March 15,1968

Dear Francois:

Today I received your letter of March 11th and was delighted to hear from you but sorry that you have such a full schedule. As you know, from the couple of cards I sent to you, we have been away from home for three weeks. I visited at U.C.L.A. with Tindale and was able to again see the flintknapping film of the Australian aboriginals. I shall attempt to master this technique, but it will take a long time to learn to use a wooden pressure tool and this method. As you remember, they supported the artifact on a stone anvil which was covered with paper bark and pressed away from the body. Since this is just the opposite to our normal way of pressure flaking, I must spend much time before I can master this. Have you tried it. I bought a piece of manzanito wood in Mexico and have made a pressure tool of this, but it is not quite hard enough. Tindale said he thought their tool was of ironwood. One of the nicest things about the visit to UCLA was the opportunity to meet your friends, the Binfords. We had a delightful dinner at their home in the hills and much of the talk was singing the praises of Professor Bordss. We are very impressed with the Binfords and noted that the Bordes and the Crabtrees seem to follow a pattern of liking and disliking the same people. The Binfords also showed us some of Laurent's fine drawings which we had not seen before. Do wish you and Denise could have been with us that evening, for we not only had a fine visit but also had a chance to examine some of their material.

Received a copy of your paper covering the open excavation site and am delighted with it. It seemed to me that you had pretty much covered the Corbiac technology and our joint paper will be a repeat, in part, of the experiments that you have already done. However, everyone on this side of the pond is looking forward to the publishing of this Corbiac paper and do hope that my part of the paper will meet with your approval.

Thanks for sending a copy of the report on Calico Hills, which I shall keep very confidential. Your conclusions were parallel with mine, although I felt the three flakes I picked out were still controversial. Yours was a very fine report with every problem carefully weighed and considered. Only you could have made a report such as this to show the importance of technology in forming opinions of man vs nature; and emphasizing the necessity of understanding the fracture resulting from the application of differential forces. This site is having some bad repercussions which I hope will not become widespread - for instance: Dr. Davis at the Museum of Man in San Diego brought me some cobbles which students had gathered and asked for an opinion. I told her they looked like rocks hit by a bulldozer and as it turned out they were gathered at a site which was being leveled for a trailer park. Another batch was just starch-fracture rocks and so I am wondering howmuch influence the "naturefacts" of the Mannix site will have on the students of stone technology. It almost seems imperative now that one of us (and do mean you) must write a paper on the study of fracture by the force of percussion.

We still regret the cancellation of the meeting at Calgary mostly for the missed opportunity to visit with you and enise. The Binfords also were disappointed and hope to try and arrange another symposium. I suggested Mexico where it is warm and there is an abundance of obsidian and Sally and Lou also thought of one of the islands near Hawaii. However, I don't know about materials there.

Thanks again for the reprint. If you sent more than one, I have not received them and perhaps they will arrive soon. Sorry you lost the opal but soon I shall fine time to cut another one. Please give our best wishes to Denise and Georges and Marie.

Sincerely,

Don

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