

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho

July 5, 1965

Dr. ~~E.W.~~ Cornwall
University of London
Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London, S.C.1, England

Dear Dr. Cornwall:

Please excuse the long silence. I have had some business interest that have demanded all my time and attention.

I will try and explain the use of the ground platform surface. In order to detach blades by pressure from a polyhedral core, one must roughen the surface to prevent the pressure tool from slipping, as one has to apply outward as well as downward pressure. The grinding or roughing up is not necessary to make a conical core, as the angle of the surface is such that the pressure tool will not slip.

When I manufacture a lenceolate tool, I grind the edge slightly to remove the thin edge that would crush under pressure before the flake was detached. This grinding also gives a uniformity to the edge of the artifact so that the platforms are all the same, thereby producing uniform flaking.

The heating of the quartz family minerals reduces the size of the micro crystals. This change takes place at between 350 and 450 degrees Fahrenheit. The material then has a more glass-like quality and a much sharper edge. Also, the stone is then more flexible and loses some of its toughness. Since I talked with you, I now find that some quartzite may be altered and well-controlled parallel flakes removed.

I have been working to try to produce the Danish Dagger and Egyptian blade techniques and have had some success, but the final results are in the future.

At my meeting with Dr. Bordes in Berkeley I had the pleasure of meeting Betty and Desmond Clark. This is a very delightful couple and we are happy to call them friends. Francois and I made a movie there on the various techniques of knapping and this film will be available to the universities either by renting or for sale. If you are interested, Desmond can give you the full particulars.

Tomorrow, I leave to join Earl Swanson at his dig in the primitive area of the Lost River Country of Idaho. I look forward to my visit with him and to giving a lecture and demonstration to the students. This should be a most interesting site, for he is recovering some good paleo indian material. Will be looking forward to his publication on this dig.

Again, excuse me for the delay in answering your questions and, if, in the future, I can be of any help to you in supplying information on knapping, please do not hesitate to write to me for whatever help I can give..

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

CE.24.122