

UNIVERSITÉ DE BORDEAUX I

INSTITUT DU QUATERNAIRE

BATIMENT DE GÉOLOGIE

33405 TALENCE

TÉL. 80.68.00

POSTE :

TALENCE, LE Nov;6, 1978

Dear Don,

Got your letter of October 28. Glad to have good news from you. I too hope that you left surgery behind you now.

Not much time to write. However, I can tell you that our trip to Australia has been very interesting. We excavated first a rock shelter (Walga Rock, about 50 kilometers west of Cue. Look on a map, Cue is about 700 km NNE of Perth). We dug a trench 2x3 meters, and 2 meters deep. At the top, a microlithic industry. Lower, something that may well be Pleistocene. We are ~~x~~ waiting for the radiocarbon date.

Then we went to Billabalong Station, to excavate in the banks of the Murrumbidgee river. 6 archaeological layers, from subactual to may be early Last Glacial. If this date is confirmed, it will be the oldest stuff in Australia by a factor 2.

Most of the tools in Western Australia are in quartz. Some is pretty good (there is even some crystal ~~quartz~~ ^{quartz}), but most is just terrible! So they used the bipolar technique a lot, putting the core on an anvil, and smashing it with the hammerstone. It does not give very good flakes!

I will be very glad to see your friend if he finds the time to come here. What is his name?

After the excavations in Australia, I spend 15 days with Cécile, Paul and the children. Everybody is fine.

I do not know when I will find the time to come again to the States. Probably not before 1981. But I would let you know.

Bien amicalement,

F. Bordes

P.S. During the summer of 1977, somebody stole my best moose antler hammer! If you can find one for me, I would be grateful, but I know they are hard to find.

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UNIVERSITÉ DE ^{Bordes} BORDEAUX I

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QUATERNAIRE ET PRÉHISTOIRE

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