notched with a concave base and expanding stem". From the morphological point of view, the arrowhead is very similar to the Marcos points but significantly smaller. The Marcos points (Suhm & Krieger 1954, pp. 442–443, Plate 100; Suhm & Jelks 1962, pp. 209–210, Plate 105) have generally large, broad triangular blades with edges straight, slightly convex, or even gently recurved. They are always barbed, deep notches are cut into corners at about a 45-degree angle; it always makes the stem strongly expanding. The bases are straight to convex, rarely slightly concave. The total length is 4.5 to 9–10 cm, and the maximum width across barbs is about 3 to 4.5 cm. The stem base is about 2 to 3 cm, and rather consistently about 1 cm long. The estimated age is possibly 2,000 BC to 1,000 AD.

According to Suhm & Krieger, Marcos point bears resemblances to Ensor points (Suhm & Krieger 1954, pp. 422–423, Plate 90; Suhm & Jelks 1962, pp. 189–190, Plate 95), but is distinguished by deeper notches and narrower stem neck in proportion to blade width, and is generally broader with much longer barbs. There are resemblances to Castroville points (Suhm & Krieger, 1954, pp. 408–409, Plate 83; Suhm & Jelks 1962, pp. 173–174, Plate 87), but stems not as broad across the neck and expand more sharply, notches do not cut inward from the base.

Garcia Cook (1967, pp. 62–63, Lam. X. 3–4) listed similar points in the class of "*Familia V, Muescas angulares*" (Angular notches) as Marcos-Tepeapulco points, a local variant of Marcos points. This variant has a wider base and the retouching is finer elaborated.

Tolstoy (1971, p. 278, fig. 2) represented a Marcos point with a convex base. He also referenced a similar point revealed during the excavation led by George C. Vaillant at Ticoman (Vaillant, 1931, Plate LXXXVI, 3rd row, 9, 10). The site of Ticoman like the nearby sites of El Arbolillo, Zacatengo, and Tlatilco in the central valley of Mexico, belongs to the so-called "Formative Period", from about 1,500 BC to the beginning of the Christian era.

(2024.24.7). Arrowhead made on a microblade (narrow blade) with one guiding arris and a triangular cross-section. Its cross-section is parallelogram-shaped. The lateral edges are straight, and bifacially retouched, and the tip of the arrowhead is damaged. Both lateral edges

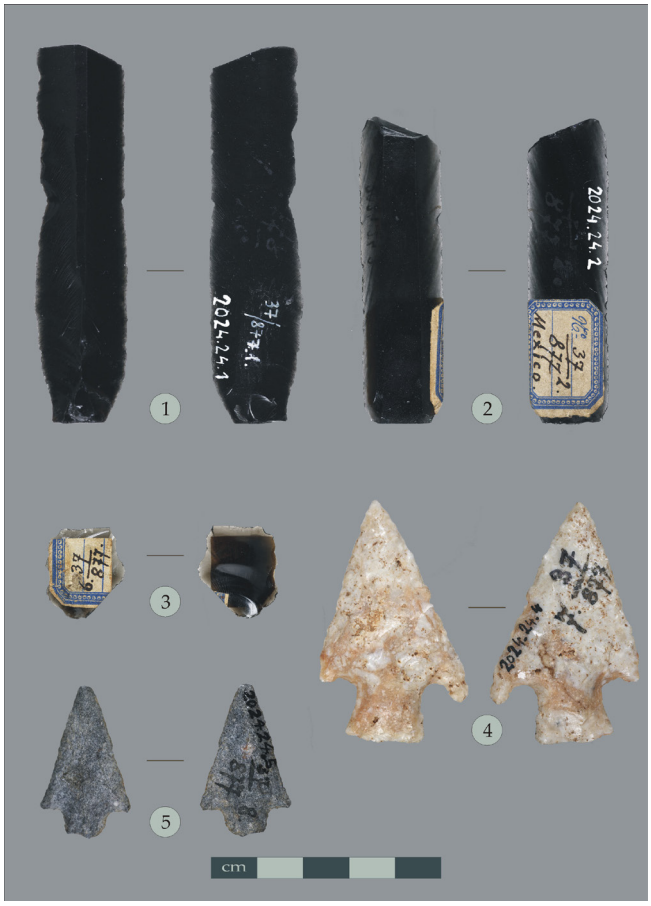

Fig. 2. Selected artefacts of the Szenger collection. Photos: Attila Péntek

have two narrow, shallow notches. Dimensions are [29.9] × 15.7 × 5.1 mm. Weight is 1.9 g. The raw material is greyish "chert". (Fig. 3.2)

