Rt.1
Kimberly, Idaho
April 19, 1966

Dear Jacques:

Thank you so much for your very nice letter of March 18th and also for the Grand Pressigny flint which you are sending. It is always so good to hear from you and I learn so much from your letters. I now have a new Diamond sawblade so can but up the flint and thereby use every piece of it. Flint is so precious to us here, as we have nothing locally like it.

We had a delightful trip to Mexico and saw many fabulous things there. Had a very nice visit with Jose Lorenzo in Mexico City and also met Litvak King and Angel Garcia Cook, who will be a pupil of Francois this year. Gave the students a little instruction in knapping and Cook is very adept and should make a good pupil for Francois. We had expected to meet Francois and Cornwall there, but apparently Boardes did not get a visa and Dr. Cornwall was in the field. Was very disappointed to miss both of them. Dr. Lorenzo is doing some very fine work in technology and typeology and I told him of your work and your ability at flintknapping. I do hope you will be able to visit the U.S. and Mexico soon, for you could be of such great help to us here and I know you would be delighted with the archaeology of Mexico. The magnitude of its resources are unlimited. In Mexico City they have a new Nation Musuem of Anthroplogy which is magnificient. We were permitted to visit the warehouse of the museum and saw much material which is never displayed. Seeing the polyhedral core material in the archives was very revealing to me and I learne a little more about the technique.

My sketches leave something to be desired, so I am sending the micro-burin for you to examine and compare. Keep it as long as you wish and I would love to have your comments and comparison results. So glad you have a furnace with controls, as there is much to be done on the behavior of silex when subjected to heat. Some of the Algerian jaspers, agates and chalcedonies should respond very well to the treatment.

Keep up the good work on tool making. Do wish I could spend some more time wi you, as it is difficult to explain the techniques by letter. You can exert more pressure by designing a new tool. If you will make a long handled pressu tool which will reach from your finger tip to your elbow and then place the handle in a resting position against the side of your right ribs, you will be able to exert more pressure without tiring the wrist and, at the same time, yo can keep consistent angles of pressure. Also, make a pad for the left hand. Use a thick piece of rubber(such as the rubber shoe heel) or use a section of a truck tire. Cut a groove down the middle of this pad for the flake to travel. This will give the flake support and allow clearange. Otherwise, without the groove, the flake will usually step-fracture. One has to make a series of short flakes on the slabs first before the long flakes are removed in order to make a slight curve, which is already there when using a preform. Heated flint seems to be more elastic and therefore allows more control than obsidian.

I use a wheel type glass cutter for cutting the slabs of obsidian, but this will not cut the silex material. Silex may be cut with a small diamond saw, or it can be scribed with a diamond stylus.

Ce.11.2.20

I would be delighted with any of your experimental pieces made on blades replicating the Upper Paleolithic. I,too, would like to make something for you, and have included a few of my own pieces(one of quartsite and a Guatamalan eccentric) in the package with the burin. Thank you again for the drawings of the burins. It must have been exciting to find a workshop site where they were fabricated. You are indeed making an important contribution to archaeolo by being able to interpret these techniques. It is so nice to hear from a very good friend.

Sincerely