



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024

February 4, 1969

Mr. Donald E. Crabtree  
Route 1, Box 39  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

I have been too tardy in commenting on your wonderful article in the October Antiquity. It shows your characteristic excellence and thoroughness and is a major contribution. Gordon Ekholm was just speaking of it and feels as I do. It will be appreciated abroad as well as in the Americas and should be made available in at least French and Spanish.

Am mailing you separately a package containing a few fragments of Magellan Strait basalt and four pieces of calafate wood, a species of barberry which grows in the grasslands near Fells cave. If wooden chipping tools were ever used in that area they may well have been made of it as it is the toughest, fine-grained, wood available there. One I have shaped somewhat like an Australian chipping tool, a tracing of which is enclosed. I could not make mine as long for the piece collected in November last was not long enough. Nor have I attempted to duplicate the Australian tip for that looks as if it needed resharpener. My tips may all be too pointed and thick. I do not know hw they should be formed; that is something you may be able to determine by experience. I am also enclosing an example of a point from Palliacke cave in south Chile of the type unassociated with bone flaking tools, cat. no. 41.1/ They are quite similar to the Kimberly, Australia points made with wooden tools.

It is too bad I could not get a supply of good basalt. As guest of the NBC team I had no time for prospecting and found only one cobble which I smashed to see what it was like. The few scraps will not be of much help.

The enclosed check is not enough to compensate for your trouble on this wooden chipping tool, -test so just call it expense money. Incidentally Dick Gould was not just being polite when he asked for a fee estimate; they have to plan a budget. Would fifty a day be what you might call nominal providing the time, including preparation, is not less than six days? I ask in this way, not to urge that particular figure on you, but to get a reaction. You might name a maximum and mininum rate related to total time involved. This thing is to be businesslike and fair to yourself. We all realize that no matter what is paid we will still be indebted to you.



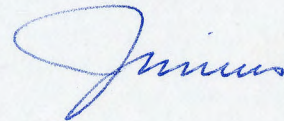
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Yesterday I had a report from the Isotopes C 14 laboratory on material from a fire hearth from the beginning of occupation at Fell's Cave: 11,000 ± 170 years. An earlier measurement from the same shelter gave 11,041 ± 400 (this figure revised to conform with the current C 14 half-life figure). This is long before the time of the stemless points of Period III in the area and I mention it only as recent news relative to early man in the new world.

With best wishes,

As ever,



JBB:jv  
Enc.

Junius B. Bird

P.S. I had not read the article by Professor Elkin before I wrote this letter. As it is informative and interesting have had a copy made. As you will realize there need not be any close parallel between the Australian procedure and tools and whatever was done in Period III in the Fell's Cave area in south Chile. We did not get any type of bone tool in association with their points. This was not the result of poor preservation for there were many animal bones present.





*By mistake these did not go with  
my letter JB*

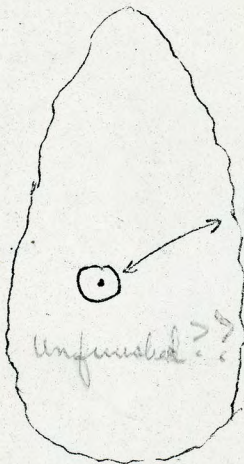
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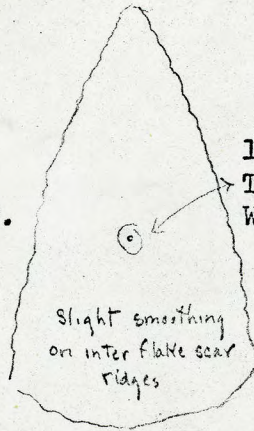
Period III Stemless points. Palliuke Cave. S. Chile

Exact stratigraphic position uncertain. All entered in 41.1 catalogue.

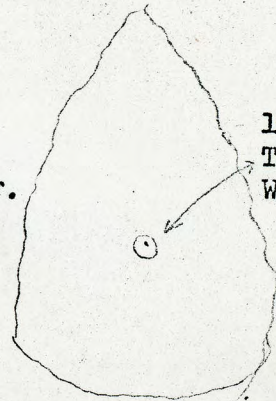
Th = maximum thickness, Wgt. = weight in grams.



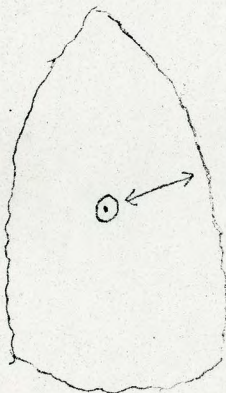
1754a  
Th. 9.4mm  
Wgt. 16.14 gr.



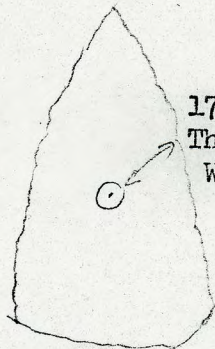
1755a  
Th. 7.4  
Wgt. 22.30gr.



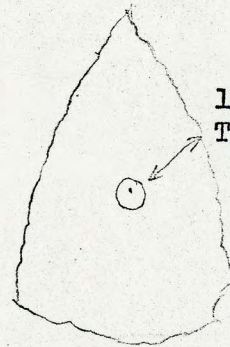
1755b  
Th 8.5  
Wgt. 22.27



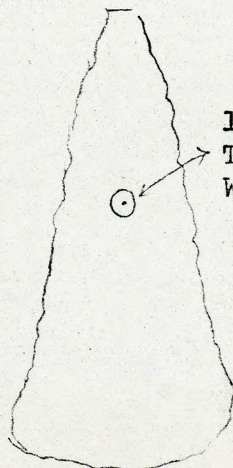
1754b  
Th. 7.8 mm.  
Wgt 21.37 gr.



1755c  
Th. 8.5  
Wgt 8.33 gr.



1755d  
Th. 8.0  
Wgt 16.15



1754c  
Th. 8.3  
Wgt 12.10

*- Has this been resharpened  
or reshaped perhaps following  
tip breakage?*