The general type of the arrowhead is "corner-notched with expanding stem and convex base". It can be identified either as a San Antonio Multiple Notch point or rather as a Duran point. Concerning the first alternative (https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/San%20Antonio%20Multiple%20Notch.html), this point has an approximate date of 1,800 to 650 BP. Its cultural period is "Transitional Archaic to Classic". This is a small to medium triangular to ovoid expanding stem point with a thin cross-section. The blade is excurvate and has two to three notches on both edges above the base. The shoulders are asymmetrical and commonly at an upward angle. The stem is expanding with a convex base. This point is made from an ovoid preform and has a random flaking pattern. Size measurements are: length is 25 to 40 mm (average 32 mm), blade width is 16 to 24 mm (average 20 mm), and thickness is 3 to 5 mm (average 4 mm).

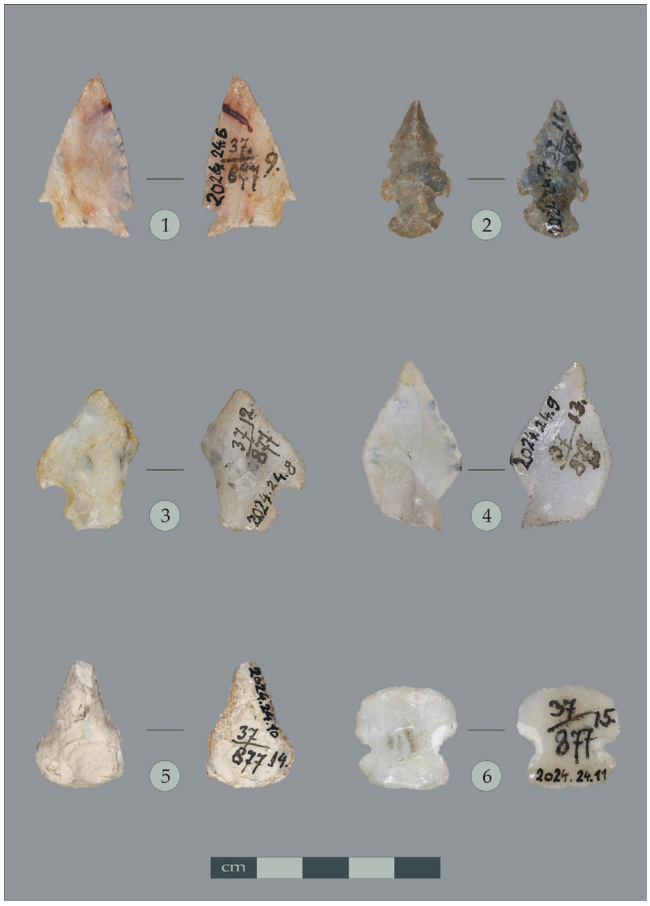

Fig. 3. Selected artefacts of the Szenger collection. Photos: Attila Péntek

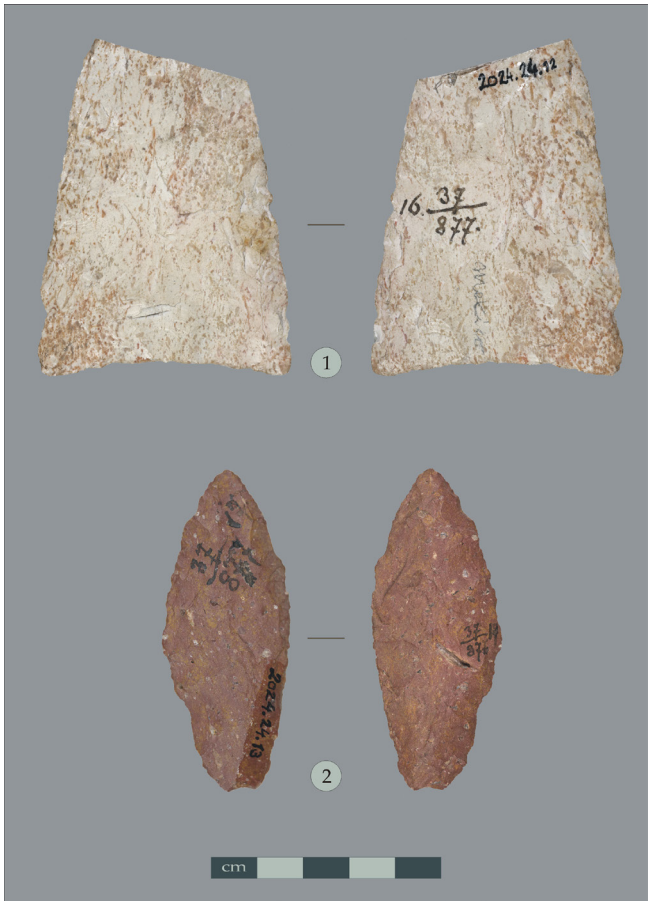

Fig. 4. Selected artefacts of the Szenger collection. Photos: Attila Péntek

Spence (1971) records these arrowheads to the west of Zacatecas and Durango, where the three variants of Lazalde (1992) can be recognised. The San Antonio Phase within the Chalchihuites culture is dated between 850 and 1,000 AD).

As regards the Duran dart points, defined by Taylor (1966) for the Cuatro Ciénegas region of Coahuila State, these points are characterized by rounded to expanding stems and by one or two notches on the lateral edges. Their distribution is exclusive to the north/northeast of Mexico (Coahuila, Zacatecas, Durango, San Luis Potosí) since they are not reported for the American Southeast or Texas. They are associated with the "Middle Archaic Period" between 2,500 BC to 1,200 AD (Lazalde, 1992; Turner *et al.*, 2011; Gallaga Murrieta, 2018, p. 54). In his doctoral thesis, Ortiz Pérez (2018), under the name of the "Duran" morphological group discussed in detail the multi-notched arrowheads. Four morphological classes with several subclasses were distinguished, and their geographical distribution and cultural association were also given.

