A000-Eur-France- **Le Grand-Pressigny**-Homo Erectus-200,000 BP



Case no. 1

***Homo Heidelbergensis (Homo Erectus)* Proto-Bifacial Handaxe,  600,000 years old from Le Grand-Pressigny, France.**

**This handaxe** **fromLe Grand-Pressigny, a commune in the Indre-et-Loire *departement* in central France, was made circa 650,000 - 500,000 years ago (Lower Acheulean Culture, Lower Paleolithic period) by *Homo Heidelbergensis* (European *Homo Erectus*). It was discovered in the Creuse river's ancient riverbed, where it was polished by its sands and waters for millennia. This highly-prized caramel-colored flint is dated to the Turonian period, upper Cretaceous, ca. 93.5 to 89 million years ago. This flint was widely traded with examples having been found in the Pyrenees, Netherlands and Switzerland.**

**To make this tool, Homo Heidelbergensis used a large flat flake. The sides were cut to create the pointed tip; the base was cut to create a cutting-scraping edge as well as a point. On one side near the base a large flake was taken off to create a flat area ensuring a strong grip. The ventral face presents few large retouches and finer retouches on the edges. The dorsal face was left cortical, the edges of the point were finely retouched. Evidence of use is still visible along the edges and tip. Size: 7 1/2 inches X 4 inches or  19 cm X 10 cm.** Weight :**1150 gm.**

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| Typology : Proto Bifacial Handaxe  **Material :**  Flint. The famous local Flintstone was formed during the Turonian period, upper Cretaceus, circa 93.5 to 89 million years. Some oddly shaped nodules are found, the larger pieces are flat.  Cutting : To make this tool, Erectus used a large flat flake. The sides were cut to create the pointed tip ; the base was cut to create a cutting/scraping edge, as well as a point. On one side near the base a large flake was taken off to create a flat area ensuring a strong grip. The ventral face presents few large retouches and finer retouches on the edges. The dorsal face was left cortical, the edges of the point are finely retouched. Evidence of useware is still visible along the edges and tip.  Dating, hominid : This implement belongs to the Lower Acheulean Culture (Lower Paleolithic period, circa 650 000 - 500 000 years ago), and was conceived by Homo HEIDELBERGENSIS ( European Erectus ).  Origin : Found in the reknown area of the Grand-Pressigny ; discovered in the Creuse's ancient riverbed, where the Flint was polished in the turmoils of the sands and waters.  Sizes :  7 1/2 inches X 4 inches or  19 cm X 10 cm  Weight :  1150 g  Condition :  Intact ; Superb Patina ! |