

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho

February 23, 1965

Dr. J. Tixier
Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle
Prehistoire
1 Rue Rene Panhard
Paris, XIII, France

Dear Dr. Tixier:

Thank you so much for your letter of Jan. 25th and excuse my delay in replying. I have been in California visiting the Mannix site which is a project of Dr. Leakey and Dr. Ruth Simpson of the San Bernardino, California Museum. The site is very interesting, but nothing has been written on it yet and they are awaiting Dr. Leakey's arrival in March.

I am very sorry that it has taken me so long to get my material ready to send to you, but have had to do the work in my spare time and this has caused the delay. I will send the package surface tomorrow, for the air mail is too expensive.

I am delighted to hear of your progress in pressure work on the obsidian. After studying the point you sent me, I think you are making rapid progress in pressure technique and it took me years to do what you have in a few short months. If you will seat your pressure tool directly in line with the ridge left by the first flake removed from the tip or the base of the artifact and use this ridge to guide the next flake then the flakes will be more uniform and much easier to detach. In the package I am sending, I have included a simple flake (blade) and you will note on the proximal end I have removed five flakes and left the platform for the sixth flake to be removed. I think this example will show you platform preparation better than I can explain it. You are very adept at pressure work, and I am sure you will be able to do the parallel flaking very soon.

Regarding your inquiry on preparing a core from the Industrial obsidian - one of the ways I prepare the top of a core (armature) is to rub the top of the core on a flat surface (glass or iron or any hard surface) with abrasive (corborundum, emery or sand) to make the surface rough so the flaking tool will not slip.

I was delighted to receive the Algerian flakes for analysis. I am enclosing some drawings of these flakes to show how one can determine from what type of core they were detached. These drawings show the difference in proximal end character of the flakes - denoting at least two different techniques. On a new core, or a rejuvenated core, the flat surface of the point of force (talon) is used to detach the flake indicating they were removed from a polyhedral core.

The other flake indicates - from the angle of the proximal end - that a conical core was used, however, this flake could have been removed

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from a polyhedral core if platforms were made for each individual flake. If a polyhedral core was used and a series of flakes were removed from the perimeter of the core, it would have to be rejuvenated, as the angle of the top of the core would not be suitable to detach additional flakes.

I am returning to you three of the flakes which you gave to me when I visited you in Paris. I used the thermal treatment on these flakes and there was very little change in texture, but they did flake much better. Also included is a flake of my local material which, by eye, appears to be the same as the Algerian stone that alters well, as you can see from the fresh flakes.

The large core which I am sending to you, was done with a crutch and the small blades were removed by hand held pressure tools. These artifacts are not my best work, but will show the different flaking techniques.

Would it be possible for you to send me some of the Gran Pressigny Silex. Any form would do, for I would love to have some of this material to experiment with.

I must thank you again for the publications you gave me and tell you how very much I have enjoyed them. The artifacts from Algeria that you gave me are a wonderful addition to my collection and have meant much to me in the way of study and analysis.

I will look forward to receiving the prepared nucleus and silex so I can get to work producing the nucleus as you suggest.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

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