



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024

May 23, 1969

Mr. Don Crabtree  
Route 1 - Box 39  
Kimberley, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

Before I get down to business in this letter, I just want to thank you and Evelyn again for looking after me during my visit. Both Junius and I benefitted greatly from your expertise, and we are now taking a new look at some of our old collections of chipped stone.

Now on to ~~your~~ manuscript. On page 1, the generic name for Calafate wood is Berberis buxifolia - I suggest you include this in parentheses. I discussed your concluding paragraph with Junius, and here is what we came up with:

"There are no horned or antlered mammals among the native fauna of Australia, while, on the other hand, the Australian continent possesses a wide variety of acacia and eucalyptus hardwoods. Thus the Kimberly Aborigines, while they lacked perhaps the ideal material for pressure-flakers, possessed an alternative which was almost as good. Familiarity by this experimenter with bone pressure-flakers suggests that the Australian hardwoods may have been better than bone. Might a similar kind of ecological interpretation apply in the case of the ancient inhabitants of Palliaike Cave and contemporary sites?

Only in Period III of this region is there an absence of bone pressure-flakers. In the subsequent period guanaco bone pressure-flaking tools occur in a ratio of one to every 15 stone projectile points or knives. In contrast, in Period III several hundred stone points occurred while no bone flakers were found. Since there is no evidence for any ecological or faunal changes at this point in the Palliaike sequence, it must be concluded that the probable introduction of wooden pressure-flakers in extreme southern South American would be the result of cultural rather than ecological factors."

I hope this paragraph is agreeable to you - let me know if you have any questions about it. The first two packages in the loan shipment have arrived here. Although the cartons were almost destroyed; thanks to our spectacular packing job, all the "goodies" so far are intact. I will let you know if any specimens are damaged. I have just received my photographs of you at work - they look great!~ Pretty soon I will have conversions made of some of the slides, and I will send you the duplicate prints.



Also, our artist is presently drawing your "Kimberley point," and I will send you the drawing soon, along with some photos of you making it.

I will write more anon.

Cheers,

*Dick*

Richard A. Gould

RAG:jg