

November 28, 1972

Mr. Bruce Bradley  
Leckhampton House  
37 Grange Road  
Cambridge, England

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your letter of October 6th. It was so full of your interesting activities; you have indeed been busy--sounds exciting. It must be a thrill to have worked on the Corbiac with Francois. The English digs must be quite different than those of the Southwest; the techniques are very different. The combination of a biface and a levallois sounds interesting. I hope that you have found an ample supply of good flint. Jacques sent me some cores made from some superb black flint with no inclusions. I was supposed to make some Capsian cores from it, but I have no satisfactory way of heating it. I am a little afraid because I don't know the behavior of the English flint. It would be splendid to have vast quantities of good flint as it stands much more abuse than obsidian. I have been working on the Danish blades with quite good results and have been adapting the method of fluting the Cumberland points. As soon as I get it perfected I can tell you more about it.

I am glad that you like the introduction of the glossary. When you brought it to my attention, the word aberrant was supposed to read characteristic to a technology rather than peculiar. The word preform was meant to be the final stage before pressure flaking. The word preform was first used by me at Les Eyzies before the final stage and usually applies to the stage before pressure flaking. I got the word from a lapidary term of roughing out a stone before final polishing. In many artifacts there is no preforming stage, even when pressure flaking when a flake is used without percussion to pressure a projectile point or make a scraper. Many cultural assemblages will not have preforms. Those based on blade industries may or may not have core preforms. A blank will often depend on the context of the piece of material in question: selected flakes for arrow heads, scrapers, drills, knives and other assorted implements or flaked materials with surplus irregular parts removed or oviates for possible trade purposes. The archaeologist must assess

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conditions and material available. There is no hard, fine line, but pre-forms are usually quite different from blanks. Stages of reduction would apply to technological changes from inception to completion. Each cultural complex may or may not involve a new set of technologies.

I had fond hopes of coming to England this fall, but I have been in the hospital with a series of blood clots--one major one in the chest--which has caused a lung collapse. Perhaps in the spring if everything goes well I might come then. You can understand the tardy reply as for now I can only sit for a short time. It was so nice of your parents to stop, but, too, at that time I was incapacitated with a herniated disc in my back. Thank goodness that is well again. I hope that you have developed some new techniques and are continuing to break rocks. Have you ever gone back to Bramdon? If you do, get the weights of the hammers. I wonder if they would work on obsidian?

With best wishes for now,  
Your friend,

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