(2024.24.8). Roughly, bifacially manufactured arrowhead. Thick, and symmetrical to the longitudinal axis, it has an irregularly triangular shape in plan view. The left lateral edge is irregularly lined, and the end of the barb is rounded. The right side is fragmentary. It has no butt or bulb, the base is straight-lined, and both corners of the base are oblique. Dimensions are 30.9 × [20.5] × 7.1 mm. Weight 4.0 g. The raw material is off-white "chert". (Fig. 3.3)

The general type of the arrowhead is "corner-notched with extracting stem". Its closest analogy is the Ensor point. According to Suhm & Krieger (1954, pp. 422–423, Plate 90; Suhm & Jelks 1962, pp. 189–190, Plate 95), the blade is triangular and varies considerably in length and width. The edges may be slightly concave. The shoulders vary from slight to pronounced, and barbs, if present are short. Stems are broad across the neck. The total length is about 3 to 7 cm (the average is perhaps 5 cm), and the maximum width across the base or shoulders is 2 to 3 cm. The stem is seldom more than 1 cm long. See, also, Tolstoy (1971, p. 278, fig. 2, m).

(2024.24.9). An irregularly shaped, thick flake, likely an arrowhead, with a guiding arris and a sub-triangular cross-section. The distal end terminates in a blunt tip; the converging lateral edges are approximately straight, and retouched. Near the distal end of the left edge, there is a small inverse (struck from the upper face) notch. Dimensions are [37.9] × 22.1 × 10.3 mm. Weight is 5.7 g. The raw material is white "chert", translucent at the edges. The expanding stem was either originally so unusually one-sided or damaged. In the latter case, the recycled arrowhead may have been used as a borer. (Fig. 3.4)

The assumed arrowhead was probably the so-called Ellis point (Suhm & Krieger, 1954, pp. 420–421, Plate 89; Suhm & Jelks, 1962, pp. 187–188, Plate 94; Garcia Cook, 1967, pp. 62–63, Lam. X. 19–20; Tolstoy, 1971, p. 278, fig. 2). This point is a short triangular blade usually with straight to concave lateral edges. Shoulders are prominent or well-barbed. The stem expands towards the base but is not as broad as the shoulders, and the base is straight to convex. The total length is 3 to 5 cm, and the maximum width across the shoulders is about 2 to 3 cm. The estimated age is possibly 1,000 BC or earlier to 500 or 1,000 AD.

