

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho
July 26, 1965

Dr. Francois Bordes *
Universite de Bordeaux
Laboratoire de Prehistoire
73 Chemin Roul
Talence (Gironde) France

Dear Francois:

I was delighted to receive the drawing of Solutran pressure methods by you and Laurent. This is truly a masterpiece, and has given me much enjoyment and I still laugh every time I look at it. I have decided that you are not only a master flintworker, but also a mechanical engineer of much ability. Had the Solutran had your help, I am sure they would have been in the Iron Age in no time at all. I will put this to good use when I work with the students.

I now have some good obsidian for you and the University will send it for me as soon as Dr. Swanson returns from the dig in the Wilderness area of Idaho. It may be a few weeks yet before I get it mailed to you.

I have been working on the Egyptian style of flaking and have had some fair results. Also, I have been getting good results with the biface by placing it on a log of wood and using indirect percussion. By thinning this way, the shock to the tool is lessened. I am sure that if we get to spend some uninterrupted time together that we will be able to resolve many of the different methods used - next year, I hope, when you visit us.

I am glad that you are heating the flint. It takes a little more pressure than obsidian, but one can remove narrower and longer flakes than with obsidian. If you cook it for three days, the yellow flint and Jasper will turn red. I hope you find some new horizon in France where this method of heating was used.

Please give my best regards to Denise and your family.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

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