



Telephone
Per 1/11/77

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

901 West Franklin Street • Richmond, Virginia 23284

Department of Sociology/Anthropology

March 1, 1977

Don Crabtree
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Kimberly, ID
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Dear Don,

At last I have your Lake Madden fluted points done. I have been swamped with work and worries and so could only devote a little bit of time to them here and there. Besides trying to finish up my thesis on fluted points and working out the arrangements for our field school, which almost got canned as it did last year, I discovered that V.C.U. is eliminating its experimental archeology program. As a result I am out of a job for next year after 7 years of trying to build up a program here. Needless to say this has all effected my lithic output. It is possible that the Pamunkey Indians might hire me full time to work on the pre-Columbian village our field school will be starting this summer. I just don't know yet.

I simply can't tell how good the replicas are since I don't have a cast or model to go by. All I know of the flake removal sequence is that some lateral thinning flakes were removed after the flutes, as you said. Otherwise, I have had to guess. I hope they fall within the range of variation. The only one that's any good is #4, which was done with an antler billet. My first one was done with a hammerstone. It may be too narrow. It does not reflect the limits of my hammerstone thinning since I have thinned some pieces of similar lithic grade to over 10.00 W/T. But I'm sure a hammerstone will work. (I should do this one over.)

I tried one with a wooden billet because I wanted to see why, in the absence of antler, wood wouldn't work. It did, a little on the thick side but with the proper contacting lateral scars I think. I used boxwood and lancewood, but comparable local woods may have existed around Lake Madden. Wood will thin thinner than this.

Likewise I tried bone billets. I used a fused ulna/radius of a ^{cow} ~~cone~~ for preforming and a ^{cow} ~~manatee~~ rib (as Barbara Purdy does) for finer work. A split ^{cow} ~~cone~~ scapula sliver was used, along with the ulna/radius, for pressure flaking.

The Antler-made point is invalid since you say antlered animals did not exist around Lake Madden (How about elephant ivory in the pleistocene?) I don't guess that Julian Bird can use this so I want you to have it if you'd like.

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The flutes were removed using the ^{same} shaving tools as elsewhere on the bifaces, and by direct pressure without an anvil rest. #1 was held in a Sollberger-like forked stick while the others were simply held in the palm, squeezed laterally and struck as were the lateral edges.

Someday, when you have the time, I'd like to trade you for a piece of your work. I have a display of most other Knapper's' work. There is a big hole where yours might go. I'd be glad to try to make up something for you in addition to the above. I didn't realize that you had to undergo surgery again. I hope it all went as scheduled and that you are back on your feet by now. Please take it easy. We have a lot more yet to learn from you.

In deepest sincerity,


Errett Callahan

P.S. Could I see that photo of your Mexican laurel leaf?

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