(2024.24.10). In plan view, it is a sub-triangular arrowhead with rounded corners and irregular lateral edges. The tip is slightly damaged, and the base is convex. The lateral edges and the distal end near the tip are bifacially retouched. The proximal ends of the upper and lower faces are only thinned. Dimensions are 27.5 × 19.2 × 5.9 mm. Weight is 2.5 g. The raw material is white, opaque "chert". (Fig. 3.5)

The arrowhead is atypical, its closest morphological analogy is perhaps the Loma Small point (https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Loma%20Small.html). This is a small triangular point with a thin elliptical cross-section. The blade is broad and commonly excurvate with a base that ranges from straight to convex and square to rounded basal corners. One blade may have a faint or suggestion of a notch. This point has a random flaking pattern. Size measurements based on small sample size are, length is 27 to 36 mm (average 30 mm), blade width is 16 to 23 mm (average 18 mm), and thickness is 4 to 9 mm (average 7 mm). The date is 1,800–1,400 BP; the Cultural period is "Transitional Archaic to Preclassic". There is a great cluster of similar points.

(2024.24.11). It appears to have originally been a "side-notched convex base" type arrowhead, with slightly convex side edges. If this were the case, then after the distal end and tip were damaged, it was converted into a double end-scraper. During the reworking, an approximately straight distal scraper edge was formed, and another scraper edge was formed on the convex base. Both scraper edges are retouched semi-abrupt, there are no signs of renewal. The patina is asymmetrical, the entire surface of the upper face is shiny, and on the lower face, only the "use shine/polish" created during the use of the scraper edge on the base is visible. Dimensions are 23.3 × 22.2 × 4.1 mm. Weight is 2.7 g. The raw material is whitish "chert" or "milky opalite". (Fig. 3.6)

However, the interpretation of the object is different from the above. According to Aveleyra *et al.* (1956, pp. 75–77), this object is an extremely specialised tool. Since it was also found inside the La Candelaria cave, it is certainly part of the Candelaria industry itself. These end-scrapers offer a very clear and perfect case of typological evolution, starting from the simple terminal end-scrapers and gradually tending to be stemmed. There are a certain number of notched and stemmed scrapers in various archaeological sites in the United States, but these are invariably made in a very different way to those from Las Delicias in Chihuahua State. They are essentially different since they are stemmed projectile points whose upper half of the blade was broken off. The basal, stemmed portion was preserved by reworking the fracture plane to use the fragment as an end-scraper. This type of end-scraper is especially common in the lithics of the Teotihuacan culture. Gamio illustrates three obsidian specimens belonging to this type, which he calls "spoon-shaped scrapers with a blade", used for "scraping" maguey ("*Piezas de obsidiana en forma de cuchara con filo, que indudalamente se usaron para la «raspa» del maguey*"; Gamio, 1922, Vol. I, p. 216, Lám. 120, d). Linné found another identical piece made of obsidian among the offerings of a Teotihuacan burial explored in Tlamimilolpa (Linné, 1942, pp. 134–135, Figs. 263-271; above, centre). He called the object "a ladle-shaped scraper, possibly used in tapping maguey plants for pulque."

(2024.24.12). Proximal fragment of a large dart- or spearhead, biconvex in cross-section. The distal end is broken obliquely long ago, the fracture surface is relatively smooth. Its patination is

the same as of the entire surface. The probable cause of the fracture could have been a knapping accident. Both slightly convex lateral edges are bifacially retouched, on both the upper and lower face, there are negatives of some irregular, larger transverse thinning removals. The base is slightly concave, thinned on both faces, likely for hafting purposes. Dimensions are [73.4] × 54.8 × 6.7 mm. Weight is 33.6 g. The reconstructed length could have been between 120 and 125 mm. The raw material is whitish, non-transparent, yellowish-brown spotted "chert". (Fig. 4.1)

