

Feb. 12, 1968

Dr. Jacques Tixier
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Dear Jacques:

I cannot adequately express my gratitude for the many wonderful gifts you have sent me. Today I received the flint and thank you for being so very generous with this fine material. I shall use it very economically and hope to do additional experiments in this material on the Capsian cores and blades. As you know, Francois and I did some experimenting in blademaking using the punch as an indirect tool to detach blades, but it needs considerable more work to resolve the precision and accuracy necessary to the production of the Capsian blades.

I am overjoyed with the cast of the Magdalenian ivory carving. It is simply beautiful and a wonderful job of reproduction! I am most fortunate to have a friend like you who would send such a magnificent example of the carving. For this I am most grateful. I called Earl Swanson at the University in Pocatello to tell him of this treasure and he wanted me to ask if the University could purchase a copy for display in their Museum. Also, he wanted to know if there were other examples of Paleolithic art or tools which would be useful for student instruction in European prehistory.

Your paper on terminology and typeology is excellent and a real contribution to the Profession. I am pleased to note that our mutual friend, Desmond Clark, took part in the discussions. Your conclusions reflect much thought and logic and provide a sound basis which will benefit the profession in the years ahead. Also, the article on the technique of pointing the tips of the arrowheads is a single but important diagnostic trait which should be useful to all students and typeologists.

Please tell me what I can do for you to show my gratitude for the fine papers, the flint, and the beautiful replica of the ivory carving. Tomorrow I will send you a package of natural pieces of obsidian from Glass Butte, Oregon. You can have these lumps sawn or can percussion them into blanks and preforms, or even try some polyhedral cores and blades. I have selected some lumps which show chatoyancy when they are cut along the proper axis. You can determine the correct axis by wetting the stone with water and examining it under a strong light. Last evening I heated some obsidian and quartz crystal and it appears to relieve the strains and causes the material to flake with greater ease than before the treatment. If you have the time, perhaps you could do a similar experiment and give me your opinion on this. There is no visual difference after the heating, but it seems to be easier to remove long, thin, narrow flakes without their collapsing.

Thank you also for the remembrance of sending the most interesting card from South West Africa. Again, a thousand thanks for all the wonderful gifts and please let me know what I can do in return. Hope Michel Dauvois has received the journals he asked for.

Sincerely,

Don

Cell 11.2.32