Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho
Dec. 5, 1966

Dr. Junius Bird, Curator
South American Archaeology
American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024

Dear Junius:

Please pardon my long silence but each time I have a few minutes I work on lithic experiments and have been saving the results for you. Thought you might find them of some interest. I love to do this work and hope to have time to produce others illustrating various techniques. Am compiling notes on the results and will try to write papers on the results of the experiments but for that I have little or no talent.

Received word today from Francois Bordes that he will be in the States next Sept. or Oct. and will spend two weeks with me here at my home working on various flintknapping techniques. At that time, I hope we will be able to resolve the use of pressure applied by the chest crutch in combination with percussion and also various other techniques. I am hoarding two large pieces of the Iceland material for that purpose. If our experiments are successful, I will send you some of the results. I want to say, again, how much I appreciate the obsidian. It is very fine for certain types of work but for certain experiments, it lacks the elasticity of the material from Glass butte, Oregon. The thin prismatic blades often break and I am sending you some of the results. I have been searching the literature for evidence of the polyhedral cores in Peru, but can fine no mention. I understand there was contact between Peru and Mexico. Can you enlighten me. Because of your experience in the Arctic, I have made you a few micro-cores, etc. Am sending you a package of some of my experiments today and the following list will explain the contents.

1. An obsidian eccentric. Replica of the Meso-american, with the Maya faces on each side at the top of the artifact. 40
2. A polyhedral core with an undetected flaw. Material is Iceland obsidian. 50
3. Polyhedral core and blades. Material, Glass Butte, Ore. obsidian 80
4. 5,6,7,8,9,10: Assorted blades of Oregon obsidian. 18
11. Chalcedony microblades and core. 50
12. Micro blades and core. Iceland obsidian. 45
13. Artifact and flakes Made by direct percussion of Oregon obsidian 70
14. Thinning flakes, using an antler billet. To be attached to #13. 20
15. Balance of flakes for No. 13
16. Unfinished projectile point made by using wooden pressure tool. Piece of wood is included with point for identification of wood. Wood was too fiberous and collapsed before it was completed. I am sure there must be better and harder woods but have none locally. 25
17. Polyhedral core from Iceland obsidian. Blades are in 20,21 22 and 23. 75
18. Perforator bladeletts. They make triangulate holes to lock the stitch. 20
19. Micro tool replica. Cape Denbigh. 20

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20. 21,22 and 23 go with polyhedral cores of Iceland obsidian, which is #17 12
24. Biface, made by direct percussion. Iceland obsidian. 25
25. Biface made by direct percussion and pressure retouch. 35
26. Biface, Iceland obsidian. Two types of retouch. 25
27. Projectile point, pressure, side notch. 25
28. Projectile point. Chevron retouch. Common in Mexico. 35
29. Polyhedral core. Early stage. Iceland obsidian. 30
30. Biface. Notice pressure thinning and uncrushed edges. Oregon obsidian. 25
31. Two microcores and bladelets. Pressure. Iceland obsidian. 60
32. Sample of heated siliceous material from Nevada. Notice the change of texture. 10

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I have just completed a paper on the Valley of Mexico polyhedral cores and will send you a copy as soon as it is in print. All of the cores I am send to you are made by pressure. Please let me know if there is anything I could do for you and thanks again for your help and encouragement.

Yours very truly,

Don E.Crabtree

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