The morphological most likely analogy is the Kinney point. According to Suhm & Krieger (1954, p. 434, Plate 96), it is a leaf-shaped blade, the lateral edges are usually convex but in some cases, they are almost straight. The base is always concave. The typical dimensions are 4.5 to 11 cm, maximum width is about 2 to 3.5 cm. As the authors noted, it is quite possible that at least the longest and broadest specimens were knives. The estimated age is 1, 000 or 2,000 BC to 1,000 AD. The Kinney point is widely spread from the central coastal region of Texas, the Rio Pecos region into the Gulf Coast and down to the coastal region of Tamaulipas in Northeast Mexico. The description of the Kinney point in MacNeish (1958, pp. 71–72, fig. 25.12) is somewhat different. The blade has parallel (or slightly convex) edges for half their length and then taper with convex edges to a point. On their surfaces, there are wide diagonal or straight removals through pressure flaking (not ripple flaking). Points range from 56 to 93 mm long (averaging 73 mm), have a maximum width at their base of 30 to 40 mm, averaging 34 mm, and the maximal thickness is about 8 mm.

On the webpage LITHICS-Net, the Center of the Web for Point Typology Information on North American Aborigine Projectile Points, Arrowheads & Lithics, based on recent data, there is a considerably wider definition of the Kinney point (http://www.lithicsnet.com/kinney.htm). Based on this definition, the Kinney blade is a medium to large-sized, thin, lanceolate, well-made knife blade with incurvate, excurvate or straight blade edges and a concave basal edge. The Kinney has a definite triangular outline and the blade can range from 50 mm to 178 mm in length. The represented specimen measures 85 mm in length, 37 mm wide at the base and is only 7 mm at its thickest point (18 mm from the concavity of the base) with the blade being a rather uniform 6 mm in thickness. The Kinney is found in Texas from the Pecos River eastward to the Caddoan area, it is most common from the Gulf Coast northward into the central Texas area. The associated dates are 3,000–1,000 BP., "Late Archaic" to "Late Woodland" cultural periods.

The Projectile Point Identification Guide webpage (http://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Kinney.html) defines the Kinney point as follows, "This is a medium to large (typically 2 to 3 inches) triangular blade with a flattened cross-section. The blade is primarily excurvate, but may vary to almost straight and is never beveled. Re-sharpened examples may have an incurvate blade. The base is concave and rarely has hafting region grinding and/or smoothing. This point has a random flaking pattern." Size measurements are: length is 45 to 110 mm, width is 20 to 35 mm. This point is primarily found from the central coastal region of Texas into the Gulf Coast into the Pecos region and down to the coastal region of Tamaulipas. The webpage mentions this point as similar to the Tortugas point (also known as Baird Beveled Blade and Taylor Thinned Blade; see, Kelly, 1947). The given cultural period is "Transitional Archaic", and the date is 3,000–2,000 BP.

Some researchers suggest that some of these types were not just points but knives. These stemless points are triangular to elongated in shape, with curved and parallel edges with a concave base and in some cases a small groove. Their distribution is centred in the southwestern region of Texas and possibly within northeastern Mexico. Their temporality is located in the Middle Archaic (2,500–1,200 BC) (Gallaga Murrieta, 2018, p. 54). An extensive study of Kinney has been carried out by Goode (2002. He separated the specimens from the Anthon sie (41UV60; Nueces River, southern Uvalde County, Texas) into four forms, suggesting some were dart points and others were used as knives (Turner *et al.* 2011, p. 121).

(2024.24.13). Its longitudinal axis is symmetrical, and in plan view, it is a spindle-shaped dart- or spearhead with a biconvex cross-section. Both faces have thinning removals, the convex lateral edges are bifacially retouched. The tip is slightly obtuse. The proximal end, the narrow base is slightly concave and bifacially worked. Presumably, it was made on a suitable raw material piece and not on a debitage product

(flake, thick blade). Probably due to a knapping accident, the proximal end on one side is slightly "shouldered" in shape, and the base is narrowed. Dimensions are 69 × 27.5 × 10.5 mm. Weight is 17.9 g. The raw material is brownish rock with quartz crystals, probably of volcanic origin. (Fig. 4.2)

The general type of the arrowhead is Lerma point, similar to Refugio point (Suhm & Krieger, 1954, pp. 440–441, Plate 99; MacNeish, 1958, pp. 62–63, Fig. 23.22–27, Lerma Double-pointed; Suhm & Jelks, 1962, pp. 207–208, Plate 104; Garcia Cook, 1967, p. 56, Lam. VII. 1–2 Lermoide, Lam. VII. 3–4 Refugio; Tolstoy, 1971, p. 277, fig. 2,e Refugio fig. 2,i Lerma; García Moll, 1973, p. 34, Lám. 12 Refugio; Cambron & Hulse, 1975, p. 80, Lerma Rounded Base).

