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May 28, 1966

Dr. Jacques Tixier  
Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle  
Prehistoire  
Institut de Paleontologie Humaine  
1 Rue Rene Panhard  
Paris, XIII, France

Dear Jacques:

Thank you so very much for the large piece of such fine quality flint which I received today. How did you cleave and expose the end so perfectly? It is so flat, just like a rejuvenated core - a beautiful job! I will have this material quartered with a diamond saw before I prepare a core by percussion, for it is much too precious to lose so much material by breaking by percussion.

I have been doing some experiments with indirect percussion, using a clamp made of two pieces of lumber loosely lashed together at one end to hold the core with the opposite ends spreading, in order to get the right amount of pressure. I then rest the core on an anvil in such a way that the core will overhang the anvil so the blades will not be compressed. I then place a weight back far enough on the two pieces of wood so that the weight does not interfere with the work. I then hold the punch at a 70° angle and strike a hard, fast blow with a hard wood billet - or a piece of antler. I need more practice - but have been much encouraged by the results. The blades feather out without removing the end of the core and they are quite flat. I have been working with an untreated variety of agate, or chalcedony, and it is very tough stone. But, when pressure alone is used, the stone must be heat-treated. I am practicing on this agate material before I try the Grand Pressigny flint.

I hope you have received the micro-burin, and other odds and ends, which I sent to you in a package before we went to the meeting in Reno. This is a short note, for I am preparing to go to Idaho State University at Pocatello for a week to do some more filming. Evelyn sends her best wishes.

Sincerely,

Don Crabtree

(e.11.2.21)