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ZURICH BRANCH

14/16 BOERSENSTRASSE, POSTFACH 974, 8022 ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

October 19, 1971

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
Route I
Box 39
KIMBERLY
Idaho 83341

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

This will acknowledge receipt, and gratitude, for your letter of September 28, 1971. Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised to have received an answer to my inquiry directly from the "master" himself.

Before getting into the heart of the matter, I merely want to clarify a couple of points so to prevent any possible misunderstandings in the future. Your letter was addressed to a "Dr. G. Wili" who, in fact, is not a Dr., nor a professional archeologist. Rather, I am a banker, in good Swiss tradition, who merely has a fairly good understanding in pre-history. My involvement in this area started about ten years back and has progressed well beyond the point of being a hobby. In the last four years, two very close friends and myself have been working on developing systems for underwater archeological excavations as most of the Neolithic sites in Switzerland are located underwater. Our involvement in this has resulted in our receiving further projects concerning site locations, identification and distribution. As we have always enjoyed pleasant working relationship with the various Kantons Archeologists here, we have had ample opportunity to question and discuss, and more often than not, disagree with some of their ideas and theories. This is, in fact, what had occurred which started us off in pursuit of flint technology. Following a recent conference at which tool making was mentioned, rather lightly at that, my colleague and I pulled a group of these gentlemen aside to qualify their statements. Having done some knapping in the past, I knew some of the problems involved and was really astounded at their total lack of knowledge and understanding of even the basic concepts.

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As a result of the above, we have set up a workshop here and have proceeded to see what can be done about "educating" these people. Obviously enough, there is very little, if any, material locally available dealing with this subject, so we have resorted to scanning around far and wide for information. Your name was mentioned to me on a number of occasions by Dr. Rainer Berger, at UCLA, with whom I am personally well acquainted, however, I was somewhat reluctant to contact you directly as I felt you had your hands full as is, and then again, what even gives us the right to trouble you with our problems. But one never knows, does he?

To get to the problem at hand, your letter and drawings were of substantial help to us, and in practice we were able to make those burins as illustrated. There is one problem which still persists, however, that being that we have examined masses of burins throughout Europe as well as France, and among those that present the most problem to duplicate are the blade burins which

1. serve a dual function as an end-scraper/burin; and
2. where the flakes drawn off to form the burin are from $1/2$ to $3/4$ the length of the blade.

In point one, the blades are often so delicate, as is the curve forming the end-scraper, (see illustration No.1) that to place the blade on end enabling one to exert sufficient pressure would damage the scraper. Maybe a vice of sorts was used here.

In point two, to draw a flake down either side of a blade exceeding at least half the overall length of said blade, has proven virtually impossible for us. We have thought of a couple of modifications but without significant success (see illustration No.2). Any comments on any of the above would be appreciated.

Oh yes, lest I forget, we will be leaving the 29th of this month for France. I have been able to arrange for a meeting with Francois Bordes and will toss this problem at

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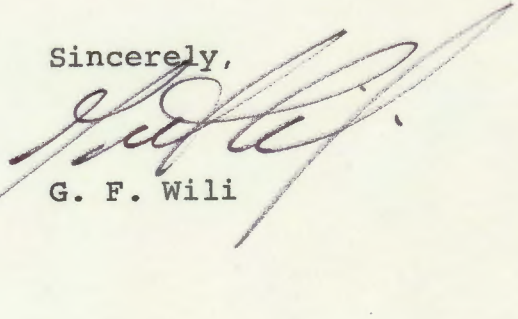
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him as well. If you have any special requests concerning him, or material which we may obtain for you, please be sure to let me know in due time.

Many thanks and regards.

Sincerely,



G. F. Wili

GFW/al

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Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly
Idaho 83341

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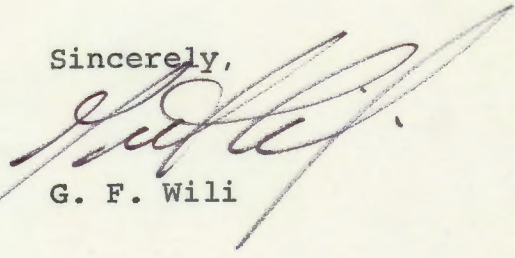
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Sincerely,



G. F. Wili

GFW/al

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