ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS NEAR KAMLOOPS

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I INTRODUCTION

This report is concerned with archaeological excavations in the south-central interior of British Columbia, in the vicinity of Kamloops. The principal results of the research are the description and incorporation of new archaeological data into a cultural-historical synthesis for the Kamloops locality. The purpose of the first section is to introduce the objectives of the research, the area investigated, previous archaeology, and the list of archaeological units utilized to interpret the new data.

Research Objectives

The ultimate research objective is the reconstruction of the culture history for the Kamloops locality. Since at the outset of the research, the prehistory was very little known, the immediate research objective was to sample a selection of sites to determine their cultural content and temporal range. As the funding for field research was directed towards salvage of threatened sites, the sites chosen were, for the most part, those in the greatest immediate danger of destruction. In the reconstruction of the culture history for the locality, the archaeological features and materials are described in detail, and a sequence of archaeological units is devised. This sequence is then compared to cultural sequences for other localities in the Interior Plateau of British Columbia.

Research Area

The research area is termed the Kamloops locality, the definition of locality being an archaeological unit "...small enough to permit the working assumption of complete cultural homogeneity at any given time" (Willey and Phillips 1958:18). The Kamloops locality has as its focal point the confluence of the North and South Thompson Rivers. It extends along the river valleys eastwards to Monte Creek, northwards to Rayleigh, and westwards to the shores of Lake Kamloops. Figure 1 shows the location in south-central British Columbia of the Kamloops and other archaeological localities mentioned in the text.

Archaeological research was concentrated on the narrow north shore floodplain of the South Thompson River, eastwards from Kamloops for a distance of approximately 30 km. The entire length of this floodplain from Kamloops to Chase consists of one long continuum of prehistoric sites, but the density of sites directly to the north and east of Kamloops allowed for an adequate investigation to occur within an area of less than 30 square kilometres. Figure 2 shows the South Thompson River Valley looking west towards Kamloops from the eastern boundary of the locality.

Geographical Setting

As designated by Bostock (1948) and Holland (1964), the Kamloops locality lies in the south-central portion of the Interior Plateau of the Interior System of the province. The vast rolling uplands and steep valleys of the Interior Plateau are bounded by the Coast Range on the west and by the Rocky Mountains on the east. Its northern limit reaches to the bend in the Fraser River at Prince George, and southwardly it extends into Washington State, where it is known as the Columbia Plateau. More specifically, the Interior Plateau consists of a number of individual plateaux and highland areas, of which the Thompson Plateau is the most southern, and contains the Kamloops locality.

The Thompson Plateau is a gently rolling upland of low relief ranging from 1200 to 1500 metres above sea level, with only occasional mountain peak elevations of above 1800 metres (Holland 1964:71). It is the most deeply dissected section of the Interior Plateau, as evidenced by the South Thompson River Valley. It is steeply incised, averaging 3.5 km in width, and whose floor ranges from 600 to 1200 metres below the plateau level (Fulton 1967:1; Tipper 1971:11).

Studies on glacial lake history for the Kamloops region have been conducted by Mathews (1944) and Fulton (1965, 1967, 1969). Fulton has estimated that the area was ice free, with all glacial lakes drained and modern drainage established prior to 8,900 years B.P. (Fulton 1969:3). Downwasting of the last glaciation created a large glacial lake, named Lake Thompson by Mathews, in the

