

Nov. 27, 1976

My dear Harriett:

I am so grateful for the phone call and the detailed drawings of the blade technology. The platform preparation for the removal of pressure blades is another new approach for me. On the other hand it is an adaptation of one of the oldest techniques, the Levallois, the platform was prepared by removing two flakes parallel in order to create a ridge directly above the two guiding ridges on the face of the core. The ridge on top of the core allows the tip of the pressure tool to start blade detachment with lessened pressure than the flat face and also permits exacting placement of the pressure tool. Using this technique makes it unnecessary to remove the overhang. It would seem necessary to prepare the top of the core after each blade is removed in order to remove either a double or single ridged blade. I was fortunate enough to see a cache of burial blades from the vicinity of Colima, West coast of Mexico that were removed from the core without removing the overhang left from the last series of blade detachment but the top of the core was unground and unflaked. I find that this is a difficult way of detaching uniform blades, yet they highly skilled. Too the core preparation is most interesting as they had much skill in pressure preparation of the core. At the Lena River site in Siberia they made blades on a core that looks like a thick truncated biface, using both lateral margins to remove the first two blades.

I am sorry that I never got to answer your question about the large heat warped blades as to whether they could have been done by pressure. I have a pressure core also from Colima, Mexico that is eight inches (20 Cm.) and there are many larger. Also Robert Heizer has many larger pressure cores from Guatemala at the (I don't know how to spell it) Papual-huapa site. I might add that Tixier finds the Capsian cores of North Africa made of flint have the tops of the cores flaked, they using the concavity, or negative bulbar scar to seat the pressure tool and each blade top or proximal end had a single facet. After blade removal all around the perimeter of the core was done it was rejuvenated by detaching a single tablet, how they did it I don't know, I always remove a little of the opposite side which ruins it on that side.

Harriett the collection that you brought to the field school has meant so much to me and I make frequent references to the most interesting technology it demonstrated. For instance the little burin like bladelettes that removed the edges of a dulled blade and how distinctive they were caused me to identify a parallel technique that occurred in Belize, they would remove a transverse tranchient flake like they used for sharpening adzes. This was done by pressure alternating the margins and would sharpen the end of the blade as you would sharpen a pencil.

Thank you so much for remembering me at this time of sadness, it is only people like you that make things bearable, please keep in touch.

Warmest regards from your friend,

CE.64.33