

Odontocephalus aegiria (Hall, 1861) (TH519 + 519a)

Odontocephalus → Phacopida → Phacopina → Dalmanitidea → Dalmanitidae

Provenance : US; Pennsylvania, Perry County

Formation : Needmore Shale of Onodaga Fm

Age : Late Lower Devonian

Details : Two specimens in different positions (one dorsally, the other right-laterally exposed). Detail images start off with the dorsally exposed specimen. Because of its preglabellar feature, the species is occasionally referred to as the “cow catcher trilobite”. Another striking feature is the two-pointed pygidium, something not apparent in both of the specimens on this piece (the additional partial pygidium is equally too fragmentary to show the detail). There’s an additional sad story about most specimens of the species : they were dug up during the 1980s (the site no longer available except perhaps with the use of heavy machinery), in a time when modern air abrasion techniques were not yet widely available. Most of the specimens were therefore prepared by attacking the limestone matrix with acid, and unfortunately this also dissolved the exoskeleton...which then got “restored” by applying shoe polish. However, with a whole lot of luck, you might find a specimen from an old collection that still needs prep.

Bought on : 21/06/2022

Bought : Sainte-Marie-aux-Mines

Event : SMaM 2022