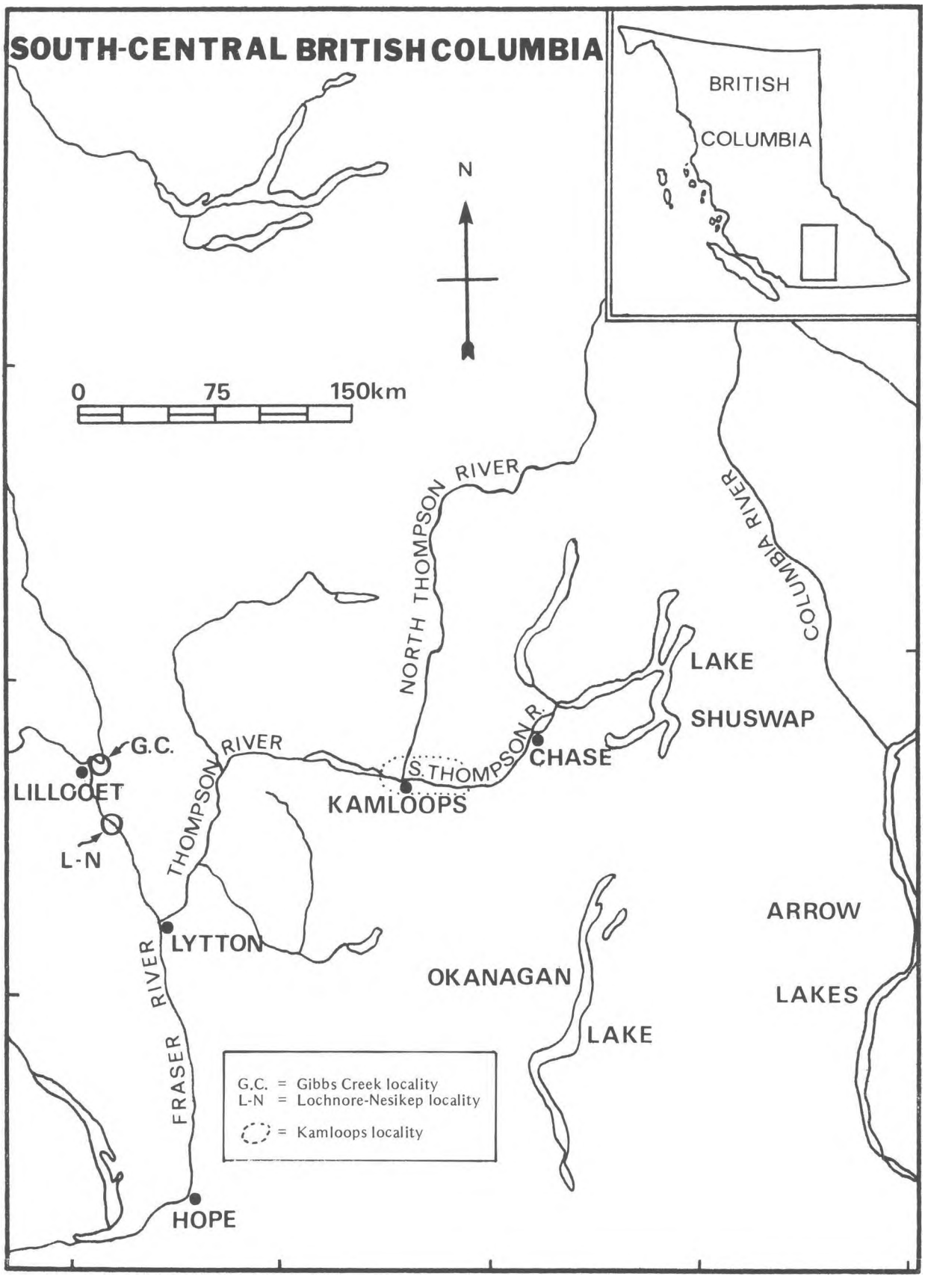

Fig. 1. South-central British Columbia, locating the Kamloops and other archaeological localities.

