

April 29, 1970

Route 1, Box 39

83341

Dr. Douglas S. Byers  
Box 169  
Andover, Mass 01810

Dear Doug:

Thank you so much for your letter of January 20th. for Evelyn and I are always glad to hear from such a good friend. We were sorry to miss seeing you in 1968 but the trip was a last minute decision and no time for advance notice. We are concerned about your prospective stint in the hospital and hope the surgery is minor rather than major. Hope improvement will be rapid and that you will be able to attend the meetings in Mexico. Junius Bird has invited me to have a display and give a demonstration at the American Museum in New York on February 18th. Do wish you could be in the area at that time. After a week there, will be going up to Yale for a short stint.

About the flakes - as you say, the sample is really too small to permit definite conclusions. However - the abrasion of the platform is a technique used to strengthen this part to prevent its crushing or collapse when force is applied. I usually associate this technique with early man sites of the new world such as Murray Springs, Lindenmeier, etc. The three smallest flakes appear to be trimming flakes detached from the edge of a biface but, because of the angle and flatness of the platform, they are still questionable. One really needs more flakes to be sure.

I have attached the two bladelike flakes together with florist wax to show the similarity of technique used in their detachment from the core. Because of their flatness of design, it is doubtful that they were removed from a biface. Both are broken without distal ends, therefore, it is impossible to estimate the ultimate length of the core or the width of the biface. If they were detached from a biface from both lateral margins, then the biface should be comparable in size and workmanship to the beautiful Egyptian knives.

The one gray blade has some functional polish on the lip of the bulb of force on the ventral - or core - side of the blade. The obtuse angle of the lip can be a superb cutting edge for forming bone and antler or even for working wood. Experiments have shown that the very low angle of the ridges on a polyhedral core are as good, or better, than a metal tool for forming ivory, bone, antler or wood. While in Mexico, I examined some Mexican cores and found the ridges showed function. Have also noted that the ridge on a blade found at Murray Springs showed considerable wear. You might like to check the low angles on the Bullbrook material for this same type of wear pattern. Am enclosing a few flakes made by direct percussion and pressure with abraded platform surface. I am sorry that the flake collection is not larger so we could reconstruct the elements and make some definite conclusions.

Just received a beautiful book from Bordes, "La France Au Temps Des  
Outs" - Very interesting and beautifully illustrated.  
Hope to see you in New York or Mexico, Sincerely,  
Don E. Crabtree

CEL 4/12