

Review of Kruger 2: Un site Paléoindien récent à Brompton.
Compiled under the direction of
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Reviewed by Daniel Cassedy

It was a pleasure to read and review this substantial and substantive volume, which represents a major contribution to our understanding of the early prehistory of northeastern North America. It documents the multi-year, multi-disciplinary investigations led by Claude Chapdelaine and Eric Graillon at Kruger 2, a Late Paleoindian site that is situated adjacent to some rapids on the St. Francis River in Quebec. Only two years after the close of investigations in 2018, they produced this impressive volume written with 15 collaborators. The number and quality of illustrations is very high, with color photographs of the excavations and the artifacts, and many helpful regional maps illustrating how this site fits into the larger landscape. Don't let the fact that it is written in French hold you back from getting this book, the photographs and maps would be worth it even if you *ne parler pas* the *Français*.

At Kruger 2, they recovered thousands of lithic artifacts, including six whole lanceolate points, over 100 point fragments, 14 preforms, and over 300 bifaces. The faunal assemblage included almost 10,000 specimens, and they were able to obtain multiple radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dates. In combination with the diagnostic long lanceolate unfluted projectile points and comprehensive comparisons with other Northeastern sites, they were able to refine the chronology of Late Paleoindian occupations in the region to 10,800 - 9,000 years ago.

New England archaeologists will be particularly interested in the notable presence of

multiple lithic raw material types from Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, including Cheshire quartzite, Mt. Jasper rhyolite, and Mt. Kineo rhyolite (among others). Throughout the book, it is clear that the authors have been actively communicating and collaborating with multiple New England Paleoindian researchers such as Richard Boisvert, Nathaniel Kitchell, Jonathan Lothrop, Jess Robinson, Heather Rockwell, Arthur Spiess and others, which should remind us all to erase the international border line from our regional maps.

The 37-page environmental setting chapter by Pierre Richard is a tour de force that synthesizes recent geological and biological studies from the Maritime Provinces, New York, and New England to produce a very valuable context for interpreting the post-glacial human settlement of the region. Profusely illustrated with helpful graphics (as is the rest of the volume), this chapter would be worth the purchase of the book by itself.

In his synthesis chapter, Chapdelaine interprets the Late Paleoindian occupants of northeastern North America as having originated in the Great Plains and then moving east through the Great Lakes, rather than developing locally from Early and Middle Paleoindian cultures. He also documents the evidence that the Late Paleoindian groups are exploiting a broad range of fauna, from beavers to birds to fish (including sturgeon).

Our Canadian colleagues have set the bar high by conducting a high-quality excavation, analyzing, and publishing their data in a relatively short time frame, and presenting interdisciplinary results that will be valuable for an international audience. As retired New Hampshire State Archaeologist, Dick Boisvert recently noted in his review, "this publication is required for any archeologist who wishes to understand the Late Paleoindian for this corner of the continent" (Boisvert 2021).

Reference:

Boisvert, Richard
2021 New Reads: Kruger 2: Un site Paléoindien récent à Brompton. *The New Hampshire Archaeological Society Newsletter* 37(1):4-5.