30.12.1970.

BRNO,
Leninova 90,
pokoj 701,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

Very many thanks for your letter of October 4th this year. I was very sorry to hear about your wife's illness with cancer, and I can only hope that she has now recovered or is on the way to recovery. May I send you my best wishes for the New Year.

Also I have to apologise for my long delay in replying to your letter. Partly this arises from the fact that your letter was delayed in reaching me. As you see from the address above, I am now in Czechoslovakia at Brno University, and have been here since early October. It takes a while for post to be sent on to me here.

A couple of days ago I received your paper on the Corbiac technique (joint article with F. Bordes); many thanks for it. In fact, after I first wrote to you, a friend mentioned the article to me and I had a look at his copy. It contains answers to a number of the questions I put to you!

As you say, Dr. Swanson dealt with the correspondence. Unfortunately, we were not able to meet in London, since I was in Czechoslovakia by that time. I have been told that all your articles have now been printed as a booklet, and I am arranging to get a copy.

An Indian archaeologist named Dr. Misra was here a few days ago. He met Bruce Bradley in France in the summer and showed me some photographs of B.B. at work, which I found fascinating; but unfortunately he had sent all the specimens of Bradley's work to India!

I should be very happy to receive samples of blades made by various techniques, as soon as you are able to send me some (to my address in England, not here).

Perhaps I could raise as briefly as possible some question which have a bearing on my present work? In my knowledge of flint technology I am alas mainly dependent on written papers of others, since I have not yet had time or training

to do much of my own work. I therefore have to turn to the literature. May I make a résumé of it, as it is known to me?

Looking at the paper by Barnes + Chagnier in the Bulletin de la Société Préhistorique Française 1935, I find that they, following Breuil and Coutier, distinguished 3 types of bulbs on flakes (pp. 290-291). A - percussion with stone. B - percussion with wood. This they said had a "diffuse bulb, with a little overhanging lip between the ventral surface and the striking platform". C - clactonian (an exaggerated form of A). These types are illustrated on p. 290 of BSPF. It is (B) which particularly interests me. It is further stated on p. 291 that Coutier obtained results similar to (B) not only with wooden direct percussion, but also by using an intermediary punch (chasse-lames) in hard wood.

Turning to Bordes' paper in L'Anthropologie 1947 'Étude comparative', I find that he also illustrates on p. 13 blades obtained by direct

percussion with a wooden hammer - these are similar to those illustrated by Barnes + Cheynier. At that time (p. 18) he was inclined to play down indirect percussion, + attempted to draw a distinction between it and direct wooden hammer. He was also inclined to play down the crutch pressure-method.

I see from American Antiquity 1965 that at the Les Eyzies conference on the other hand you were able to demonstrate the crutch pressure-method with flint + obsidian. (And this is what Bradley is now doing).

In his article in Quartär 1967 'Considérations sur la Typologie' Bordes fully recognises the importance of the indirect percussion method, + abandons his earlier attempt to differentiate between this + direct wooden hammer. But on p. 42 he illustrates the type + striking platform resulting - no. 3 : + this now looks like Barnes + Cheynier type (A)! His new no. 4 (also on p. 42), which looks like the

old (B) is said to result from a further special preparation of the core.

This leaves me in a little confusion.

Then I turn to your joint paper with Bordes. Your figure 7 (b) + (c) shows the effects of indirect percussion ; + especially (b) is just like (B) in Barnes + Cheynier.

I'm sorry to bore you with all this bibliography, which you must already know very well. The purpose is first to illustrate my state of mind.

I discussed these questions with Dr. Hahn in Germany at the end of September, + together with him examined some of the material from Vogelherd. In my work here accordingly, so far, I am dividing the striking platforms into 2 main groups. The first broadly correspond to Barnes + Cheynier (A), the second to their (B). It is undoubtedly true that there are platforms which have a small overhanging lip, + which are accompanied by a diffuse bulb. They can be contrasted with (A).

6. But what is the meaning of this difference. It boils down really to 2 questions.

Have those striking platforms with an overhanging lip + diffuse bulb always been produced by indirect percussion or chest pressure-technique?

Do the striking platforms of type (A) also include in their number some which have been produced by these methods as well?

In other words, in separating these platforms into 2 groups, am I gaining any useful information?

That really is the crux of my question!

I hope I have made myself clear + that all this has not been too long-winded.

It may be that you know the answer at once, or that it can be quickly seen from your specimens. If I am frightfully out of date in all this, please forgive me.

It may be that yet more of my questions find their answer in your paper in 1968 American Antiquity, which has just been recommended to me but which I do not think is available here.

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7.

I have been having a very busy time since my arrival here, but due to various difficulties I have not got on with my work as quickly as I had hoped. I trust that the New Year will see a speedy advance.

I work in the Moravian Museum, and my chief contact there is Dr. Karel Valoch, whose name you will no doubt know. Later I will go to Prague & Nitra (Slovakia). If by any chance there is anything that I can do for you in this country while I am here, please let me know. They have a wide variety of raw materials for their palaeolithic industries, including a number of varieties of hornstone, radiolarite, obsidian, quartz, quartz sandstone, and rock crystal. I hope to visit a number of the sites in the Spring.

Once more, many thanks for your letter; apologies for the delay in replying. I hope to hear further from you when you have the time. I hope your wife is now well, and all the best for 1971.

Yours sincerely, Philip Allsworth-Jones.

Ce.la.69.1