



New York University

Department of Anthropology

401 Rufus D. Smith Hall

Washington Square

New York, N.Y. 10003

Telephone: (212) 598-3259

Ira A. Berman
130 East 18th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226

Oct. 17, 1972

Don Crabtree

Idaho State University Museum
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

I am presently a graduate student studying Archeology in the Anthropology Department at New York University. In the process of completing my Masters course work, which included two months continuous field work and three months of weekends spent in the field, I have been conducting research on an experimental basis, concerning the functional analysis of lithic material recovered from archeological excavations.

One of the conclusions arrived at as an outgrowth of my study, and the researching of the work done in the recent past, is that no valid results can be arrived at without experiments involving the manufacture techniques and controlled use of newly manufactured stone tools. My Masters paper is a functional analysis of lithic material excavated at the "Old Fort" site in Ulster County, New York State and I plan on continuing this research for my Ph.D. dissertation.

Until the present time I have been teaching myself, through trial and error, to make my own "Artifacts" for use on various raw materials in order to observe usage characteristics or wear patterns that might emerge. In this way I have been able to garner more total information about individual tools as to original raw material, manufacture technique, time spent in actual use, and patterns of use if any, that emerge after experimentation. The information acquired in this way will eventually be applied to whole classes of functional categories.

I have also been working on the development of Micro-photographic techniques in order to demonstrate visually and ultimately communicate more efficiently my findings to the rest of the Archeological community.

This type of study will involve many years of intensive investigation and the kind of knowledge I can acquire under your tutelage at the Flintworking School will be invaluable.

Hopefully my small contribution to the knowledge presently accumulated will help those students of Pre-historic technology with their research in the future.

I understand from the "Lithic Newsletter" that a possibility exists for my receiving a stipend to assist me financially to attend your classes next Summer. Such assistance, understandably, would be indispensable since I am a full time student. At times financial matters become almost as pressing as the work I have committed myself to. I would greatly appreciate further information as to what procedures I must follow to apply for such funds.

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I will see to it that the two letters of recommendation you have requested are either enclosed or submitted to you separately. If a transcript of my Masters record is required I will of course submit that also.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter.

Very truly yours,

Ira A. Berman

Personal Data

Age- 31

Marital status- Married

Citizenship- U.S.A.

Military Status- Honorable Discharge U.S.Army, 1968. Three years service.

Educational Background- B.A. Brooklyn College June 1971. Major-Anthropology

"A" Average over 20 points in Anthropology. M.A. New York University, expected 1973. Masters paper on a functional analysis of stone tools.

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