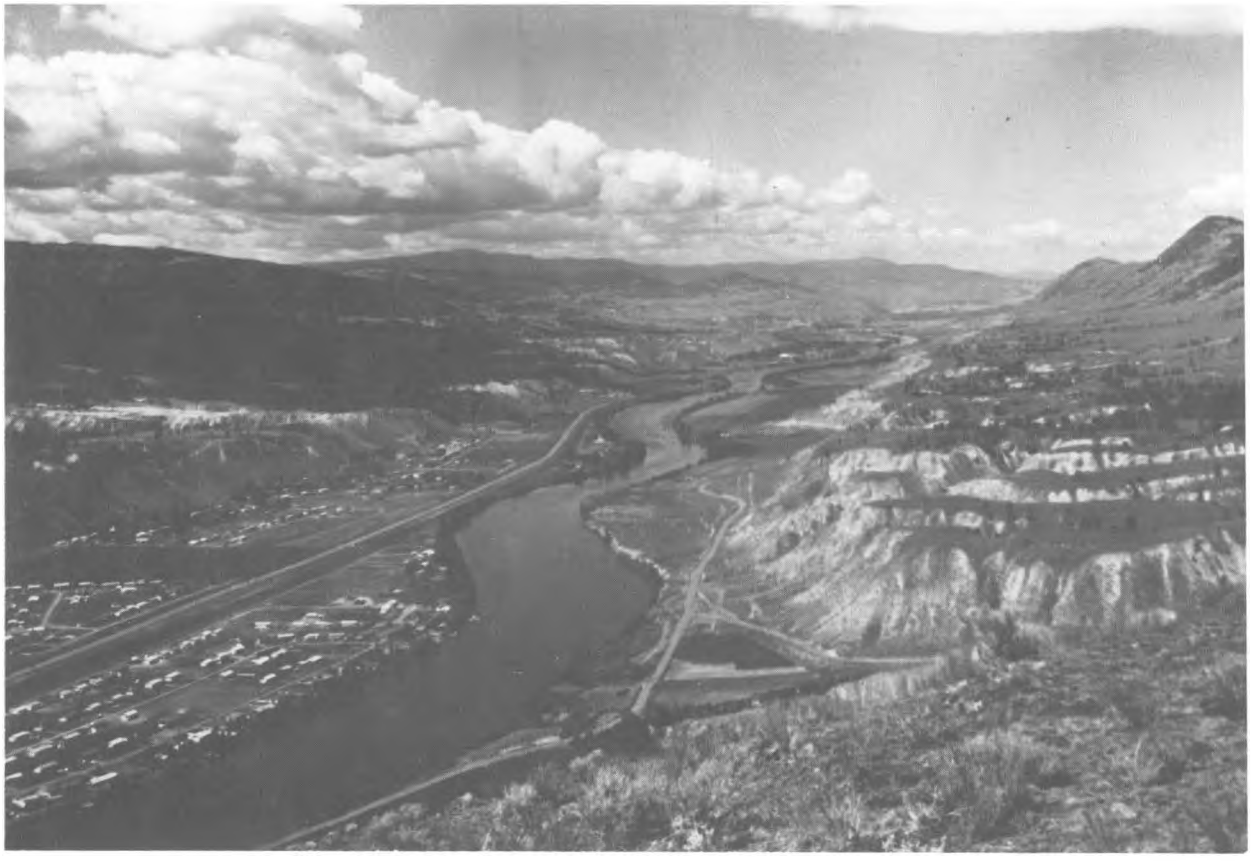

Fig. 2. South Thompson River Valley looking west from the eastern limit of the Kamloops locality, approximately 20 km east of Kamloops.

South Thompson River Valley. This lake deposited medium- to coarse-grained stratified silt throughout the valley bottom to a depth of at least 150 metres, during what Fulton (1969) refers to as the South Thompson stage of the Thompson Basin glacial lake history. Till and glaciofluvial sand and gravel underlie this formation, while fine-grained aeolian, silty sand, from 0.75 to three metres thick, cap it. Terraces of this silt, 90 to 120 metres high have been cut by the entrenching South Thompson River above both shores of the present floodplain, and since then they have been eroded by ephemeral streams, forming alluvial fans along the valley wall edges. The geological deposits of the upland areas above the valley are comprised of till and colluvium.

The plateau is divided by altitude into a succession of biogeoclimatic zones (Krajina 1965; Brayshaw 1970). The valley lowlands around Kamloops lie in the Ponderosa Pine-Bunchgrass zone, characterized by hot summers and cold winters, and an annual total of 150–200 frost-free days. Comparative climatic data for selected valley lowland areas in the south-central interior are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Temperature and precipitation data from selected stations in south-central British Columbia. Values represent a 30 year average from 1931–1960.
(Temperature and precipitation tables for British Columbia 1967.)

Station	Altitude		Mean daily temperature				Mean annual precipitation	
	feet	metres	January		July		inches	mm.
			°F	°C	°F	°C		
Kamloops (airport)	1133	346	21.4	-5.9	69.6	20.9	9.71	246.63
Lytton	574	175	27.1	-2.7	72.3	22.4	18.22	462.79
Merritt	1920	585	20.4	-6.4	93.7	17.6	9.20	233.68
Vernon	1383	422	23.2	-4.9	68.4	20.2	15.56	395.22

The semi-desert lowlands in the Kamloops locality were originally comprised of native grasses, including bluebunch wheatgrass *(Agropyron spicatum),* sandberg bluegrass *(Poa secunda),* and rough fescue *(Festuca scabrella).* However, farming and intensive grazing by horses and cattle

in the early post-contact period decreased much of this vegetation (Tisdale 1947). Present floodplain vegetation is still dominated by these grasses, but is supplemented by such xero-thermic flora as thick-rooted sagebrush *(Artemisia tridentata)* and smaller patches of cactus *(Opuntia fragilis).* Red cedars, cottonwoods, salmon berries and chokecherries are representative flora of the moister deposits of stream and river shorelines (Tisdale 1947; Palmer 1974b).

The bench lands directly above the floodplains support an open parkland forest of yellow pine *(Pinus ponderosa)* as either a climax or a seral dominant, with very little underbrush. This forest zone merges into the Caribou-Aspen-Lodgepole pine-Douglas fir zone, which offers the best deer-hunting in the whole region (Palmer 1974b:18). The remaining biotic zones in order of altitude are the Interior Douglas fir, followed by the Engelmann spruce-Subalpine fir zone, and finally there are patches of alpine parkland, whose upper limit is approximately 2100 metres above sea level (Dawson 1894:9).

The present range of vegetation supports a varied faunal population, including the following land mammals: badger, beaver, black bear, coyote, gopher, hare, marmot, moose, and mule deer *(Odocoileus hemionus hemionus).* The latter was the major land mammal staple of aboriginal subsistence. The most abundant riverine resource is the anadramous salmon, of which the sockeye was the most important aboriginally. Of somewhat lesser importance were the chinook and the steelhead salmon runs.