On the webpage LITHICS-Net (http://www.lithicsnet.com/lermaroundedbase.htm), the description of the Lerma Rounded Base projectile point is the following: "its a medium to large sized long, ovoid, likely to be leaf-shaped form, having excurvate sides and a rounded basal end. Some points have small serrations on the blade edges. The stem end contracts to a rounded shape. The stem is usually lightly ground."

The longer and broader examples of the type are thought to have doubled as knives or spear points. The type was manufactured by applying Transitional Palaeolithic flaking technique, irregular pressure and percussion flaking. The average example measured 109 mm long and 28 mm wide as the bade base junction which is the widest dimension and averages 9 mm thick. The associated dates are 10,000–5,000 B.P. – "Transitional Paleo" to "Early Archaic" period.

The Projectile Point Identification Guide webpage (http://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Lerma.html) gives the following definition for the Lerma Bi-Point or Lerma Round Base projectile point. The Lerma point is usually a long, slender, double-pointed leaf-shaped blade; one end may be somewhat rounded. For the most part, their thickness and steep edges make them unsuitable for knives and their symmetry suggests the balance needed for projectile points. Typical dimensions are: length is 5.5 to 10 cm, maximum width is 2 to 3 cm. The distribution is from the western part of Central Texas to the Pecos River mouth, southward to the central coast and Southwest Texas, and south of Rio Grande to southern Tamaulipas in Northeast Mexico. According to Suhm & Krieger (1954, p. 440), the Lerma points possibly appeared earliest in southern Tamaulipas, several thousand years BC.

3. Discussion

Apart from the two obsidian blade fragments, the small assemblage is extremely heterogeneous. It looks like a small, deliberately assembled selection. Since no precise information is available on the provenance of the artefacts, it seems very likely that Szenger may have received the finds either as a gift or as a fee as a practising physician. Regarding the possible provenance, perhaps a starting point is that according to János Gyarmati (2008) "The most outstanding pieces in his collection are the painted and figural vessels made in the Huasteca style from San Luis Potosí." The pre-Columbian Huastec civilization occupied a vast territory on the Gulf Coast of Mexico, including the northern part of Veracruz State, the southeastern area of San Luis Potosí State and the southern portion of Tamaulipas State. The migration history of the Huastecs is rather complex, they arrived in the Huasteca Region probably between 1,500 BC and 900 BC (see, for, example, Kaufmann, 1976). There is linguistic evidence that the language of the Huastecs descended from Proto-Mayan and the precursor of the language diverged from the Proto-Mayan language between 2200 and 1200 BC (see, for, example, Dahlin *et al.*, 1987). Numerous writers (see, for example, Krieger, 1945; Du Solier *et al.*, 1947) have supported the validity of the assumption that there were cultural relations between the people of the U.S. Southeast and the more complex cultures of Mexico. This assumption also applies to the Huastec civilization, to its material culture. It is therefore no coincidence that MacNeish (1958, p. 25) used the terminology and typology of Suhm & Krieger (1954) when analyzing a large collection of projectile points from the Sierra de Tamaulipas mountain range in southern Tamaulipas state. He classified altogether 807 projectile points found in the Sierra de Tamaulipas into eighteen types that have significance in space and time. However, he also identified twenty projectile points that did not fit any of the defined categories from Tamaulipas. He called these aberrant points, and many of them may have been traded into the area from other regions.

The Kinney point (inv. no. 2024.24.12) of the Szenger collection was regarded by MacNeish (1958, p. 59) also as an aberrant point since the six specimens found in the Sierra de Tamaulipas occurred only in the Almagre cave. MacNeish was able to radiocarbon date the Almagre Phase from a shell pendant roughly 2,200 to 1,800 BC (cf. Mahoney *et al.*, 2002, p. 76, 4,200–3,500 BP). In conclusion, it can be stated that the object in the Szenger collection is a rather large, unusually wide specimen.

