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ZURICH BRANCH

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

November 12, 1971

Mr. D. E. Crabtree
Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly
Idaho 83341

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

Upon my return from France this week, I was most pleased to see your letter dated November 4, 1971. Although I have no specific questions at the present time, I thought that the circumstances of our trip might be of interest to you and I am taking this occasion to inform you of same.

While in Les Eyzies, we called Professor Bordes and arranged a meeting on November 4, at the University of Bordeaux. To say that this meeting was a success would be an understatement, especially in view of the fact that he was most anxious to answer our questions, and in some cases demonstrate, to the extent that his laboratory surroundings would permit. As a result of this visit, our great burin mystery has been solved once and for all and the solution which he offered was really so simple, that it resulted in our losing our self-control because of the sheer humour involved. By this I mean to say that in the future we will have to place ourselves in a primitive mental setting and seek the simplest solution to any technological problem.

In the course of the afternoon, Professor Bordes mentioned your name on numerous occasions and especially where the question of "heat treatment" was brought up. I must confess that up until the time of this visit I had always been somewhat skeptical, and without much foundation. To my surprise there is ample evidence available at the University of Bordeaux which clearly substantiates that theory, and both Mr. Kelterborne and I anxiously look forward to experimenting this new medium.

At the conclusion of our visit, Professor Bordes was courteous enough to invite us to his home in the Durdogne during the course of summer 1972, so that we will have ample oppor-

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tunity to experiment with flint without having to worry about "messaging up" his laboratory and, as you may well imagine, we are anxiously looking forward to this. On our return trip to Switzerland we again stopped at Le Grand Pressigny which, as you may already know, can be quite an experience for anyone interested in lithic technology. I can only imagine what kind of time a fellow like yourself could have in a place such as that.

Now, with reference to your letter, you stated that you have always had an interest in stone tools which may be found together with their original haftings. In the course of the past four years we have found any number of examples in the Swiss lake sites, ranging from flint blades, scappers and sickles, to stone axes, all still mounted in their wood and/or antler handles. It goes without saying that these are not common while, on the other hand, they are not as rare here as they might be in other areas under somewhat different circumstances. Should you be interested in this, there are some nicely illustrated texts available and, with a little bit of luck, a specimen or two which I might be able to have sent to you. In addition to this, and should your personal collection be lacking examples thereof, I might also assemble a few specimens of the Swiss mesolithic industries and forward same to you. If any of the above would be of definite interest to you, I would appreciate your letting me know by return mail.

Lest I forget, in your letter you referred to Jacques Tixier, at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, who by reputation is also an accomplished flintknapper. I have come across Tixier's name on a number of occasions, however I have been unsuccessful in obtaining any of his publications as such. As I would be most interested in contacting him, I would welcome any suggestion from you as to how this can be done without appearing brash in my approach. Perhaps a letter of introduction from you would assist in serving that purpose?

That is about it for now, and if I can be of any assistance to you in any way whatsoever, I would appreciate your letting me know by return mail.

Sincerely yours,


George F. Willi

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