

PRÉHISTOIRE

Institut de Paléontologie humaine

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GOB. 62-91

Paris, le 21 novembre 1966

Dear Don,

Thank you very much for your letter and your slide.
I am so glad to get good news from Evelyne and you !

I had been very busy during this summer time :
digging at "La Faurélie", near les Eyzies (seven Magdalenian
levels and an A/zilian level), working at the international
congress of Prehistory in Tchechoslovakia, and working hard
in Paris. I am now on the point to go to Lebanon.

I enjoyed very much the story of "The sceptical man,
The bear and ^{The} clever men" !... An interesting successfull
experiment !...

I am grateffull to you for your last package, and
I shall take pleasure to work the Northern Nevada heated
slab you sent me. It seems to be a very good matériel.

In this package I send you :

1°) - The little piece of "Bruneau Jasper". I treated it (536° F
during 45h30) and tried to pressure it. It seems to be now
a good material but I don't know if you heated it before. So
I need some more of this Bruneau Jasper. Can you send me a flake
heated by Indians and an untreated piece of this Jasper ?
I shall make more experiments on it.

2°) - The Idaho "microburin". I look at it very closely
and I think it is not typical. The notch is good but on
the bulb face for it is allways ~~shows the point of percussion.~~
microburin. The break is not that of a microbyrin which
allways shows the characteristics of a bulb face.
on the upper face in a true

Ce. 11.2.25.1

3°) - I send you a typical microburin of my experiments to compare.

4°) - Some little blades of "punch technique" (using a piece of reindeer antler as a punch). They are not very large and not very beautiful (I have to keep the best ones for my students) but the variability of the bulbs can be observe. François, who got much big nodules of "Bergeracois" flint made very large and very nice ones.

5°) - A little slab of "Fontmaure Jasper". It is perhaps too thick but I have no more of this beautiful material. Hope you'll enjoy to work it. I am looking forward to send you heated chalcedony slabs from Sahara and very good flint from "Grand Pressigny".

6°) - A tanged projectile point made of glass to show you my first essays of inverse oblique retouch, for I am afraid to waste obsidian slabs. It is just a "fantasy".

7°) - Also an obsidian laurel-leaf-like. For the first time I tried to pressure using as a pad a grooved piece of rubber shoe heel (as indicated to me in one of your letters). I enjoy this technique because the flakes don't step fracture and slightly feather out as you can see. It is not a perfect essay but I'll work again in this way.

8°) - Two obsidian bladelets and six flint bladelets. This is the the most important of my recent experiments (I believe) :

I made a copper tipped crutch. I pressure little blades (two are included in the package) out of the obsidian block you sent me. There was no problem because I saw you in Les Eyzies and you had been a very good teacher.

Then, using the same crutch, I tried to pressure untreated flint. I was the first surprised of my success. I removed twelve bladelets from a bad core : the core was not prepared in regards of pressure "debitage" and was ~~not~~ made of "Grand Pressigny" flint but not ~~is~~ the best as you can see.

.../ ...

Ce. 11.2.25, 2

So these bladelets are not regular (three of them broke in flaking : n° 1 is broken and ^{glued}) but are very typical in their morphology and bulb so are capsian bladelets. The platform only is different for it had to be slightly rub for the flaking copper tip will not slip. This is my very first experiment on flaking in a capsian manner unheated flint. I hope now in getting capsian cores and bladelets with an ivory tip on my crutch, using a capsian like prepared core made of fine flint as Capsian^{ly} used.

Please, dear Don, experiment more on capsian technique. Both you and I will undoubtedly get one day the good way. We shall publish our results, I shall make our writing and our drawing.

I am practising /blade flaking with a crutch on glass blocks. But obsidian is more enjoying and more "genuine". You be kind enough to ^{nu} send me one or two ^{will} saved blocks of obsidian in view of pressuring blades of about five inches long ? Also, if you can a preform of an "Angostura-like" point?

I received your paper in "Tebiwai" but my english is too poor and I 'll write my comments in french. Excuse me.

FLAKING

IT IS, C'est jusqu'à présent le meilleur, le plus exhaustif et le plus clairement exposé article qui ait été écrit sur les expériences de taille traitant d'une seule technique. Tout ce qui a été écrit sur les "Polsom Points" n'existe plus maintenant. C'est un magnifique travail que je suis très content de posséder. Bravo ! Je souhaite de tout coeur que vous puissiez continuer et nous donner beaucoup d'articles de cette haute tenue. Je vous remercie d'avoir cité la provenance de silex du THIS HIGH CALIBER. I THANK YOU FOR HAVING CITED THE ORIGIN OF SILEX OF GRAND PRESSIGNY. I WILL SEND YOU SOME MORE OF IT PRETTY...! ...

Cell. 2.25.3

Sept 29. 28 / 44 -

Grand Pressigny. Je vous en envoie encore d'ici peu.

Sincère regards to Evelyn and you,

Your friend,

Jacques

J. Tixier

Please tell me if you don't understand something in my letter.

- You can keep 1°), 2°) (of course!), 3°), 4°), 5°), 6°).
- Will you be kind enough to return to me, in your next package: 7°) and 8°) ?

Ca. 11.2.25.4