

UNIVERSITÉ DE BORDEAUX

LABORATOIRE DE GÉOLOGIE  
DU  
QUATERNAIRE ET PRÉHISTOIRE

TALENCE, Le December 3, 1969

BATIMENT DE GÉOLOGIE

FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES  
33 - TALENCE

TÉL. 91.12.99

POSTE : 334

Dear Don,

You sure wonder what did happen to me since I never did answer your letter of October 23! Well, nothing special, except more work than ever. Sorry that I could not answer sooner, but, believe me, I couldn't.

About the project I wrote long ago, well, one thing must be clear: if this ever works out, and I am in, I do not want to have M. Henry Irwin on my back. I could not stand it.

Well, here are some of the things I would like to do with you and Tixier and others if possible.

1°, make tools. That is partly covered by your films and mine (or rather ours), and Tixier's.

2°, USE them. Work bone, stone, wood, etc with stone tools. Have macrophotographs of the working edges both before and after they are used. So we can see what is right and what is wrong with Semenov. Have with us a good bowman (May be Gene?) to try on deers (or carcasses) all the types of projectile points, and see what they give. Not only paleo indian stuff, but gravettes, font roberts, etc. Part of the work could be done by us, part by students. Recording and photos by good students or specialists. Anyway, do a little bit of experimental prehistory. (I have already done some here, and the results are interesting).

3° try to make a paleolithic site: leave on the ground our rejects, broken pieces, tramp on them going to and fro, and see what kind of pseudo-retouches we get that way. Try different types of fire places as found in sites, and see what they give.

I think that would take about two month if we want to really have the time to do something and re-do <sup>it</sup> if we think the first time we missed something.

It could be done in August and September? What dates would you propose? It is easier for me to do out <sup>it</sup> outside University time.

This is just a first letter to show you what I mean. If Swanson and you are interested, I could (not just now, but let us say before Jan. 15) give you a much more elaborate program.

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Of course we would probably need a lot of money: travel for Tixier and I, expenses during the stay, same thing for the students, some binocular microscopes \* for first examination, macrophoto apparatus, films, etc. Also we would need a lot of flint (not only obsidian) and I would have to send some from here. But I think it would be an invaluable contribution and could give a nice publication.

About publication, what became of the other one on Corbiac cores etc?

Yes, I know of the Virginian! So you live there, you old racoon! Well, you are yourself a part of the Old West and (believe me) this is a compliment!

My best to Evelyn!

Bien amicalement,

F. Bordes