History of Interior Plateau Archaeology

Archaeology in the Interior Plateau has had a relatively short history. Except for cursory excavations conducted by Smith near Lytton and Kamloops at the turn of the century (Smith 1899, 1900), serious research did not begin until the 1950's, with reconnaissance work by Borden in Tweedsmuir Park, in north-central British Columbia (Borden 1952a).

Research in south-central British Columbia was initiated by Sanger, with the excavation of the Chase Burial site in 1960 (Sanger 1968). This was followed by four years of excavation, between 1961–1965, in the Lochnore-Nesikep locality, which is situated between Lytton and Lillooet on the mid-Fraser River (Sanger 1969, 1970). This research resulted in the interpretation of a prehistoric cultural sequence of more than 7000 years duration. One of the most important of Sanger's early conclusions from this study was:

> "... the realization that the prehistory of the Columbia-Snake River system is distinct from the prehistory of the Mid-Fraser-Thompson system until a relatively recent cultural convergence within the last 2000 years" (Sanger 1969:191).

Stryd has continued the research on the mid-Fraser in the Lillooet area, 40 km north of Lochnore-Nesikep, and his study is primarily concerned with the last 3000 years of Sanger's original cultural chronology (Stryd 1973a, 1973b). Other regions of the Interior Plateau have also now been investigated, including areal studies of the Okanagan Valley by Grabert (1971, 1974), of the Nicola Valley by Wyatt (1971, 1972), and of the Arrow Lakes by Turnbull (1971, 1973). Less comprehensive studies of smaller areas and/or individual sites have been conducted on the Chilcotin Plateau by Mitchell (1970); at the confluence of the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers by Ham (1975); in the South Thompson River Valley by Wilson (1972, 1974), Johnson-Fladmark (1972), Blake (1974) and Eldridge (1974); and in the southern Okanagan by Copp (1975, 1976).

Since the early 1960's, the principal concern of archaeological study in the south-central interior has been the interpretation of cultural chronology. Emphasis has been initially placed upon the collection and analysis of data, and secondly upon experimentation in the selection and definition of chronological terms, or archaeological units, most suitable to describe the cultures and their evolution. As these prehistoric cultures existed primarily at the band level of social organization, practising nomadic hunting and gathering subsistence economies, the interpretations of their culture histories have stressed the evolution of ecological adaptation efficiencies, concentrating on the changes through time of technology and settlement patterns.

Archaeological Unit Concepts

The concept of tradition has been used as one of the most appropriate archaeological units for arranging the chronology of the south-central interior. As there are several meanings to the term "tradition", this study will use

