

UNIVERSITÉ
DE BORDEAUX

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

LABORATOIRE
DE
PRÉHISTOIRE

73, CHEMIN ROUL
TALENCE (GIRONDE)
TÉL. 92.99.02

Bordeaux, October 7, 1966

Dear Don,

Long time I have had any news from you, at least directly. I hope you are well, and that your work is going well too.

Here, this summer I excavated, but had not much time to work flint. However, before this summer, I did some experiments with the chalcolithic technic of pre-polishing. It works beautifully, and I wonder if the solution to the egyptian retouche is not there.

I took a big flake of Grand Pressigny flint, made a preform, then had it polished to a lenticular section at the lab of Geology (too long to use the neolithic technic, and that is not the point). Then I heat treated it, and pressure-worked it. I missed a little the first side (it was my first try), but the second side came beautifully, with very regular retouch. It is ten times easier this way than when you have to "rub out" flake scars of the percussion retouch. Try it, if you never did before.

One thing I did this summer is working on blade flaking with a punch. I specially worked out the technic of the Upper Perigordians, in liaison with the study of Corbiac I want to do this winter. I got very good results, even if I do not yet completely succeed having blades with a very tiny striking platform, as they did. Sometimes I succeed, sometimes not. Of course, it did happen to them too, but they were still better than I am. One thing I found out is that when your punch is at exactly the right angle, and the blow ^{has} exactly the necessary strength, then the punch shows no mark at all of its use. But when you miss, you blunt the end very fast! You can even use hard wood. I plan to go on this winter, and I will tell you about more completely then.

Another thing: most of the jasper we have here can be pressure-worked without heat treatment, which not only does not improve it, but rather deteriorate it. No wonder the Solutreans hunted for jasper! And not only because the nice colors!

I don't know when I can come back to the States. Something is in L.A., I think.

My wife joins me in sending our best to Mrs Crabtree and you!

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

UNIVERSITÉ DE BORDEAUX

Bien amicalement,

F. Bordes

LABORATOIRE DE PRÉHISTOIRE

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