

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho

Nov. 1 ,1965

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

Dear Francois:

I was so happy and honored to receive the two examples of your work. I hope that you did not want these specimens returned, for I take great pleasure in having some of your work in my collection. At any time you want samples of my work, please don't be reluctant to ask for them. I am amazed at your rapid progress and control and particularly since you are doing all this fine work on a material as difficult to pressure-flake as flint. It is your analytical mind and profound interest in this work that has set you apart from those who cannot master the pressure technique.

At the time I received your points, I also got a letter and two examples from Tixier. I am so happy that you both got together this Summer to do a little flaking. It is interesting to hear of the difference in holding methods and the resultant techniques. Having seen examples of both your work made it possible for me to note the differences which result from the holding. I am now working with a young man here in Idaho who also holds his artifact and pressure tool differently than I do. He presses the flakes off between his first and second finger of his left hand and it gives to the finished artifact the left-handed character we were discussing - when, in reality, he uses his right hand for the pressure work. I have been trying your method of trying to get more percussion speed by holding the antler farther back when striking. It works much better this way, only I am not as accurate as you are. I still have much difficulty in making blades by percussion. Unfortunately, right now, I have to spend all my time on the pressure work to complete my writings and don't have enough time to spend improving my percussion techniques. Also, when I percussion, I have had to use obsidian and the blades break from the shock.

I did find some new obsidian in Oregon that is much tougher than the material I sent to you. When Irwin and I were at the site we did not have enough time to try to make blades, but I did get a biface made and it was about 16 inches long. This new obsidian is more shock resistant than other varieties and I am anxious for you to try this material when you come next Spring. At the site, there are pieces that weigh 500 pounds - we could make tools for the giants.

By eye, the texture of the French flint appears to be a little finer-grained than that of the Swedish material, which probably makes the Swedish flint a little more difficult to work. I hope you have thermal-treated some of this material to determine if this will improve the working quality. I will be most anxious to hear of your final results with this material that seems to resist percussion but lends itself well to pressure. When I receive my nodule I will experiment with some pressure work and let you know my results.

We are doing some high-speed photography work on techniques at Pocatello. Have a camera which takes 44,000 frames per second. I simply cannot believe what I am seeing happening on the removal of flakes. When we have gotten farther along with this project, I will write and tell you of some of the results.

Please give my regards to Denise and your family and Evelyn says to remind Denise of the Honey-cake recipe if she has the time to send it.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

Co. 21.19