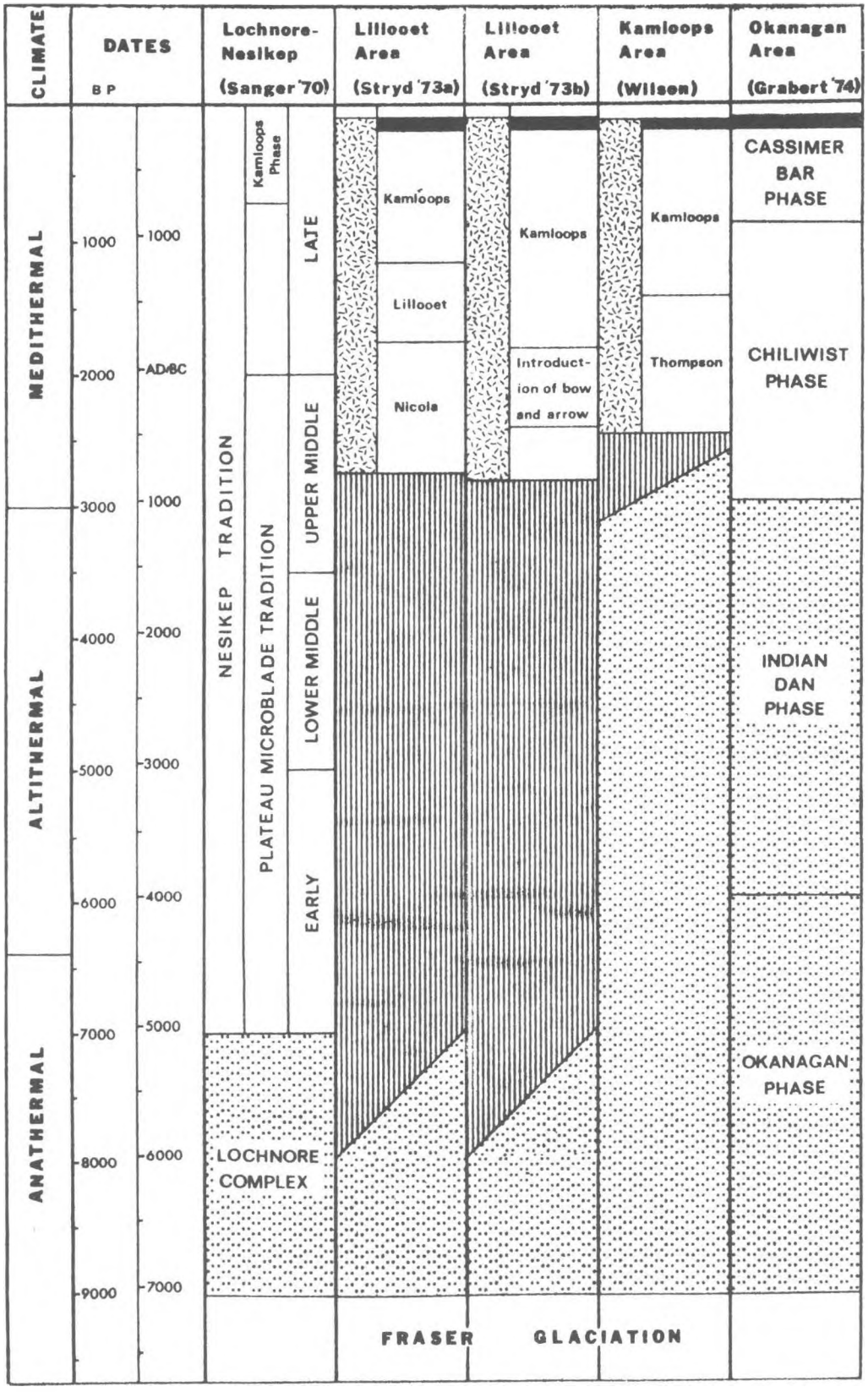

Fig. 3. Selected schemes of archaeological units for the Interior Plateau. Symbols are:

Old Cordilleran Tradition

Early Nesikep Tradition

Late Nesikep Tradition

Proto-historic

the terminology of Sanger (1969) and Stryd (1973a), by referring to the technological tradition with a small "t", and to the larger, more culturally inclusive unit as "Tradition".

Several schemes of archaeological units have been proposed for the culture histories of the Interior Plateau, each new one being based upon more detailed information, as the research continues. A summary of selected schemes is presented in Figure 3. All the schemes portray culture histories that represent two major population movements (Sanger 1969), or what Stryd (1971) prefers to regard as two different adaptive strategies.

The initial occupation of the Interior Plateau represents a northward movement of people from the non-glaciated Columbia Plateau, possibly as early as 8,900 B.P., the date by which the Interior Plateau was free of ice and modern drainage patterns had been established (Fulton 1969:3; Sanger 1969:194). The cultures of the two plateaux at this time appear to be quite similar, both representing a land-oriented economic adaptation (Butler 1961:66; Stryd 1971:7). Characteristic artifacts of these cultures include the following: leaf-shaped bifaces, including Cascade points (Warren 1968:27), edge-ground and edge-battered cobbles, macroblades, hammerstones, milling stones, scrapers, antler and bone industries, and stone perforators (Stryd 1973b). These early cultures have been given several different names, including Protowestern Cultural Tradition (Borden 1969), Old Cordilleran Culture (Butler 1961), Old Cordilleran pattern (Warren 1968), and Old Cordilleran Tradition (Stryd 1973b). Stryd refers to this cultural pattern as being characterized ". . .by a generalized adaptive strategy" that is ". . .capable of exploiting varied ecozones of different carrying capacities with adaptive flexibility replacing adaptive efficiency" (Stryd 1971:7). Specialized economic activities in the Columbia Plateau at this time include fishing at the Five Mile Rapids site, gathering at the Goldendale site, and hunting at the Ash Cave site (Warren, Bryan, and Tuohy 1963:9) as quoted in Warren (1968:28).

The Old Cordilleran Tradition in the Interior Plateau is best defined in the relatively small Lochnore Complex from the Lochnore-Nesikep locality (Sanger 1969). It is also represented in individual components in a few sites distributed throughout the south-central interior, including Tonasket (45-OK-29) in the Okanagan Valley, EcQu 2 near Falkland, EbQq 1 at Rawlings Lake, and possibly the Moulton Creek site, Zone II, and the Scotch Creek site, both near Chase (Stryd 1973b).

In addition to the Old Cordilleran Tradition, a second possible early post-Pleistocene adaptation to the south-central interior may be represented by a Tradition containing Plano-like points. However, data about its cultural contents and contexts are scarce, and it is only briefly mentioned by Sanger (1969:192) and Stryd (1973b) as probably being prior to the Nesikep Tradition, having a date in excess of 7500 B.P.

