

UNIVERSITÉ
DE BORDEAUX

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES

LABORATOIRE
DE
PRÉHISTOIRE

Bordeaux, 8 November 7, 1967

73, CHEMIN ROUL
TALENCE (GIRONDE)
TÉL. 92.99.02

Dear friends,

I am ashamed to have waited so long to thank both of you for the wonderful two weeks I have spent in Kimberly! I certainly will remember these days as belonging to the happiest in my life.

Well, after leaving you, I had a good flight to Pullman. I had there 3 interesting days, and I have seen a lot with Dick, Frywell and Irwin. This last one got almost his nose punched the first day, for slandering Lorenzo in front of me, but after that it went all right. I did some ~~xxxx~~ blade punching in obsidian, and got 53 out of a core!

Then I went to the San Francisco area, where I spent about 7 days with my friend Poul Anderson (by the way, did Jane get the book I sent to her?). I also gave a demonstration of blade-making for the students of Desmond. It went well, but not as well as in Pullman. Too many people around.

In Los Angeles, I stayed with the Binfords (who by the way plan to drive some day to Idaho to meet you), and gave also a demonstration. But it did not work well. I was beginning to be tired, there were too many students (about 80) all around, I was afraid to kill them with flying blades (by the way, two got deeply cut in the legs), and the obsidian was no good, full of stresses. Well, you know how it is. During my stay in Los Diablos, I went for 3 days to Calico. First the Museum, where I have seen the stuff: most of it is crap, and I do not see one tool which cannot be the result of natural actions. BUT there are the flakes. Many are cortex flakes, which could be natural. Others have on the dorsal face the trace of 3, 4 or 5 preceding flakes, which is more difficult to get by natural action. Some bladelike stuff is like fig. There seems to be concentrations at certain levels, etc. Also some really big flakes would ask for a strong shock. From the site, I would say that most of it was mud flow, no water laid, and even if there was in it the possibility of huge pressure, the opportunity was perhaps not there, the boulders being



Geo. 210.44.1

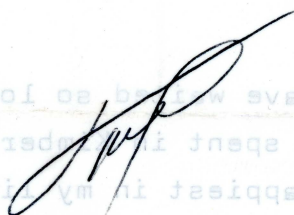
usually widely apart. So my conclusion is: may be. It is worth investigating more.

Denise and Cecile have been delighted by the rings, and my young (15) niece also. Unhappily, I lost (!) the small opal you gave me for Cécile. So I bought an opale ring in Los Diablos. Arnaud is very happy with the stones. And Denise wants to thank very specially Evelyn for the wool shoes, that she wears every evening!

Mana send his best to Little Feller and Idaho Jim, and is very sorry that the stupid human regulations will likely prevent him of ever meeting them!

Bien ~~amical~~ amicalement!

F. Bordes



P.S. Now, of course, no question to work stone for a while: Faculty meetings, students, lectures, paper work, red tape! Oh Hell!

P.S.2: I suppose you poor father left this world. I am very sorry I could not know him. He certainly was a fine man.

Please tell your mother and your family all my thanks for their kindness.

Thank you so much, dear Evelyn, for the nice rings (delightful for the women of the Bordes family!) and the so comfortable "wool-sleepers" - sorry (as ever) for my awful English - Kind regards for both -
- Dionçois was really happy with you

Denise

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Bordeaux, November 17, 1967

73, CHEMIN ROUL
TALENCE (GIRONDE)
TÉL. 92.99.02

~~Dear Marie,~~

I have received your letter of November 7, to which I did not answer sooner, being in the field (and under the rain) to save the "fond de tente" of Corbiac, by casting it.

As for your proposal, I shall be very frank, but I really do wonder if, under these conditions, I will come. There are several things in it I do not like. First, I do not think that an amphitheater is the right kind of place to do it. Then I see we will be 33, which is much too much if we really want to do something. Not only it is impossible for all of them to see (even with television), but the atmosphere will be wrong. What made the success of the first meeting was that we were about half in j number, so it was possible to show to everybody, and then to discuss. I am afraid that the top limit would be 20 at most. Then also, as you well know, I am allergic to mobs, and to me, over 20 is a mob. That is one of the reasons for which I never come to congresses, the other reason being that I fall asleep and I snore! I have no the faintest intention to really participate to the INQUA of 1969: I will lead the South West excursion, but will not be in Paris for the meetings. I cannot promise that I would be able to do anything in front of 33 people. In Los Angeles, I had to work before about 70 people, and it was, to my opinion, a flop. People do not realize how tiring it is to "play the educated monkey" in front of too many people. I wonder if Don will be able to stand it, physically, for psychologically he has a much better temper than I do. And last, but not least, there is in the proposed list two people I do not want to meet again, that is James Griffin, and Otto Prufer. The first one is a boor, the second one a fake and a SOB.

I had a wonderful time with Don, and we hope to publish a joint paper, in the States, on punch technique. We really did make progress! When I left him, I went to Pullman, and there I took 53 blades out of an obsidian core in front of Daugherty and Fryxell, and Henry Irwin too.

Ge 21.44.11

As for Calico, I am bound to keep my findings for me, by the fact that Leakey asked me to do so. However, I can tell you: may be! But not so old as was said old enough however. Well, they went on excavating, and perhaps they will find something absolutely sure. If it was in the Old World, I would say: yes.

To come back to the Calgary project, I do not know ^{a good part} ~~most~~ of the proposed participants, not even by name. Which does not mean much, it was the same with people like Coe and Byers the first time, and I really did like them.

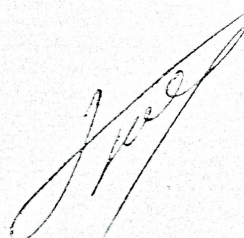
I am a little bit afraid by the time of the year, too: I do hate snow!

So, it is not No, but it is not yet yes. As I told you, I will tell for sure after January first.

My best to Pete! How are the dogs and the fishes?

Bien amicalement,

F. Bordes



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