

UNIVERSITÉ
DE BORDEAUX

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

LABORATOIRE

DE

PRÉHISTOIRE

73, CHEMIN ROUL

TALENCE (GIRONDE)

TÉL. 92.99.02

Bordeaux, December 7, 1966

Dear Don,

I got your letter of November 1, and also the obsidian you sent me. Some of the slabs were broken, but you can always do something with obsidian, arrowheads, etc.

Bad news. I shall not be able to come to the States next year. Four months is too much, and I have much too much to do here next year. Perhaps in 1967. I am very sorry, only because I will not work with you in Idaho. To hell with Harvard. For that, I am not sorry. I do not like stuffed shirts too much. Perhaps, however, I will go to Mexico in March, and I have been told they have some obsidian there! But Mexico is far away from Idaho, and they are not as rich as Harvard, so I cannot fly to Kimberley. Too bad. Anyway, the month I will spend there is about all I can spare of the year 1966.

Well, I still work obsidian, glass and flint, "cooked" or not. I think I begin to be an average pressure worker. However, I still have a lot to learn. I did once a beautiful Folsom fluting on an obsidian point, held in my hand. It went right to the tip. Then I tried the other side, and broke it.

I have made a 10 inches by 6 cm by 1,5 cm glass point, and I am now working on a bigger one. The pressure flaking is regular enough - nothing to compare with your masterpieces, but good enough. I have also bought a new oven, which can go up to more than 300 ° Centigrade to "cook" my flint. I have found out that much depends of the type of flint. With calcedony flint, 200° and 48 hours are enough.

I think I will send you some more samples of my work, when I have time to select it and package it. Of course, you can keep it. I would be very glad to have one of your fluted points.

Ce 21.34

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

UNIVERSITÉ DE BORDEAUX

Well, I hope to have, during Xmas holidays, some time to write you a longer letter about my results and problems. As for obsidian, when you work it by percussion, use tree wood, not antler. Antler is too hard. Boxwood, or any moderately hard, and dense wood, should do the trick.

I am very much interested in the high speed photos you are getting. I have received a notice from NSF that they have given Swanson a \$30,200 grant for "experiments in flint working technology". Is that true? Looks like a lot of money!

Well, with Laurent we have sent you a new drawing that, we hope, will amuse you.

Soon Denise will send the recipe for honey-cake.

Very sincerely yours,

F. Bordes

I got your letter of November 1, and also the obsidian you sent me. Some of the slabs were broken, but you always do something with obsidian, arrows, etc. Bad news. I shall not be able to come to the States next year. Four months is too much, and I have much too much to do here next year. Perhaps in 1967. I am very sorry, only because I will not work with you in Idaho. To hell with Harvard. For that, I am not sorry. I do not like stuffed shirts too much. Perhaps, however, I will go to Mexico in March, and I have been told they have some obsidian there! But Mexico is far away from Idaho, and they are not as rich as Harvard, so I cannot fly to Kimberley. Too bad. Anyway, the month I will spend there is about all I can spare of the year 1966.

Well, I still work obsidian, glass and flint, "cooked" or not. I think I begin to be an average pressure worker. However, I still have a lot to learn. I did once a beautiful flint on an obsidian point, held in my hand. It went right to the tip. Then I tried the other side, and broke it. I have made a 10 inches by 6 cm by 1.5 cm glass point, and I am now working on a bigger one. The pressure flaking is regular enough - nothing to compare with your masterpieces, but good enough. I have also bought a new oven, which can go up to more than 300 ° Centigrade to "cook" my flint. I have found out that much depends of the type of flint. With calcicony flint, 200° and 48 hours are enough.

I think I will send you some more samples of my work, when I have time to select it and package it. Of course, you can keep it. I would be very glad to have one of your fluted points.

1966