The initial occupations of the south-central interior were replaced by a new cultural type, termed the Nesikep Tradition, by about 7000 B.P. The introduction and development of this new tradition is associated with a climatic change to much warmer and drier conditions, known as the Altithermal. It is characterized by a change in adaptive strategy towards a dry forest-adapted culture that was dominated by specialized riverine exploitation. "Adaptive efficiency replaced adaptive flexibility", according to Stryd (1971:8). This change in lifestyle occurred earliest and is best documented in the mid-Fraser region of the Interior Plateau. Beyond this area, it is limited to the Thompson drainage, where it probably occurred much later in time, and it cannot be used to describe the prehistory of the Arrow lakes region in southeastern British Columbia (Turnbull 1973), nor that of the Okanagan Valley either (Grabert 1974). More detailed inter-areal comparisons will be discussed later in the text.

In the mid-Fraser area the Nesikep Tradition has two major periods. The earlier one is characterized by a microlithic prepared core and blade industry, called the Plateau Microblade tradition by Sanger (1969) and lasts from the beginning of the Tradition to 2800 B.P. (Stryd 1973a:24). The later period lasts to the end of the Tradition, and lacks the Plateau Microblade tradition.

Theories concerning the origin of the Nesikep Tradition are based on very scant evidence, and mainly concern population movements. The most plausible one to date is a movement of peoples from the Arctic, bearing microlithic technologies, which Borden (1969) names the Early Boreal Cultural Tradition. But if as Sanger (1969:197) suggests, ". . .the Nesikep Tradition can be viewed as the prehistory of people whose language evolved into the historic Interior Salish", then it may have originated in the Gulf of Georgia-Puget Sound lowlands, which as reported by Stryd (1973b) might be the Proto-Salish homeland.

The later period of the Nesikep Tradition is the much better archaeologicaliy documented one, and is thus the one that creates the most debate concerning interpretation of chronology. The following discussion will briefly outline the initial chronology established by Stryd (1973a) for the Lillooet area, followed by his revised version (Stryd 1973b). The chronology established for the Kamloops locality is somewhat divergent from both the above, and is discussed in the following section. It must be kept in mind that archaeological chronology in the south-central interior is in a state of flux, and respective schemes portray the available data to date. They are all thus susceptible to change.

Stryd (1973a) divides the chronology of the later period of the Nesikep Tradition into four consecutive

phases, and lists the following cultural traits as attributable to the entire period (1973a:25–26):

"– a hunting, gathering and fishing economy similar to that of the ethnographic Shuswap and Thompson
– domesticated dog *(Canis familiaris)*
– pithouses as the dominant form of winter dwelling
– flexed internments
– ground stone tools rare; primarily chipped stone
– chipping detritus (debitage) usually plentiful
– black to grey vitreous basalt the major lithic material with chalcedony of secondary importance
– retouched and utilized flakes most common artifact classes
– microblades and microblade cores absent
– projectile point stem grinding rare
– ground nephrite tools
– nipple-top mauls
– pièces esquillées
– pebble hammerstones
– multidirectional flake cores
– sandstone abraders and grinding slabs
– retouched and utilized blades not struck from prepared cores
– reground rodent incisor chisels
– bone pendants
– antler splitting wedges
– antler digging stick handles
– unilaterally barbed bone and antler points
– unifacial and bifacial pebble tools (choppers and chopping tools)
– large spear points, predominantly corner-notched
– red ochre
– all types of bone awls
– all types of blanks
– all types of bifaces except pentagonal biface
– all types of gravers
– all types of perforators
– all types of scrapers except crescents
– all types of drills"

The four phases of Stryd's initial chronology are termed Nicola, Lillooet, Kamloops, and Proto-historic. The Nicola Phase, 2750–1750 B.P., is characterized by large to medium corner-notched dart projectile points, and by the absence of microlithics and arrow points. The Lillooet Phase, 1750–1150 B.P., is defined by the presence of small corner- and side-notched arrow points, excluding the Kamloops Side-notched point. The Kamloops Phase, 1150–200 B.P., represents the final manifestations of prehistoric cultural development in the south-central interior, and is characterized by the presence of Kamloops Side-notched arrow points and an increase in art work. The Proto-historic Phase, 200–100 B.P., is defined by the introduction of non-aboriginally manufactured goods, and designates the end of the Nesikep Tradition. Stryd indicates that most differences between the Early and Late periods of the Nesikep Tradition ". . .are quantitative rather than qualitative, as in the higher incidence of black vitreous basalt and the near absence of projectile point stem grinding in the later Nesikep Tradition" (Stryd 1973a:26). The only trait diagnostic of the entire Late Nesikep appears to be the absence of blades struck from prepared cores.

