

July 17, 1968

Dear Jacques:

Please, please pardon me for not writing soon but I have had such a busy Summer and do hope that things will "slack" off soon. I am so glad that you received the obsidian and hope that you will enjoy it. It makes a fascinating pattern if it is cut in different directions to bring out the flow pattern. You will be receiving another package of obsidian soon which I am sure you will love. It is a "Peacock" obsidian from Central Mexico that has the color of Peacock feathers - you will know when you see it. The pieces are small but worthwhile and, as I get time, I am sawing some for you. You will really enjoy working this stone for, afterward, as the arrowpoint is turned it gives off purple, green and red colors. Am also sending Francois some.

I have really had a busy summer and am now very tired. Went to Las Vegas, then to the University of Arizona at Tucson, then to the Grasshopper site in the Apache nation - then to Colorado to Wormingtons dig. She is finding some interesting material - Eden and Scottsbluff points in association with bison bones. Then came home for a week and then went to Oregon to do a short film on quarrying and general preliminary preparation of materials; preforming, etc. Glass Butte, Oregon now looks like the city dump yard due to rockhounds camping there and gathering material. So we did most of our work at Burns, Oregon which is a beautiful site. - Mountains, juniper trees and large ledges of very good obsidian. It was very tiring work and so much to do. I just don't see how you and Francois get so many things done, for I know you both have also had a busy Summer. At the Burns site, we quarried out several big lumps of obsidian - one weighing 350#. When and if Francois comes in the Spring, he can really make a tool for the giants.

I was glad to hear of your visit with Francois and of your seeing the slides of our work here. I hope you saw the big obsidian biface he made. I show that series at my lectures and you should hear the crowd roar when they see that one. We had a most enjoyable time while Francois was here and I am only sorry that he could not stay longer. Hope he can on his next visit. And - when are you coming over? I do hope soon. Marie asked if you would be interested in a lecturing professor visit to the States. She will be at Tempe, Arizona this next winter and, apparently, has something in mind. Do wish you could make it.

I am delighted to hear of the film you made and will be so happy to see it. Have asked Swanson to see if he can get funds for the film and he is sure he can. Also, all the other Universities I have told about it say they want a copy and know definitely that Arizona and Manitoba want a copy for their film library. Films save thousands of words.

Have just finished a paper on a new "edge ground" cobble percussion technique. Will send you a copy of the paper as soon as I get the drawings made, for I do want you to try this one. It gives beautiful blades and a definite pattern to the hammerstone. Previously in our literature here these had been identified as seed and root grinding stones and now it appears that they were hammerstones. So I would like your opinion on this one before we go too far afield.

I would like to find time to work on the Capsian cores to give you some definite information but am still not entirely satisfied with my experiments. Will have to work more with the punch and indirect percussion technique and am also trying this new "edge-ground" cobble method. One uses the long edge of the cobble, direct percussion, and a sort of pushing motion. It will be explained in my paper. But the blades removed by this technique have more of the characteristics of the Capsian blades. However, I am not as accurate as I should be at repeating the removal

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of the blades and usually spoil the core before it becomes entirely polyhedral. Another unanswered question is how did they rejuvenate the entire top of the core without causing the opposite side to be rounded. I shall keep trying as I find the time and hope to have the answer soon.

Francois sent a copy of his new book "The Old Stone Age" and it is Really Great. I am sure that it will be required reading in our universities here. I do wish I had just a little of his ability to write. You both are so good at it and I am so poor. I wonder if I can ever get it all down on paper.

Hope that you and your family have had a nice Summer and that it has not been the frantic one I have had. One begins to look forward to the Snow and a little peace and quiet.

Please give our regards to your family and will try and get the obsidian and the paper off soon.

Sincerely, your friend,

Don E. Crabtree

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