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ERLAND

August 30, 1972

Mr. Don E. Crabtree  
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Dear Don,

First of all I would like to thank you for your very kind letter of August 9. As it had been sometime since I last heard from you I was somewhat curious as to what could have happened and was seriously considering initiating some correspondence from this end. The situation with your back problem would sound to be a most unfortunate one, however, I think that in view of the nature of the problem it should not be too long before your back will be in proper condition again. Any problems or injuries in the area of the back can most certainly play havoc in undertakings requiring a certain amount of physical as flintknapping or digging does.

As a result of our meeting with Hans Müller-Beck, we have had a number of opportunities to exchange letters, opinions, and maintain general correspondence. I must say Don, that as an individual he is a most impressing one in that he makes himself readily available to many types of people for any number of different types of problems. About three weeks ago, at the urging of Müller-Beck, a number of friends and I made a visit to an excavation presently being undertaken by a Dr. Taute, who I beleive is working under the direction of Müller-Beck. This excavation near Sigmaringen, although not plentiful in artifacts, is indeed a most interesting one. The region in which this site is located has proven to be as valuable to the study of the mesolithic period as the Dordogne is to the study of the Upper-Paleolithic. I can readily understand the basis for their pride in view of the vast amount of information which has made itself available in this region. From what Dr. Taute told us, we can look forward to a detailed publication sometime in the very near future and should this be the case, I will be more than happy to forward a copy to you if Müller-Beck has not already done so.

While I'm on this subject, I wonder if you are aware of Müller-Beck's intentions at the University of Tübingen with regards to establishing a work shop for lithic technology. At the time of our visit he stated that this rather new area has, indeed, generated a substantial interest in the archeological fields and that, for this purpose, he is already in the process of working

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out the details for establishing such a department. It would seem that he has some capable people assisting him in this venture.

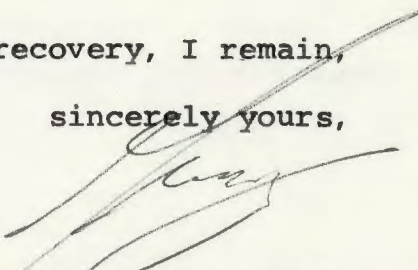
In your letter you mentioned that you will be visiting with Richard Gould in the very near future and although I have personally never heard of him, I am sure he will have many things to offer in the form of information and observation on the tool workings of the Australian aborginies. It never fails to surprise me how far this "lithic technology" has advanced in the relatively few years of its existence.

In so far as the specimens which I have sent you are concerned, I certainly feel that the problem has been solved for the most part. I have recently spoken to Dr. Speck and he himself stated that he would keep his eyes open for any possibly interesting pieces, however, I must understand that any of the material which would be sent to you would not be done so officially in view of the rather strict laws existing in this country. Again that other problem of eminent domain. In the meantime I have been able to obtain a small ax mounted in a deer-horn socket for you. This piece stems out of a very old collection which, unfortunately, has been completely broken up and all relative data lost. Because of this, there is no scientific importance which could be placed on such a piece and as a result I have absolutely no scruples of any kind in reserving this piece for you. I shall be forwarding it sometime in the near future depending on when I'm in receipt of this rather unusual artifact.

In closing, I would merely wish to say that we also are keeping our fingers crossed about your possible visit to Europe, and in particular Switzerland, this fall. I think that should time allow, we also might be able to show you some things of interest in the field of our mutual interest.

Expressing my wish for a speedy recovery, I remain,

sincerely yours,



PS: With regards to this danish blade-making technic, if and when the material is compiled, you do know the destination of at least one copy of said publication. Thanks again.

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