

Route 1, Box 210
Kimberly, ID 83341

December 2, 1979

Francois Bordes
Universite de Bordeaux
Institut du quaternaire
33405 Talence
France

Dear Francois:

A very happy birthday to you! With 60 years behind you, this is just a start - you have a long way to go and a lot of things to do. I'm only disappointed that you can't make it to the U.S.A. this next year, but perhaps the next.

It sounds like you have a very exciting project going in Australia. You are just the man for the job as it is a combination of archaeology and Pleistocene geology. I am sure we will all be enlightened by the results of your dig with stratigraphy going so far back into time. I can understand your excitement in locating such a site. It must be very strange going back to Bordeaux after being out in the Australian bush so long. I know you love the desert so it should be a particular joy (only there you have kangaroos instead of road runners). I know you're really a walker because I've tried to keep up with you.

I am sorry about the long delay in answering your most informative letter. I am now over at Gene and Wilma Titmus's and Wilma is taking this letter in shorthand. I have had another misfortune of having hospitalization for the last two months which is my excuse for not writing sooner. I am doing fine now and hope to get back at doing some chipping soon. Gene has been doing some beautiful Folsom points, and they send their regards.

I am tentatively planning to go to Belize sometime after January. Those large flint blades unretouched are much the same as the Grand Pressigny. I wonder whether I'll ever be able to replicate such an artifact. They didn't use heat treatment and there are no signs of pressure work except making obsidian blades. The flint is very hard and difficult to work. There are many other technologies that I won't take the time to describe now, but it is an exciting place and a beautiful tropical jungle atmosphere. I'm not used to the jungle and it's a little frightening. There is a tomb that was discovered at the last field session that will be opened this coming spring. It should be exciting to see all of the grave goods. At one site at Altun Ha, 3,000 very large flint eccentrics were found. They were all done by percussion and indirect percussion with great skill.

CEA 2.1.154.1

I'm sorry that you haven't had time to do any more flintknapping. With your skills you should continue on even if you have to make the circumcision knives out of pop bottles.

Francois, unfortunately I haven't received your book, as the only publication that I have of yours recently is the one telling of the flint being imbedded in the bone. I do hope it hasn't been lost. I will certainly look forward to receiving it.

Hope that you and Denise have continued good health, and I will look forward to your visit in the States. Keep me in touch with your finds in Australia.

Your friend,

Don Crabtree

DC:wt

P.S. I have never received the letters from graduation. They are to be bound in a book by Ruthann Knudson, and I understand that yours was a very beautiful letter for which I thank you very much.