

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho 83341
April 1, 1967

Mr. Rob Bonnicksen
13530 109 A Avenue Apt 9
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Dear Rob:

I am sorry to be so tardy answering your letter and phone call, but have been waiting to get some reaction about the NSF grant so I could give you a more definite answer. I saw Swanson this week in Pocatello and told him of your call and letter, but he has not, as yet, heard from NSF.

Rob, as you know, I would like to help you in any way that I can, but, at the present time, can't give you anything definite. It did come to my mind though that there has been nothing done on mapping the sources of raw materials. Such a project would be most useful to archaeology.

For instance, in Alberta there is continual reference to Knife River Flint and no one seems to know the exact location. If the source is from the South, then the material had to go North. A material study doesn't necessarily need the complete type specimen, but only material that shows aboriginal work. Such a study should be made in the Bearing Strait and Siberia and could help solve the problem of the movement of man. Such a study would also resolve many hypothetical theories regarding mans' movements in space and time. It would be a new and unexplored field.

Since the development of the Neutron Activation method of analysis, identification of materials can be made and related to the source. BAE Bulletin 60 by W.H. Holmes is the first and almost the only comprehensive work done on a raw material study. But Holmes did nothing in the way of tracing materials to or from their sources.

Many of the materials may be examined visually for diagnostic characteristics and only those questionable would need to have the more complex testing. The basis for all flaking industries, or experiments, has a direct bearing on varieties of materials and their source. I seldom get a letter from other experimenters that does not make inquiries regarding materials. This is an unexplored and wide-open field that has great potential for both the profession and yourself. And, besides, you won't get your hands cut as I do mine.

Selfishly, such a project would be a great help to me, as I'm sure you would recognize many heretofore undetected techniques in flaking. Please discuss the subject with Alan and get his reaction.

I understand that there is a chance that you may be down this way and do hope that we can talk further.

Sincerely, your friend

Ca. 1.4.56