

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

May 11, 1973

Mr. Don Crabtree
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Dear Don:

This will not be the long letter I owe you, but there are a few things that I've wanted to write you about. First of all, I read your Tebiwa paper on the cone principle and found it great. I'm teaching a class in primitive technology and wish I'd had the article when I was doing the lectures on how flakes are formed. Would you happen to have a reprint of the paper? If so, I would really appreciate one. The class is kind of fun and it is allowing me extra time to flintwork. I'm sorry to say I'm pretty rusty but it hasn't all been lost. It is interesting for me to see what skills are hard to maintain--accuracy primarily--and what stays with you. My pressure flaking ability on obsidian is essentially lost although since I'm still working with percussion thinning it is all right. We have also started to use local stone--cherts and a Jasper. A couple of the kids here are very interested in flintworking and are coming right along in skill. It is fun to have a few excited people about. One fellow, an undergraduate, is working with wear analysis and doing a good job. I've been trying to spread the faith.

The second main point I wanted to raise was that there is a fellow here in physics who is now working on heat treatment. I am not familiar with his process but his results sound swell. Basically he finds Purdy's stuff bad. He is showing that crystalinity changes at relatively low temperatures, well below Purdy's heats. Of course this sounds like something I've heard somewhere else. I showed him your 1964 paper and he agreed with your interpretation. He will be a fine fellow to have around campus. He is also interested in rock mechanics and so I've put him onto the Speth/Faulkner stuff and made a copy of your cone paper for him. I think these topics are too important to be left to the archeologists so I'm very glad to have an interested physicist around.

This summer I'll be leading a crew in central Nebraska and hope also to do a short survey in search of some Republican River Jasper quarries. This jasper is a primary

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resource in the southern part of the state but is pretty poor stuff and comes in a wide range of qualities. One of my aims this summer is to find the different utilization patterns of this local material and the better exotic ones which were imported. It seems that to use the jasper the lithic inventories include a lot of simple steep flake scrapers and other "crude" tools. Crudity is thus a response to the intractable local resources.

Aside from the usual frustrations of teaching, life is good and we are well and happy. I trust you both can say the same.

Yours truly,



Peter Bleed

PB/mlk

cc.1.4.15.2