

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho

June 1, 1965

Dr. J. Desmond Clark
Department of Anthropology
University of California
Berkeley, 4, California

Dear Dr. Clark:

Both Evelyn and I want to thank you and Betty for an enjoyable two weeks in Berkeley. It was certainly a pleasure to meet you both and we will think of you as our very good friends. The picture Evelyn took of you and Betty turned out beautifully and she is having a copy made off the slide to send to you and we will hope that your mail is being forwarded to Africa so that you can get this photo.

While I was at Berkeley, Dr. Washburn and I discussed the fine work that Werner Gren is doing in the casting of bones in plastic. It occurred to us that the casting of artifacts for purposes of typeology and technology identification would be of great value to the profession. As you remember, you and I also discussed this and what bearing it would have and what a help these casts would be in interpreting the various techniques and their distribution in time and space.

I have given this matter further thought and believe that your's and Dr. Washburn's suggestions regarding these casts would not only benefit the profession, but would also be of immense help to students and would permit them to actually inspect and compare the most diagnostic type specimens rather than basing their conclusions on just photos, measurements, weights or form.

We have all began to realize that we cannot interpret or identify an artifact by form or weights and measurements alone, but must seriously consider the surface character and techniques before we can properly place any point in a given category.

The Clovis is a classic example of the importance of surface character. At the conference at Les Eyzies, the attendants brought a number of fluted points from different geographical areas of North America. Each was different in form and size - ranging from a little over one-half inch to almost eight inches in length. Numerous modes of manufacture were evident, as well as different methods of detaching the channel flake.

When I returned from the conference, I discussed with Dr. Earl Swanson the problem of determining WHAT IS A CLOVIS? We further discussed the importance of bringing together such an assemblage of points for purposes of typeology. Since it is next to impossible to assemble such a wide array of actual artifacts, we felt the only alternative was to have reproductions made in the form of accurate plastic casts.

Swanson is now having this done on some Clovis material found near Fairfield, Idaho, as the artifacts found there are the private property of Wm. D. Simon. This particular collection of Clovis artifacts is so

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different than any we had studied previously that we felt it important to have the casts made for the archives. Should Werner-Gren do this work, the casting of material now in private collections would make available to archaeology much that has been unseen in the past.

What is true of Clovis is also true of our various other artifacts and, if, in the future, we could have plastic casts of the classic type points and their variations, I believe this would be of great help to Kreiger and Swanson in what they are trying to accomplish in typeology.

Further - by using plastic casts, the artifacts could be placed side-by-side and the similarities or differences compared and noted. For proper analysis, one must compare and interpret techniques used in their production with the help of a magnifying glass to examine the manner of flake removal, sequence of flakes and the various determining factors which I have shown in the outline I left with you when I was in Berkeley. This outline is embryonic and was for my personal use and I should have explained it to you.

If Universities had access to such a collection of plastic casts showing the deviations and various techniques, I think this would produce uniform thinking and understanding and we could then establish a definite typeology which would not only help in teaching, but would also be of benefit to the many papers written each year, enabling the readers to definitely understand exactly what type of artifact the writer was describing.

Thank you again for your hospitality and I do hope that I will have the pleasure and opportunity of working with you in the future.

I am sending you a little package containing a housewarming gift - a cast I made from the original piece of pre-columbian art. Since this may not arrive before you leave for Africa, I will hope that you will make arrangements to hold your packages for your return.

Please extend my sincere thanks to your staff and the camera department and accept my good wishes for your success in your work in Africa.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

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