

Dear Don, Evy, etc. - (Exp. Evelyn.)

Just a brief note. - Work continues to go well here. The sequence as a whole seems to hold together pretty well - There may be room for some question in the interp. of details. The early stuff is probably that early - The C¹⁴ seems solid.

The problem is, of course, ~~is~~ whether or not it's a human-made cultural tradition or not. I'm sorta giving that one till the last part of August, but from what I've seen so far:

- The stratigraphy from pikimachay cave is pretty solid, and "appears" very old.
- There is undoubted pleistocene faunal remains, most of which are in a "humanish" context of disarticulation, charring, and horizontal concentrations.
- The C¹⁴ seems hard to question, even though the \pm range is 3000 years. There was small % of carbon, due to high degree of actual mineral fossilization.
- Technologically, the stuff I have seen from the early levels is crude, but is undoubtedly of human origin. And some of it is obviously not cave wall material. When I get a chance to log it all out at once I may change my mind, but it seems unlikely. - ~~There is also, of course, lots of ?? stuff.~~
- I'll keep you posted.

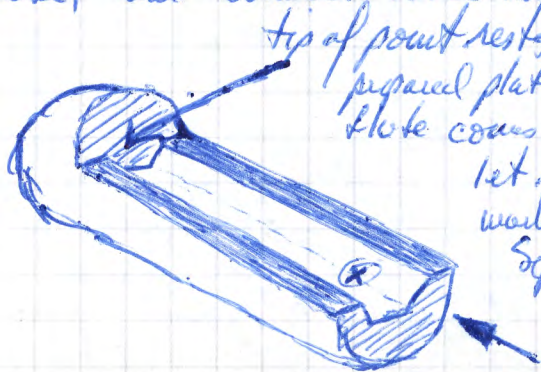
The real reason I wrote, is to tell you about a new - at least for me - technique of plotting. And it seems to work super. I've broken only 3 out of 24 points. The flutes are shallow and terminate nicely without a hinge about

75% of the fine. - Slight hinges the other 25%.
 The method is hand-held pressure. Between
 the knees, But with a small hand-held
 "vise," and that is the trick. It's a little
 round job, about like a 3" section of broom
 stick, with all but 1/2 inch cut to half-round.
 This 1/2 inch forms a rest for the tip of the point.
 a groove is carved down the flat side of
 the half-round portion, clear to the end. The
~~point~~ is laid on the flat side of the half-round
 part, with the tip against the full-round part,
 and the slate comes off in the groove. I'm
 planning on submitting an article to the AA
 as soon as I get back.

So far, I've gotten 2" slates on 3/2" points,
 and the sides ^{of the point} ~~don't~~ have to be parallel.

Below is a diagram - of sorts. Maybe
 you can improve on it (you or Guy or Both)
 and we can put all our names on the
 article. - So far I've made a small one out of
 wood and a larger one (3 1/2") out of bamboo
 with a little hardwood 'plug' set in the full-round
 portion as a tip-rest. -

Just hold the point against the "vise" with
 your left hand. "Downward" force toward tip rest, of
 course, and "Outward" force into the vise.



tip of point rests here -
 prepared platform is at (X), and
 slate comes off in the groove.

let me know how it
 works - I'll be here till
 Sept 1. - Carl