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Rt. 1
Kimberly, Idaho

May 28, 1966

Dr. Joan B. Townsend
University of Manitoba
Dept. of Anthropology & Sociology
Winnipeg, Canada

Dear Joan:

Thank you so much for your interesting letter of May 19th. It was so kind of you to send your paper on Ecuador and the copy of technology by Whitthoft. Your paper was one of the most interesting given at the Reno meet and I am most happy to have a copy of it. Both Evelyn and I enjoyed our visits with you and Mayer-Oakes, but felt they were all too brief. The meetings are entirely too crowded, with too many interesting papers being read, to allow one to spend adequate time visiting and exchanging information. Now, after I am home, I find that there is so much I wanted to ask about Ecuador, and the character of the blades and flakes.

It is most interesting that this site in Guayllambamba basin indicates an embryonic stage of development of techniques not found at El Inga. I am more than pleased to find your interest in the technological aspect of flake analysis. It is a whole new frontier for archaeology that both you and Bill Oakes are pioneering.

When dealing with pre-ceramic assemblages, the flaked stone material is all that is left for appraisal, and we must develop adequate understanding of techniques for analyzing these assemblages. You and Mayer-Oakes are certainly headed in the right direction.

A study of the proximal ends of the flakes can reveal much regarding what tools were used to remove the flakes, what technique was employed, and at what stage in the artifact preparation was the flake removed. It is difficult to ask, by mail, about the proximal ends of the flakes, but a close study may indicate several separate technological stages of flake removal. I hope you have some percussion tools to associate with the flake types.

I am sorry that I did not get to spend more time with you and to do some experiments on stone working, for it is most difficult for me to make pictures out of words. I do hope that I will have an opportunity, in the future, to spend some time with you and Dr. Oakes, for I know this would be a most rewarding session for me.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

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