

May 18, 1966

Dear Francois:

Received your nice letter and package on April 28th and was so very glad to hear from you. We have just returned from the American Society for Archaeology meeting in Reno and saw and talked to many of your friends - Wm. Irving, Marie and Pete, Alan Smith, Dick Dougherty, Joffrey Coe, Joe Benard Pat Wheat, Jerry Epstein, Cynthia Irwin and many others. I do wish you could have been here to attend for it was a very fine meeting and many good papers were read. Did not get a chance to talk with Desmond Clark about the film, for he did not attend the meeting. However, I have heard thru Claude Smith that it was to have been ready for showing in May.

I am delighted to receive the interesting flakes from France. They are particularly interesting to me, for the material is almost a duplicate of that which I found near Battle, Mountain, Nevada - about 200 miles from my home. The Nevada material reacts much the same to the heating as does your stone. Had you come to Kimberly, I had planned to take you to this Battle Mountain site, for there are literally thousands of tons of this material and the site includes hundreds of aboriginal quarry pits. There, the material is in all varieties of colors and hues. It is a most interesting place and I plan to spend some time there this Summer to study the tools and techniques. I am sending you a package of some of this material for your comparison. You will notice that one or two of the flakes have been heated - these you can pick out easily. Included in the package is one piece of grand Pressigny flint that has been heated for five days at 500 degrees Fahrenheit. You will notice that it turned a redish color because it was not buried deep enough in the sand. I think this heated flint works better than obsidian - much the same as the piece of treated chalcedony you sent to me. I have heated another variety of silicious sediments and find that it became courser in texture instead of finer - a real crazy rock. I have also found that some quartzite will alter by heat and the quartz flakes in the little box have all be heated and now they work fine. This is quartzite from the Hell Gap site. There appears to be much work yet to be done before we know as much as the aboriginal about heating stone. Visited briefly with Cynithia Irwin and she tells me that she has found a fire pit in New Mexico which contained the flint, charcoal and sand still intact where the aboriginal had been treating his stone.

I still look forward to the time when we can get together for I have so much to discuss with you and so very much to learn. I am a terrible writer and it is hard for me to convey my thoughts to you on paper. We will be most happy to meet your firm friends the Scholtans - any friend of yours is a friend of mine. Swanson is also acquainted with the Scholtans and perhaps we can get them up to ISU for a visit with him.

Norman Tinsdale is to be at Boulder Colorado this coming year - will be there sometime in June. Had a nice letter from him saying that he would be in Idaho and we can get together. Also I plan to go to Boulder and will have a chance to visit with him there. He has observed so much of the techniques in Australia that I am most anxious to meet and talk with him.

Thanks again for the material and hope your package gets there before too long.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

Dear Denise:

Hope all is going well with you and your lovely family. Talked with Marie at the Reno meeting and she told me of the mix-up in the sending of the books. I am so sorry that we did not know of this and that I did not send the book on to her. When we have finished reading it, will try and trade books with Marie.

*Evelyn Crabtree*

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