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Feb. 10, 1969

Dr. Junius B. Bird  
American Museum of Natural History  
Central Park West at 79th Street  
New York, New York 10024

Dear Junius:

Thank you so much for your letter of February 4th and particularly for the kind words on the Polyhedral paper. It is very difficult for me to write and I am never quite satisfied with the finished product. Right now I am working on the "Cone" paper and find it very difficult to explain the relationship of the cone to flake removal. I suppose eventually - with enough experiments and notes - I can get the thing together but right now am having a difficult time. This will be a hurried reply to your nice letter, for we plan to leave in the morning for about three weeks in Arizona for a much-needed vacation and a visit to the University at Tucson and, of course, to see Marie at Tempe. So, right now, I will not have time to do the experiments, but will get right on them when we return in two or three weeks. Thank you so much for the \$50.00 check - it was not necessary but is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for sending the wooden pressure tools and the drawing of the Australian pressure tool - these are invaluable to me. The Palliaike points are really appreciated for study and I am glad to have seven of them. One can not tell much from a single point, but this number gives a pretty good pattern. Will return them at a later date. I have not had time to properly study and evaluate these points, but can see some characteristics resembling those made by the Australian wooden pressure technique. However, will have to experiment first before I reach any conclusions. I do note, however, many technological differences between the stemmed and fluted points you previously sent and the Palliaike points. Will go into this in detail later.

The samples of basalt will certainly help in the experiments. I am sure you noticed that the Palliaike points were made of material with a considerably finer texture and, therefore, I believe one can replicate the flaking patterns with the wooden pressure tool. Shall try when I return. However, the basalt samples are coarser textured and I think in their present natural condition are too tough to flake with wooden pressure tools. So I shall keep one specimen for control and attempt to thermal treat the balance to see if I can get a texture change like that of the Palliaike points. I have been doing some experimenting with wooden flakers but have used manzanita wood on obsidian and got results which compare to the flaking on the South American points. Thanks also for the interesting news of the occupation dates at Fells Cave - Dr. Swanson was also glad to get this information.

The article by Professor Elkin is excellent. He is certainly a keen observer and - thank goodness - covered the subject in great detail. I am most fortunate to have this for my library and for reference.

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Junius, please give my apologies to Dick Gould for replying in the abstract to his inquiry about a fee for my services. I knew I was being vague, but failed to consider that an institution such as yours has a budget problem to reconcile. I also was not just being kind when I said we could get together on a nominal fee, for I am prohibited from receiving anything over and above expenses. A complex income tax problem and a retirement annuity prohibits receiving over a certain figure and also I do not like to accept wages from one institution when I am already on salary at I.S.U. Therefore, I can only tell you how N.B.C. and I handled this problem. They sent me a check for my expenses and the fee for my services was sent to Dr. Earl Swanson but earmarked for the Crabtree project. We never have enough money at this institution and so I feel I can contribute in some small way by making this arrangement. I will have the time for your exhibit as I am only on a half time basis at ISU, but I still cannot jeopardize my annuity and insurance by accepting wages over and above what ISU pays me. So make it easy on yourself and I would say the figure you suggested was more than generous. Hope this answers your question and am sorry I did not explain this better when Dick asked for a figure.

Both Evelyn and I are looking forward to having you and Dick as our guests this Spring. At that time we will confer on the wooden flakers, the Australian technique, and all sorts of flintknapping problems. At that time I may ruin both your lives by making flintknappers of you.

Will write later when I have had a chance to experiment.

Your friend,

Don E. Crabtree