In revising the chronology of the Late period, Stryd (1973b) re-evaluates the concept and use of "phase" as it applies to the Interior Plateau. The early part of the Late Nesikep is divided into two chronological periods, both of which represent continued adjustments to the onset of cooler, moister climatic conditions, known as the Medithermal. The first period dates from 2800–2400 B.P., and is characterized by two negative traits: the absence of both microliths and of arrow points. The second period dates from 2400–1800 B.P., and is distinguished by the introduction of the bow and arrow, and the use of large- to medium-sized corner-notched points.

A third period in Stryd's revised chronology (Stryd 1973b) is known as the Kamloops Phase. Even though the cultural elements of this phase most closely resemble the ethnographic pattern of the Interior Salish, there has been confusion concerning its specific diagnostic traits. The only generally-accepted diagnostic trait to date for this phase is the presence of small triangular, side-notched arrow points, known as Kamloops Side-notched points (Sanger 1968). Other cultural traits may be restricted to this phase, and they are listed by Stryd (1973b) as follows:

"– steatite carving complex
– carved antler figures
– zoomorphic hand mauls
– pecten shell *(Pecten caurinus)* rattles
– tubular steatite pipes
– bird bone beads?
– chipped and drilled slate pendants
– spindle whorls and weaving (inferential)
– spall tools"

There is a wide range to the radiocarbon dates that possibly signify the beginning of the Kamloops Phase. However, Stryd (1973b) regards a date of *ca.* 1800–1600 B.P. as the most suitable for the commencement of this phase.

The last period of the Nesikep Tradition is the proto-historic, which commences around 200 B.P. with introduction of non-aboriginally manufactured goods. The date of the discovery of gold on the mid-Fraser, at approximately 100 B.P., signifies the end of the Nesikep Tradition.

Kamloops Locality Archaeological Units

The basic cultural pattern of the Late Nesikep Tradition for the mid-Fraser is also present in the Kamloops locality. However, cultural adaptations within the two areas diverged to such a degree that separate chronological sequences are distinguished. In contrast to the mid-Fraser, two prehistoric cultural phases and one chronological period are delineated for the Kamloops locality: the Thompson Phase, *ca.* 2000–1400 B.P., the Kamloops Phase, 1400–200 B.P., and the Proto-historic period, 200–125 B.P.

The individual cultural adaptations in the two areas were influenced by several factors, the primary ones being ecological, including differences in topography, and in the nature and availability of water and other subsistence resources. The nature and frequency of trade and communication with other groups would have also been an important influence in cultural adaptation. These factors will be analyzed in more detail in subsequent discussions.

There is little archaeological evidence for pre-Late Nesikep occupation on the river floodplains in the Kamloops locality. Occupation of the locality at this time might have occurred at higher elevations, as intensive riverine exploitation had yet to develop, and it would have resembled the Old Cordilleran pattern of generalized adaptive efficiency. The only possible evidence to date for the Old Cordilleran in the South Thompson River Valley is Component 2 of the Moulton Creek site near Chase (Eldridge 1974). There is also a noticeable lack of microlithic technologies in the Kamloops and South Thompson areas, indicating that the adaptation of the Early Nesikep Tradition in the mid-Fraser did not evolve here.

Investigations to date interpret the earliest concrete evidence, exclusive of Moulton Creek, for occupation of the Kamloops locality to be just prior to 2000 B.P., and to represent Late Nesikep winter pit house village occupations. This is related to the fact that in the mid-Fraser area, the beginning of the Late Nesikep is associated with the onset of the cooler and moister Medithermal, and also roughly corresponds to the initial use of semi-subterranean dwellings, although Stryd (1973b) emphasized that there may not be any causal relationship between the two. The onset of the Medithermal in the South Thompson area may have influenced the initial occupation of the river floodplains in the Kamloops locality. This and other data, especially Elmendorf's linguistic studies of the Interior Salish, and Palmer's cultural ecology studies of the southern Shuswap, all suggest that the initial intensive occupation of the Kamloops locality started around 2000 B.P.

Taking into account diverse sampling techniques and differential preservation, the differences in the archaeological assemblages between the Kamloops locality and the Lillooet area nonetheless represent some variation in cultural adaptation. In general terms, the occupation of the Kamloops locality was more nomadic with a slightly heavier reliance upon hunting, than the more sedentary, fishing subsistences of the mid-Fraser. In the Kamloops locality the division of the archaeological sequence into three phases is based upon the recognition of distinct cultural aggregates, each showing a high degree of homogeneity.

