

UNIVERSITÉ
DE BORDEAUX

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

LABORATOIRE
DE
PRÉHISTOIRE

73, CHEMIN ROUL
TALENCE (GIRONDE)
TÉL. 92.99.02

Carsac, Sept. 1st, 1965

Dear Don,

Got your two letters of July 5 and July 27, and I did not answer them sooner, for during July I was excavating Combe-Grenal (now finished!) and during August I tried to get some vacations!

Well, I got word that the obsidian is somewhere between Le Havre and Bordeaux, and ~~xxx~~ so I will get it soon. Thanks.

I have made some experiments with french flint, and found out, to my surprise, that a good lot of it works by pressure without heat treatment. It asks for a little more pressure, the flakes are a little shorter, but you can perfectly well make arrowheads or small to medium sized leaves with it. The control is a little more difficult, but that can be managed. So, as soon as I have time, I will make systematic experiments with it: work it untreated and treated, and see the difference (I do not have here any way to heat treat it). I experimented also with swedish flint (I got a supply, and will send you one nodule): beautiful flint to make blades, works also fine by pressure, untreated, BUT it is hell to work it by percussion! A most paradoxical flint! I will heat treat it also.

I have done some good laurel leaves by percussion, rubbing the edges to get a better platform, and I have seen on the Solutrean ones that the Solutreans did also know the trick. Also one little thing: holding the antler by its extreme end (fig). It is more tricky to work in such a way, but it gives to the blow a kind of better momentum, that you cannot get if you hold the antler shorter.

I have seen Tixier yesterday, who send you all his best. He is doing fine with pressure work, too.

My wife and family joins me in sending to the Crabtrees all our best.

Sincerely,

A. Oliveu & Cie

Ce 2.1.17

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ordinary hold -

Dear Don,

Got your two letters of July 27, and I did not answer them sooner, for during July I was expecting (now finished!) and during August I tried to get some vacations! Well, I got word that the opsidian is somewhere between Havre and Bordeaux, and xxx so I will get it soon. Thanks.

*"S wing" hold -
(Surfaun mail)*

P.S. I send you two pieces: a) swedish flint, untreated, pressure worked.
b) french flint, untreated, pressure worked.

They are not the best I have made, but will show you it works.

This possibility is probably the reason for which most of the fine pressure work was done here on untreated flint, even if some solutrean pieces seems to have been treated.

P.S.2. Of course, if I come to the States next year, I will come for a week of so to Kimberly. Unhappily my wife will have to stay at home.

Sincerely,
best.