

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON : INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

31-34, GORDON SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.1

9th. April, 1965.

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

Thank you for your little packet, which arrived in good order, and for the magnificent flint-work.

With a heavy load of teaching this session, I haven't had a chance to do much practical work, but I intend to try some of the new principles of technique which you demonstrated to us on your memorable visit, though I have little hope of ever emulating your skill and precision in the art of stoneworking.

I note that you have ground a platform from which to work on your blade-core. I remember that, in edge-flaking a lanceolate point, you gave it a few strokes of a hone from time to time and blunted the edge with your flaking-tool. Can you explain exactly how and why this helps - merely to give a roughened surface on which to locate the point of the tool with more precision? There must be physical explanations for all the points of technique but they fully extend our modern science to explain them, while Prehistoric man (and you!) found out how to apply them with success, often without understanding why! The heating process, too, is obscure, though you have satisfied us that it works - and was used by the early workers. We need some physicists and crystallographers to get down to the many problems. Unfortunately, there's no money in it - as in the solution of so many of the Prehis

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I greatly look forward to your succeeding articles in Tebiwa, but especially to a complete book - I hope a fat and exhaustive one! - which will gather together the fruits of your long work of exploration and experience. Lots of people have tried stone-flaking in a desultory way. Even those whom we had regarded hitherto as 'experts' cannot do half what we have seen you do. You ought to make a sound-film of your processes for the benefit of posterity. There's nothing like ocular demonstration! The Institute would buy a copy like a shot.

Many thanks again.

Yours sincerely,

*J. W. Cornwall.*

Sender's name and address: UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
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Don S. Crabtree

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