

425 E. 79 St.
New York, N.Y. 10021
March 30, 1974

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
Route 1, Box 110
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

I returned a week ago from a two-week stay at the University of Maine at Orono. It was indeed a very worthwhile experience. Thank you again for recommending me.

I have enclosed a copy of "Remarks on Flaking Experiments on Felsite, March 29, 1974" that I am sending to Dr. Sanger. Most of these remarks are probably rather obvious to you, and all of them are tentative, based on very brief observation. If you have any comments, I would appreciate hearing them - especially if I stated something that is incorrect.

It was indeed very educational for me to work with someone as knowledgeable as David Sanger. His primary interest was to have me experiment with the local "Kineo felsites." So I focused on this problem, studying the local artifacts and debitage, and flaking the felsites. The felsite was, for me, very difficult to work. I made only two "halfway decent" bifaces without (unintentional) breakage and broke up over 30 (perhaps 50?) of them during the later stages.

I did experience one unexpected, interesting problem. When I went up there, I felt that my muscles were in a good enough shape. However, in adjusting to some techniques more suitable for the felsites I experienced problems with my right shoulder joint, in that I had to limit flaking felsite to no more than couple hours a day (getting carried away occasionally). I have experienced pain in my elbow joint before from use of a very light antler baton (with a good follow-through), but never have I experienced difficulties with my shoulder joint - in working obsidian or Normanskill (N.Y.) cherts. So apparently I was making quite a change in my working habits. I think these observations are of interest to flintworking. It was wonderful to work with a very difficult material for a change. Dave is sending me some felsite flakes and nodules so that I may continue.

I took along about 200 lbs. of obsidian (much more than I needed) for demonstrations, teachings, etc. I gave about four formal demonstrations, and gave (only!) four hours of instructions on the very basics to each of two groups (ca. 7 students each). It was a great pleasure to teach flaking to students who had a keen interest. It was also a good experience to give formal demonstrations: I found that it is difficult for me to flake and talk at the same time! Also, I was forced to time myself - e.g. 15 min. for nodule to preform (using large flakes) and X mins. for pressure flaking ... As you recall, I enjoy and prefer working at a leisurely pace. The many questions asked forced me to express what I had been doing "instinctively."

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It was wonderful experience!

I also had an unexpected, pleasant surprise. I was informally demonstrating flintworking to a few Penobscot Indians from the nearby reservation! One of them, who worked as a janitor in the building of the lab, asked if he could buy one of my points "to show to his people at the reservation." I gave him the nicest-looking point I made at Orono.

I would like to ask you a couple of questions. Do you know of any ethnographic references to hafted hammerstones? (I recall your reference to them Tebiwa.) Do you know of references in ethnographic or archeological literature to wear on hammerstones on their "flatter side" - that might result from use of hammerstones in the way that you taught me. (By the way, in Maine - e.g. at Hirundo site - they have found a number of flaked felsite hammerstones that had been used along the "battered" edges.)

With best wishes to you and Evelyn,

me

P.S. Am flaking regularly, though I cannot find as much time as Jeff does. Have averaged 1-1 1/2 hrs./day since last summer.

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