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IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:

I am sorry to report that I have not hit a rock in anger since leaving Pullman

Don E Crabtree
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Dear Don, your letter of 21st October eventually caught up with me when I returned home for Christmas. One of the few things I get from the University is stationary, so I am using it up.

Many thanks for your efforts on my behalf with Gene Vitmus. It is a beautiful point, made out of pretty material. I hated to mark it with a diamond scriber. I have marked your kind gifts with a C so that no one will think they are my efforts. I have written to him

I am sorry to hear that the surgeon caught you again but pleased that you are still with us. I hope you are still pressure flaking with your usual dexterity & skill. I gain great pleasure out of looking at the points you gave me. This is the wrong attitude for an archaeologist, so I call myself a lithic technologist.

There is little interest in or knowledge of this field in Australia. One respectable lecturer gave a seminar on his work in Borneo. He was very excited about the pressure flaked before he had found in a surface collection. I had a look

at them after the seminar & made no comment. Even a trained gorilla could not have produced such scars. They were quite obviously done by percussion. I gave a seminar on the work I had done at W.S.U.. I suspect I made myself rather unpopular by suggesting that no archaeologist was competent to analyse stone tools unless he had at least basic experience in making & using them.

I am at present finishing off the M.A. I started 3 years ago. It is a typological study of points & is not very interesting. After I returned with some lithic experience, I looked at them in a new light, as a result some of the work had to be redone.

I am determined to do a Ph.D. when I finish next year, but the problem is where. There are no facilities in the department here for lithic experiments, as you know, you need at least some space where you can break rock & experiment, without worrying about the floor. I am going to try one of the Sydney universities. If that does not work out, I may even end up back at W.S.U.

The site in W.A. is Devils Lair. Francois came through Canberra returning to France & I had quite a chat with him. Kim Akerman is rather a wild man! He bears tribal initiation scars on his arms & chest. He is quite a reasonable pressure flaker aboriginal style, not in the hand. I am sending him some obsidian to try.

I am pleased to hear you are up & about again. I wish you a merry Christmas & good health in the new year. With kind regards
your Australian mate
Tom

BY
AIR MAIL

PAR
AVION



CC. 14.99.2

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