

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

VANCOUVER 8, CANADA

*Laboratory of Archaeology*

DEPARTMENT OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

CEB/bm

November 3rd, 1966.

Mr. Don E. Crabtree,  
Route 1,  
Kimberly,  
Idaho 83341,  
U. S. A.

Dear Don,

I was delighted to receive your interesting letter of 19. X. 66, and to learn the results of your new experiments in blade technology. Your demonstration that it is possible to press off four inch long blades is highly significant. The contributions you are making to our understanding of stone working techniques are simply terrific. My own comprehension of these ancient human skills has been completely revolutionized through contact with you, and I am passing on these benefits to my students. Incidentally they tremendously appreciated the demonstration you so generously put on for them.

The publication you ask about, which contained the illustration showing a Mexican Indian making polyhedral blades is as follows:

K. H. Jacob-Friesen, Die Altsteinzeitfunde aus dem Leinetal bei Hannover, 133 pp. Hildesheim, 1949.

In translation:

The Paleolithic Finds from the Leine Valley near Hannover, 133 pp. Hildesheim, 1949.

The illustration in question is Fig. 55 on p.129. The caption reads, "Preparation of stone blades through pressure." Jacob-Friesen obtained his information from a work by J. Lubbock entitled:

Continued.....

Die vorgeschichtliche Zeit erläutert durch die  
Überreste des Altertums und die Sitten und  
Gebräuche der jetzigen Wilden, Jena, 1874.

In translation the title reads:

The Prehistoric Period Illuminated through the  
Remains of Antiquity and the Customs and  
Practices of Modern Savages, Jena, 1874.

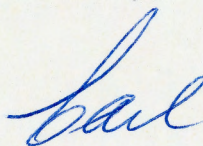
Jacob-Friesen states in the text that Lubbock, following data related by Torquemada, gives a good description of the working technique of the ancient Mexicans and that Fig.55 had been drawn according to this description. Thus, the information given by Torquemada has passed through the hands of several authors before Fig.55 was drawn. It could well be that the need to clamp the polyhedral core in something like a vise got lost somewhere in the shuffle.

I trust that the above is what you need for you publication on polyhedral cores. I am also enclosing a Xerox copy of Fig.55.

Alice and I, as well as the Keenlysides greatly enjoyed your and Evelyn's visit. We hope that we may have the pleasure of having both of you come up again before too long.

Thanks for passing on the regards from the Swansons. Please do give our best to them!

Sincerely,



Charles E. Borden