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Mr. Don Crabtree  
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Dear Don:

I thought I'd drop you a few <sup>e</sup> lines to let you know what I am doing. Things are fine, but my progress in lithics and archeology has been slow.

I have been back working as an engineer, as you probably know, and trying to get a Ph.D. in anthropology on a part-time basis. I finished all my course work, and was supposed to be preparing a proposal for ~~r~~ research to go in the field and do a "traditional" dissertation in "anthropology" rather than just lithics. I have been sort of dragging my feet at that.

Now they tell me at NYU that they may also accept a thesis on mechanics of flintworking. A couple of years ago, this would have been unacceptable - because it was not "anthropology", I suppose.

In any case, I will now start to spend more time on mechanics of flintworking - after I finish couple of other commitments in the next 2-3 months. If they do accept my work for the degree in anthropology - fine. If not, I will do it anyway - and just forget about the anthro degree.

As you recall, I was going to Heye Foundation on Saturdays to study a collection from Virginia and North Carolina. I was primarily interested in looking at wear-patterns. I had committed myself to looking at the whole collection, thinking it might be a 6-month job, with 1-2 days per week. After 2 1/2 years (20,000 artifacts) I am almost finished now. Few more weeks, and a report (a crude one) still to go.

Some of my time over the past year has been also taken up by my commitment to work on a committee for construction engineers trying to avoid unnecessary destruction of archeological sites. Although I do not enjoy this kind of activity, I could not refuse my participation because of the possible significance of this activity. After couple more months, I hope the most time-consuming tasks will have been completed. I'll let someone else pick it up from then on.

As far as my work on mechanics of flintworking <sup>is</sup> concerned - I feel I have done practically nothing so far. Although I have given some talks, the effort and, of course, the results have been minimal. The paper I wrote for Vancouver was really an extended version of a letter I wrote to Tixier after he asked me a couple of questions that

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I could not - and still can't - answer. After couple of months, as I said, I expect to be spending considerably more time on mechanics of flintworking - and just forget about degrees, etc. (except as a possible by-product).

In case you may have an interest in it, I am enclosing a copy of the Vancouver paper that I revised quite a bit (for publication) from the original, hasty version. The most interesting question that I consider, but can't answer, in my paper is the one that Tixier raised. Namely, why do fractures sometimes start quite far from the contact area. In such cases, they have nothing to do with cones or cone-like fractures. Would you believe it Don, the first time this question came to my mind was when I was at Maine for the demonstrations for David Sanger!

By the way, on pp.5 and 6 of my paper, I refer to the illustration on p. 75 of your "Introduction to Flintworking" (1972). Is that flake shown on p. 75 a biface thinning flake?

In couple of weeks, I expect to be taking a 2-week trip to Europe - mostly to Germany to visit some relatives I haven't seen for years. I noticed that both Kerkhof (U. of Freiburg) and Müller-Beck (U. of Tübingen) are both within about 80 miles of my relatives. (You recall their 1969 paper on fractures.) So I gathered my courage and wrote to each of them, asking if I may have a brief discussion with them. Chances are that they may not even be on campus, because their semester starts in October, I believe. I hope my boldness will not be obnoxious to them. I will write to you if I do meet them.

By the way, Don, there is no need to answer this letter. I know that because you are so uncommonly considerate a person, you may feel obligated to do so. I realize that you must have many other things to do. Anyway, this was just a note to say hello!

With best regards,

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