

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho
June 18, 1966

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

Dear Jacques:

Thank you so much for your recent letter and for the package containing some of your work. I am delighted with your results in both flaking and the altering of the stone. The yellow jasper that you sent does work very well untreated. I have found a similar stone here, but it is not found in large pieces. Usually, I find that the part near the outside of the nodule has a natural lustre and can be worked untreated. The altering experiments you are doing mean a great deal to me, because, at Les Eyzies, I am afraid there were a few skeptics. There is still much experimenting to be done with the heating of stone, for so many materials require different temperatures. Some materials work very well untreated while others do not respond even after the heating, yet, by eye, there is little difference. This is true to a great extent with the opaque jasper-like materials. I have some Jasper from Idaho (called Bruneau Jasper) that the Indians were able to alter, but, so far, I have had little or no results with my heating. I will include in my package a piece of this Bruneau Jasper for you to experiment with and hope you get the alteration that I was unable to attain. Different varieties of chalcedony require different temperatures before they change. I only wish it possible for you to visit me, for we have such a wide variety of silica materials which would be most useful for your experiments.

Your pressure flaking is magnificent work and I am very proud of your progress. You have been able to accomplish in two years what took me many years of experimenting. And, even more important, is having an Archaeologist do this work - you have much talent. I am returning your artifacts, for I think it very important that you keep every artifact to show the development of your technique.

I am including in the package a preform I made of material from Hell Gap site in Wyoming; also some assorted flakes I made from Northern Nevada chalcedone, which shows a variety of colors and texture; some have been heated and some not; also am including some large pressure flaking on a biface that I made. Also, there are two pieces of Bruneau Jasper which I could not alter.

I must tell you again how grateful I am for the big piece of Grand Pressigny flint. I hope to get started on it soon to make some good Capsian cores. I have been working on them, but am not, as yet, satisfied with the results. With untreated material (Silicas), I have been using indirect percussion, but need much more practice. After it is heated, I can remove blades, but am getting excessive undulations and waves. I must make flatter and smoother flakes. Keep up the good work on the pressure flaking. You are doing beautiful work.

Your Friend,

Don E. Crabtree

Ce. 11.2.23