

November 28, 1967

Dear Don,

Well how is the lithic technology business? I've been
curious to hear how your luck has been with the Indiana
material. I imagine it takes a quite different touch than
the volcanic glass. I worked a bit on both before leaving
for Africa this summer. I started on the Indiana stone
and was having very limited success. Then I tried the
obsidian. Boy what a difference. Since I was use to the
more brittle qualities of the Indiana stuff I set in on the obsid-
ian with a bang. I'll admit I didn't have much control, but
what a thrill it was to see (and feel) those long flake
off. I had hoped to be able to continue experim-
but they are really in a bad way for decent material
all quartz here in the South, with a bit of very poor
the north. One interesting thing I've come across
flints. They are still making gun flints somewhere up
maybe even in the Sahara or North Africa. Many of the weapons used
by hunters and of course most of the tools in the north are flintlocks
and I've seen these flints sold in the markets. If you'd be
interested, I could easily get some and send them to you. The
material is a low grade grey and white chert and I don't know
where it comes from, or where they're made. Most of our stone
tools, especially the microliths are badly worked - but occasionally
a very nice piece is found in this unretched material - never in
quantity or in a cultural tradition though. I was wondering
if the heat idea you mentioned could explain some of the
better flaked material. If we could send you a piece, could you
tell my examination? It would be interesting to know.
Some of the better worked pieces look to be almost of slate. I
could send you a piece of this if you're interested. Also
I'd like to ask a favor of you. Would it be too expensive
to send us a small number of tools for laboratory and
teaching samples? It would be most helpful to the
people here if you could. Especially if the pieces are labeled
as to which are done by pressure & which by percussion.

CG 13.85

This space also for correspondence

They're still in a habit here of diagnosing such esoteric things as direct percussion, indirect, pressure etc on the basis of fineness of work on a very superficial examination. I think some of your works could open their eyes a bit. Let me know if you'll be able to send anything out, it would be most heartily received. Please give my regards to your wife; and of course,

I hope this letter finds you all well. Also my wife

sends her best wishes ~~to~~ to you both.

As always,

Jim Bellis

This space also for correspondence

BY AIR MAIL

AÉROGRAMME

AIR LETTER

MR. DONALD CRABTREE

ROUTE # 1

KIMBERLY, IDAHO

U.S.A.

Sender's name and address

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