Thompson Phase

The Thompson Phase represents the initial occupation of the Kamloops locality floodplains. It incorporates most of the cultural elements of Stryd's (1973a) Nicola and Lillooet Phases, and also includes some cultural elements remaining from the earlier Old Cordilleran Tradition. The criteria used to distinguish the Nicola and Lillooet Phases (Stryd 1973a), or the first two periods of the Late Nesikep Tradition (Stryd 1973b), in the mid-Fraser area, are not present to the same degree in the Kamloops locality.

The characteristic traits of the Thompson Phase, as represented by the Kamloops locality are as follows:

- small round housepits without ridges
- use of darts (including spear and spear-thrower projectiles)
- much less use of bow and arrow, and that only towards the end of the phase
- many types of corner-notched projectile points
- many types of leaf-shaped and stemmed projectile points
- macroblades and microblades
- spall tools
- ground and pecked stone
- chipped stone drills
- relatively higher incidence of cryptocrystalline tools
- relatively higher incidence of antler tools

Two radiocarbon dates, of 1920 ± 100 B.P. (Gak-3902), from the occupation of House pit 19 in the Kamloops

Reserve site, and 1950 ± 130 B.P. (Gak-4915), from the lowest occupation of House pit 4 in the Harper Ranch site, indicate the Thompson Phase was in existence by about 2000 B.P. How soon it began before 2000 B.P. will depend upon a wider range of radiocarbon dates. The terminal date for the end of this phase is in doubt, but it may be around 1400 B.P.

Kamloops Phase

This is the best established archaeological unit in the south-central interior, but there is still considerable conflicting evidence as to its time span and cultural composition. Most of the Kamloops Phase in the Kamloops locality appears to be a period of increased adaptive specialization and cultural development. Only towards the very end of the phase, is there any inferential evidence for cultural decline, as is hypothesized by Stryd (1971:11).

Whereas the bow and arrow was introduced in the Thompson Phase, it did not wholly replace the dart until the Kamloops Phase. Characteristic traits of this phase for the Kamloops locality are as follows:

- large circular and oval house pits with ridges
- cache pits
- side-notched arrow points, including the Kamloops side-notched points
- relatively higher incidence of bone tools
- ornaments
- incised motif decoration on bone
- hand mauls
- chipped stone pendants

For the most part, the ethnographic material culture described by Teit (1909) and the archaeological material excavated by Smith (1900) belong to this phase.

There is conflicting evidence for the beginning of the Kamloops Phase in the south-central interior. The earliest radiocarbon date for this phase in the Kamloops locality is 1140 ± 100 B.P. (Gak-4916) from the latest occupation of House pit 4 in the Harper Ranch site. This occupation indicates that the Kamloops Phase was well established by this time. Stryd's (1973a) date of 1800 B.P. might be too early for the Kamloops locality. This is because initial intensive riverine exploitation of the anadromous salmon occurred much later in the Kamloops area than it did in the mid-Fraser area, and subsequent culture change in the former would thus tend to postdate that of the latter, especially if the culture traits of this phase diffused eastwards from the mid-Fraser area. A "tentative" date of 1400 B.P. is set for the beginning of the Kamloops Phase in the Kamloops locality, keeping in mind that the change itself is of far more significance than the date of the change. The terminal date for the Kamloops Phase coincides with the introduction of Euro-Canadian trade goods.

Proto-historic Period

This is the last chronological unit of the Nesikep Tradition, and is characterized by the presence of non-aboriginally manufactured items in an otherwise completely aboriginal context. Iron had been introduced into the interior by 200 B.P. (Teit 1909:475), and this serves as a convenient initial date for this phase. Whereas the introduction of "European" trade items would not have altered aboriginal lifestyles to a great degree, the introduction of the horse at approximately this time helped to reshape aboriginal economic values. The first evidence of their use comes from the records of Simon Fraser (1889) as he recalls encountering several mounted parties of Indians on his journey down the Fraser River in 1808.

The establishment of two trading posts at Kamloops in 1812, by the Pacific Fur Company and the Northwest Company, initiated the beginning of the end of aboriginal subsistence patterns in the Kamloops locality. Overtrapping and the demand for salmon by the fur-trading companies resulted in severe food shortages, which were not sufficiently compensated for by the introduction of potato growing (Balf 1969:3). An approximate date of 125 B.P. is chosen for the end of the Proto-historic Phase.

Report Outline

The first section has described the location of the research and its archaeological framework. The second presents an outline of significant ethnographic data used for analogy, and briefly compares some opposing aspects of the ethnographies of the mid-Fraser and Kamloops areas. The third section discusses in detail the nature of the archaeological investigations and the sites examined, and the fourth gives a detailed description of the recovered archaeological materials. The final section attempts to reconstruct the archaeological cultures of the Kamloops locality within the larger cultural-historical framework of the south-central interior.