

I recieved your very nice letter today just as I had been getting ready to write this one. I thank you for the very kind words you say about me. What wonderful memories I have of our symposium at Eyzies, and of your visit to Paris which unfortunately was too short.....

I have worked a little on "la taille" (cutting, slicing, chipping???) by pressuring, but as yet I can't control the operation very well. I was successful just once in getting an oblique correction of 5 centimeters on a "lame" (~~xxx~~ piece??) of obsidian. I am sending you an example of what I am now able to do. It is obviously not a good piece of work for you, but for one of your beginning students it is a start and with some more advice from you I can make progress. Unfortunately my work keeps me from "tailler" (chipping, cutting???) and I can only do it about two hours per week.

I am now going to answer your letter more specifically before telling you of certain plans.

I noticed on certain arrow heads two little "burins" (notches, edges, teeth???) on one of the faces (or sides???) and leading to a sharp triangular point. I know of several specimens that have been shown and not recognized. Although it is not a common technique, it is a technique known in the Sahara. I am very happy to learn that it is a technique known in the Arctic and I am very grateful to you for giving me information that I will certainly use.

You are very kind to think of me and to prepare a shipment of your beautiful nucleus and some "plaques" (pieces, sheets, slabs ????) of obsidian, which will be very precious to me. Also, thank you very much for your help on the subject of elk antlers.

And now, so that I can keep my promises, what would you like? Some silex? In what form? sharp? rounded? By mail, or by air express I believe it would be too expensive....but by boat it is quite possible. Tell me what your wishes are, I will try to satisfy them in every possible way.

I would like to propose something else to you now. I should like to have published, under both of our names, a paper on the "debitage" (workings, remains, diggings????) of the ~~S~~ Capsien of Algeria and Tunisia that we know so well now....and the techniques and the methods which, thanks to you, we know so well. You saw a good series of them in my laboratory. For this it would be wonderful if you could make a nucleus of non-treated silex with about ten "lames" using a point not made of copper...they did not know of it....but of horn or antlers from deer, antelope, etc. in reproducing the striking platform. Is that possible for you to do? If you think so I can give a prepared nucleus not yet worked and some good silex from Grand Pressigny. I am going to work on my end of it. Tell me sincerely what you think of it. This paper could appear in L'Anthropologie, which is one of the great international periodicals.

I found a big block of industrial obsidian that I am going to do some experimenting on. I am bothered by the preparation of the pressuring platform when the block has been cut. How do you do it? With a grindstone?

Kindly extend my best wishes to Mrs. Crabtree whom I hope is in excellent ~~xxxxxx~~ health, and my very best wishes to you.

J. Tixier

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