

"bends" to the right. This usage, of course, is common in everyday language - but it is improper in mechanics theory.

And, I suspect, that is how the ambiguity comes in. The ambiguity is inherent in the common, everyday language. I realize, of course, that no archeologist without training in mechanics theory can be expected to be aware of this ambiguity. For example, after you had used the term "bending" ambiguously - but in a way that is quite consistent with everyday usage - Bonnicksen in his thesis (p.36-37) was arguing against some of your observations or interpretations, and against elasticity theory. In his arguments he compounded the confusion by being unaware of the ambiguity of the term "bending" that is present in both your writings and in everyday usage.

Because of the above ambiguity, I find it impossible to interpret the following two of your observations or interpretations:

- 1). "If it were not for this property of flexibility (...quality to be bent, or pliancy...), there would be no convex or double-convex artifacts"(1967,P.24).
- 2). "There is little doubt that the worker can control the bending of flakes or blades, for we have the surface evidence proof on bifacially flaked artifacts that have been ripple-flaked over a curved surface from one lateral edge to the other"(1968,p.472).

My questions are as follows:

- A). In the above statement No.2, when you use the term "bending" do you intend it to refer to the kind of deformation known in mechanics theory as bending (involving changes in curvature), or did you intend to use it in the sense of, say, the road is "bending" to the right, or a flake has curvature (with no implication on change in curvature)?

Using the term "bending" only with reference to its meaning in mechanics theory - that is, to indicate changes in curvature - from your observations,

- B). Do you believe it is possible to control bending in the production of blades from polyhedral cores?
- C). Do you believe it is possible to control bending when ripple-flaking or parallel-flaking over a curved surface of a preform from one lateral edge to the other?
- D). Do you believe it is possible to make adjustments to the applied forces (the "downward" or "outward" components) during blade or flake detachment - that is, after the blade or flake has started to come off the core or biface, but before it has completely been detached? Do you believe this is possible in the production of blades from polyhedral cores? Or in the removal of flakes in some parallel-flaking?

I do realize that some of the above questions may be naive on my part. Nevertheless, I do hope that you will find the time to answer them.

I know that you have a lot of correspondence, and I know that you are doing a lot of writing. So, honestly Don, if I could get a response from you any time before the end of May, it would be perfectly fine with me.

With best wishes to you and Evelyn,

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References cited in my letter to your works:

1967 Tebawa 10(11): 8-24.

1968 American Antiquity 33(4): 446-478.

1972 An Introd. to Flintworking. Occ. Papers of the Idaho State Univ. Museum 28.

Because of the above ambiguity I find it impossible to interpret the following two of your observations or interpretations:

- 1) "If it were not for the property of flexibility (...)"
- 2) "There is little doubt that the worker can control the direction of flakes or blades, for we have the surface evidence - proof on bifacially flaked artifacts that have been flaked over a curved surface from one lateral edge to the other" (1968, p. 473).

My questions are as follows:

A) In the above statement No. 2, when you use the term "bending" do you intend it to refer to the kind of deformation known in mechanical theory as bending (involving changes in curvature), or did you intend to use it in the sense of, say, the term "bending" in the right of a flint has curvature (with no implication on change in curvature)?

Using the term "bending" only with reference to its meaning in mechanical theory - that is, to indicate changes in curvature - from your observations,

B) Do you believe it is possible to control bending in the production of blades from polyhedral cores?

C) Do you believe it is possible to control bending when flake-flaking or parallel-flaking over a curved surface of a flint core from one lateral edge to the other?

D) Do you believe it is possible to make adjustments to the applied forces (the "downward" or "outward" components) during flake or flake detachment - that is, after the flake or flake has started to come off the core or flint, but before it has completely been detached? Do you believe this is possible in the production of blades from polyhedral cores? Or in the removal of flakes in some parallel-flaking?

I do realize that some of the above questions may be naive on my part. Nevertheless, I do hope that you will find the time to answer them.

I know that you have a lot of correspondence, and I know that you are doing a lot of writing, so, possibly don't if I could get a response from you any time before the end of May, it would be perfectly fine with me.

With best wishes to you and yours,

[Signature]
 The Editor

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