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April 29, 1975

Mr. Kim Akerman, Senior Anthropologist
c/o Community Health Services
Dept. of Public Health
P.O. Box 138
Derby, 6728, Western Australia

Dear Kim:

I am delighted to learn of your interests in stoneworking techniques and my thanks to Dick Gould, our mutual friend, for the merger of our common efforts. You are, indeed, fortunate to have access to so much factual information regarding the actual lithic industries of the native Australian. I encourage you to preserve examples with copious notes, for this will be important to the profession.

I am sorry that I do not have any complimentary copies of "An Introduction to Flintknapping". However, I have sent a copy of your letter to the University to see what they have on hand. I will send you some off-prints of a paper on the use of the obtuse angle and one on the replication of the Hohokam points. I do not have a copy of the heat treatment of siliceous materials, however, it would be well if you made your own experiments as the amount of heat exposure and the duration of time is highly variable with different materials. The stone should be covered with sand or earth to permit even distribution of heat. If you use an electric oven or kiln, start increasing the heat at 25° F at thirty minute intervals and never open the oven door during heating or cooling - else the material will crack and craze. The change in material may start at around 450° F - you'll just have to determine this by the trial and error method. The larger the piece, the more slowly the heating and cooling period. Do not expose the stone to the air during heating or cooling.

The use of the bench stone or a solid support causes the flakes to be flatter and they terminate by feathering more than if they are palm held. It will be interesting if you can note the technological differences. Kim, I would be delighted to be able to see a flaking kit from Australia.

Thanks so much for your interesting letter and hope you receive some publications from the University.

Sincerely yours,

Don E. Crabtree

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