

Oct. 20th, 1965

Tixier:

I was so happy to receive your letter of Sept. 22 and hear of your Summer's interesting work. So glad you and Francois got together to do a little chipping. It is interesting to hear of the differences in techniques when one holds their tool differently. I am working with a young man here in Idaho who also holds his tool in a different manner than I do and sometimes his artifacts have the appearance of being done by a left-handed man when, in reality, he uses his right hand for the pressure work. I received your package containing the two points you made and all I can say is that this is beautiful work and that you are progressing rapidly. It is your analytical mind and profound interest in this work that has set you apart from those who are slower to learn and I am so happy that you and Francois are learning so quickly.

It must have been a wonderful experience to have attended the meeting in Austria. Dr. J. Desmond Clark also attended and wrote to me telling of the compliments you gave me during your demonstration. I do not deserve them, for I have been of little help to you.

Your work shows that you have accomplished two techniques in just a few months that took me years to master. You have learned how to move your left hand as the flake is being pressed off and guide the flake over a curved surface to the opposite side. You have also learned how to remove the platform with the flake and leave a sharp and uncrushed edge and I notice that you have also learned to follow the ridge left by the previous flake. It is that ridge that controls the shape of the next flake. If you will examine the long axis of the ridge left by the previous flake and place your tool in line with the ridge when you apply the inward pressure - and be sure the downward pressure is at a right angle to the artifact - the flakes will be a little more uniform. You may want to try a different technique by placing the back of your left hand hard against your left thigh to keep the hand more stable. Then hold the obsidian loosely on the folded cloth in the hand so that the flakes will have a place to go without obstruction. With this method, the flakes will feather out and not step-fracture. The thin triangular point you sent is excellent. With such a flat artifact, one can only terminate the flakes in the middle and let each flake from the opposite side meet this termination. It is too flat for the flakes to feather out.

I was so glad to get the drawing of the core and flakes. This is an excellent drawing, well defined, and I will attempt to make a similar core. I will first try in obsidian, as I am treasuring the flint nodule you sent to me. I have just sent you a package of obsidian and some partly worked cores for practice. The small ones are started for you. I used a carpenter hammer handle with a piece of "hippo" tooth set in the end. I held it in both hands, vertically, and not as a crutch. Bordes gave me the piece of tooth and it works fine. Use the preforms for pressure work if you wish. Again I am more than pleased with your pressure flaking. If there is any way, at any time, I can be of help to you, please let me know.

I do have a favor to ask of you. I would like very much to have a microburin as illustrated on page 40 of *Typologie De L'Epipaleolithique Du Maghreb*. I think I have found a similar tool in Idaho and would like very much to compare the two. Hope you have such a sample to send and that this will not be too much trouble for you. I would love to hear further about your progress in pressure work and please let me know if I can send you any sample pieces or materials that will help.

Sincerely,

Bon

P.S. I returned your artifacts with the package of obsidian I just sent you.

ce. 11.2.17