

June 8th, 1968

Dear Francois:

Thanks so much for your rewrite of the Corbiac paper and the drawing of the core. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the tremendous amount of work you did on the paper. Your comments and changes made it much better and the drawings add so much. The drawing of the core is a marvel. It certainly shows that <sup>the</sup> man who made this core had a great knowledge of the fracture of flint as well as understanding its limits of elasticity. Too bad, but I am afraid their skill and knowledge is only appreciated by ourselves.

I have been trying to get this letter off for some time - first the strikes and air service stopped, then Bill Mayer-Oakes came down from Winnipeg for a bull session and one thing after another. Please forgive the tardy reply. Also, we have been really upset about the assassination of Kennedy, who we really thought was our one bright hope of world peace. There is so much world unrest and I am real sorry that France is also experiencing some of the problems we have here. I hope you have not been affected by the strikes and that things will be adjusted soon.

Swanson is delighted at the prospect of publishing a joint paper and has the rewrite now for retyping. Expect you will get a fresh copy from him soon. It will be one of the first papers on actual experiments related to an actual site and an eye-opener for the profession to learn that there is so much involved in making blades. I certainly consider it a high compliment that you would consider doing a paper with me.

Thank you so much for the science fiction book. We shall always treasure this autographed copy. I do not read French very well, but from what I can read I really like. An English translation would sell very well. You have altogether too many talents.

I suppose that by now you have heard from the University of Arizona. The people in the department there are really wonderful and full of enthusiasm. I am sure that you would not only enjoy your visit there but also Tucson, for it is still just a "cow town" and part of the real West. Also it is near the border of Mexico and am sure you would enjoy a visit to Nogales to get just a "touch" of old Mexico. Do hope you and Denise will accept their offer for, if you do, Swanson promises to get you from there to Kimberly and we can have another session. But this time, make it longer, for we have so much to do. I need you very badly to help on this edge-ground cobble technique of blade-making and also a new blade technique I am fooling around with which involves direct percussion with a medium hard hammerstone which brings off straight blades with small platforms - but not like the Corbiac blades. We shall try all of these when you come next year. Meantime we are keeping the trailer tidy for you and Denise and Idaho Jim has started coming back to be petted and fed. Think he is expecting you.

My graduate student from Edmonton, Canada (Rob Bonnichson) has promised to get us some large Moose antlers on his next trip to Canada. Will be sending you a section. Gene Titmus was over today and asked to send his regards. He found the base of a Clovis point at the site you saw at Blue Lakes in the Snake River Canyon. Do hope I can get Swanson to excavate.

Francois, I have a "sticky" problem. A fellow by the name of Edwin Wilmsen, who I believe studied with Binford, and has been recently doing some work with computers at the Smithsonian has asked me to put in a good word for him to you. He has been using the computer for flake and blade analysis and I now have his thesis for review on this subject which will furnish him with his PHD. I have not had time enough to read the thesis in detail, but from what I have read it looks like he did not record enough diagnostic features

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to make the study useful and he did not consider all the variables. I will have to read it thoroughly before I can really pass an opinion, but from a cursory perusal, I would say he needs a hell of a lot of experiment. He wants to come to Bordeaux to study with you and I really cannot recommend him on the basis of this computer analysis. However, if he did spend some time with you maybe he would learn how much he does not know, how much of the human factor is lost in the computer, and maybe we could keep some of his computer analysis conclusions out of the literature. You can discuss this with Binford and maybe draw a better conclusion.

Monday I leave for the Grasshopper Field School in the Apache Nation in Arizona. First go to Tucson to confer with Emil Haury on the Hohokam points and then to the Field School. After that I will swing back via Colorado and visit Wormington's and Wheats' site in Colorado and should be back home by the 25th. Have a week off and then we go to glass butte to photograph the quarry and some mining operations.

We really hope you will accept the Arizona offer for I know you will like it there. Jelinek is there now and also Marie will be in Tempe, which is just a short distance. We will keep our fingers crossed and hope you come next year and especially to Kimberly.

Had a grand time with the Binfords at Santa Fe. They are really a very fine couple and do hope we get to know them better. I have great respect for their tremendous amount of knowledge.

Have you heard from this chap, John Pfeiffer, in New Hope, Pa. He is writing a book on experimental archaeology and from the chapter I got to edit and review, I noticed he had a chapter on "Bordes". I had to write and straighten him out on the thermal treatment of French flint. John Whithoff had told him that French flint could not be thermal treated as it would turn to "chalk". After three or four letters back and forth I got him straightened out and he is now convinced that this flint can be altered. Damn these people who make statements without experimenting.

Will take the liberty of sending you my glossary of flintknapping terminology soon for your comments.

Please give our regards to Denise and your family and Georges and Marie. Hope all ~~is~~ well with all of you.

Sincerely,

Don