

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho
Feb. 2, 1966

Dr. Jacques Tixier
Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle
Prehistoire
1 Rue Rene Panhard
Paris XLIII France

Dear Jacques:

Please accept my apologies for not writing sooner, but, as you may know, I am now working with Swanson at Idaho State University on the NSF grant to produce a handbook on flintworking. This seems to take all my time, as I have no literary talent and the writing is very difficult for me. The April issue of "Tebiwa" will include the article on the Folsom and I plan to send you and Bordes a copy. I have taken the liberty of including your name in this paper to indicate that you and Bordes are the authorities on flintknapping. Hope you will not object. Also, we are doing some hi-speed camera work to photograph the actual working techniques of flint. Our camera takes 44,000 frames per second and this doesn't give much time to remove a blade from a Polyhedral core. I thought I could feel the obsidian bend, but the camera shows them coming off in one five hundredth of a second. It is interesting to note that the distal end of the blade rises high in the air before and above the proximal end. The geologist said that this does indicate that the material bends. As yet I cannot draw any conclusions and will reserve judgement until we do further work. Some of the films will be shown at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in May in Reno. We should get a lot of good professional opinions then which will help in my writing.

I have been doing some work on the Caspian cores but, to date, I am not satisfied with the results. I have been reluctant to use the material you sent until I could get a new diamond saw blade so that I would not waste any of the beautiful French flint. I now have the blade and so hope to send you some cores soon. For this work, I find that a piece of Hippo tooth makes a fine pressure tool. Bordes gave me one and it is excellent. But, for some reason, I have been getting a lot of undulations and waves in my blades, so must practice more until I overcome this irregularity. When I am satisfied with my results, I will start a core from the initial percussion preparation and work on thru to the final pressure flaking. Will then send it to you with the notes on working techniques.

I was so pleased to receive the micro burins. They were exactly what I wanted to make a comparison with one that was found not far from my home. The one found here is just the same as those you sent - except that it was made in reverse, as if made by a left-handed man. It is the only one that I know of being found in the U.S.A.

My wife and I plan to leave for Mexico the 1st of next week and will be there about thirty days. Hope that we can contact Bordes in Mexico City and do some work together - understand he will be there with Lorenzo in March. I do hope that some day you and Bordes and myself can get together to discuss and write about all the problems of stoneworking. Swanson and Wendorf are planning a session similar to the one we had in Les Eyzies to be held this August in Glass Buttes, Oregon. This meet will be for archaeologists from the West and then they plan a further session at Chapel Hills later on. It will be my hope that we can include you and Bordes in that one. Think we could resolve a lot of things in this way.

Hope you are finding time to continue your pressure flaking, for you are coming along much better and faster than I did at the initial stages. It is interesting to note that you and Bordes are becoming so accomplished in the American pressure work, whereas we have no archaeologists here that can accomplish even the basic, rudimentary steps.

Thank you again for the burins and the fine drawing of the core - it will really help. Hope you and Bordes will soon be doing a similar handbook on working techniques of the Old World artifacts.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

Ce. 11.2.19