Concerning the Lerma point (inv. no. 2024.24.13), referring to Creswell (1956, pp. 413–414, Type 11A), MacNeish (1958, p. 58) wrote that the earliest type projectile point, having a general laurel-leaf shape, was widespread in pre-ceramic horizons in America. The data in Tamaulipas, in the Valley of Mexico (Cruxent & Rouse, 1956), and Coahuila suggest that Lerma Double-pointed is a very early type that endured into later horizons in some parts of North America. MacNeish also raised the hypothetical question of whether the similarly shaped points and their accompanying complexes from the earliest horizons of South America, namely, the El Jobo Complex of Venezuela (Aveleyra, 1953), the Shell Fishhook culture in northern Chile (Bird, 1943), and the Huancayo Complex of Peru (Tschopik, 1946) were related to those in Tamaulipas.

As far as Tamaulipas was concerned, this Lerma Phase projectile point type could not have been connected with those from later horizons. The Lerma Phase for Tamaulipas was dated from the Diablo Cave (Cañón del Diablo) to 9,270±500 BP (Crane & Griffin, 1958, p. 1103, M-499). According to Epstein *et al.* (1980, p. 87) MacNeish's date for the Lerma Phase at Diablo Cave (7,320±500 BC) probably gives the earliest date. Confirmation of this placement comes from the La Calsada rock shelter near Moterrey in the Pilón River valley (Nuevo León State, Sierra Madre Oriental), where the three earliest dates of the unit containing Lerma points being 7,360±160 BC, 7,320±150 BC, and 6,660±100 BC. These dates are in line with the earliest dates of 7,585±550 BC and 7,345±400 BC from Frightful Cave (Cueva Espantosa) in Coahuila (Crane & Griffin, 1958, p. 1104; Taylor, 1966). Epstein *et al.* (1980, p. 68, Tab. 4), gave an approximate date for the Lerma Phase in Sierra de Tamaulipas as 8,000–7,000 BC. Acosta *et al.*, 2016, Tab.2), after Epstein (1969), mentioned the San Isidro site in Tamaulipas where Lerma points were also present.

Ardelean (2013, pp. 100–103) discussed the Lerma point among the controversial types, which pose a series of intriguing problems related to either the artefacts themselves or their inter-association in the archaeological record. Referring to the given date for the Lerma point of White (2006, p. 238) of 6,500–1,000 BC, and similar "guessing" chronologies (see, for example, Suhm & Krieger, 1954; Turner & Hester, 1993) he stated that "A lithic type with over 5,000 years of survival and with such a wide variety of shapes and sizes is rather a symptom of confusion than an objective reality and a technological tradition."

Regarding the used raw materials of the Szenger collection, only a few general remarks can be made. According to MacNeish (1958, p. 153), the flint knapped the Lerma people – who were living in nomadic micro-bands – was predominantly not from the local strata of grey chert like the later horizons. The presence of foreign flint may indicate some outside trade contacts. Local chert, either the black or dark grey variety can be found in lenses in the Canyon Diablo, the mottled light grey chert of Canyon Calabaza (MacNeish 1958, p. 154). In later horizons (Laguna, Eslabones, and La Salta Phases; 650 BC to AD 1,000 or 1,000 BC to AD 1,000 (Epstein *et al.*, 1980, p. 68, Table 4)), there is considerable evidence of widespread trade, obsidian, among others, was imported from the South. In the Laguna Phase, the majority of the prismatic blades were made of obsidian, and some of them were struck from cylindrical fluted cores with a striking platform at right angles to the side.

4. Conclusion

As can be seen, the seemingly insignificant small assemblage of artefacts of uncertain origin contains several interesting and problematic objects. As the date of each projectile point type is very relative and in many cases only indicative, the projectile points can be classified within a broad period. Thus at the same time, the collection presents an instructive cross-section of the area around Tamaulipas in northeastern Mexico. The paper is also a brief commemoration of the Hungarian surgeon Ede Szenger, no longer known to many. One can only hope that the

Huastec ceramics in the collection originating from him will also be processed.

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