

Rt. 1, Box 217-AA
Pamunkey Research Center
Pamunkey Indian Res-
ervation
King William, Va. 23086
November 1, 1977

Dear Don,

Jackie Nichols and I are starting a newsletter for flintworkers to be called The Flintknapper's Exchange. The purpose of this publication would be to serve as an informal, non-academic, and non-statistical medium of exchange among flintknappers in all walks of life. We wish to reach not only the academic knappers but the non-academic craftsmen, be they amateur or expert, perhaps the commercial knappers, and others interested in replicative lithic technology as well.

It is our conviction that all of these artisans have something to say which could be of relevance in interpreting the lithic component of the archaeological record. Unfortunately, usually only the academic knappers get their ideas into print and even then at the sacrifice of numerous of their unpublished ideas. We feel that a niche exists for a means of sharing ideas on an informal basis--without one's having to undergo the headaches of extensive editing to fit a precise format. Thus Flintknapper's Exchange will have a flavor more journalistic than academic--professional without being amateurish. Above all we want F.E. to be fun to assemble and fun to read.

We envision Flintknapper's Exchange to run 10 to 20 pages per issue, to be published 2 to 4 times a year, and to cost between \$1.00 and \$2.00 an issue. We solicit your wishes as to the above options after which we will state our costs more firmly. We will send out our first issue gratis and hope to recoup our losses through subscriptions--assuming that sufficient interest may be generated at all.

We anticipate the following sections in the newsletter:

- 1 - an editorial column in which either editor will discuss relevant topics, give opinions, and otherwise put in his or her 2¢ worth.
- 2 - general letters on articles or columns previously published, recommendations for future features, or whatever else readers might wish to discuss. Controversial issues will not be discouraged.
- 3 - short informal accounts of experiments done or in progress. These could consist of one or two paragraph summaries in the form of notes, diagrams, excerpts from letters, or the like. Experiments that fail, unusual and/or unconventional techniques, holding positions, and ideas

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will be especially welcome. This will be done so as to avoid duplication of experimental findings and to prevent our premature settling down into a neo-tradition of lithic reduction methodology. Thus we will seek to demonstrate alternative solutions (variability) and to broaden our perspective of the potential archaeological record. We will emphasize that extended data is available directly from the experimenter.

- 4 - an interview with a prominent flintknapper, discussing his or her idiosyncracies, quarrying procedures, holding positions, reduction strategy, etc. In conjunction with this series, we might compile a list of practical flintworkers and their specialties so that, if they wish, they may be consulted for research assistance, study collections, or correspondence. Although we will encourage the underground knappers to come out into the open, we will hold their anonymity strictly in confidence if they wish.
- 5 - a page fine line illustrations, perhaps of the featured knapper's work, rendered by Callahan with detail such as on our logos. He enjoys doing these drawings and feels that a really carefully rendered illustration may provide more information on flake scar attributes than is possible with a photograph. It's also easier and less expensive to reproduce.
- 6 - we will start out with a mini-series on the Denver Museum series of projectile point casts. Bob Patten will discuss the apparent technology of individual points, beginning with #13, the Eden point. An archaeologist will follow with a comment on Patten's deductions--in the case of this point, the archaeologist will be Dennis Stanford. Readers will be asked to keep in mind that the opinions expressed will be those of the particular writer and to feel free to write in and disagree. We expect some serious but light-hearted controversy to be exchanged here and hope that it will go to make for some fun reading.
- 7 - replicative research papers, particularly those which we feel are of merit but which have either been rejected or which the author is unable or unwilling to edit for the academic journals. This salon de refusé will thus allow the non-academic knappers who have something worthwhile to say to get their ideas in print. Feedback may in turn allow him to alter his paper for formal publication and/or stimulate further investigation of others. Depending on the length of the papers received, we may feature only one paper per issue.

Thus Flintknapper's Exchange will complement rather than compete with Lithic Technology.

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Well, what do you think? This is the time to give us your feedback, suggestions, criticisms, and the like. A major reason for writing to you at this time is to receive a written reply from you as to your reaction to this proposition, a reply which we in turn may use in our "letters" section in the first issue. Also, if you have time, could you send us a list of stock questions you would like to see as part of our interview series? Who you would like to see interviewed? Should we publish 2,3, or 4 times a year? How do you feel about 10-20 pages? About \$1.00 to \$2.00 per issue? What are the pitfalls? Is it possible to be professional without being academic? Where do you think this might lead and would it be worth it? Or should we forget it altogether?

Could we have your reply by Nov. 20 so that we might get an issue out before Christmas?

Sincerely thanking you for your time,

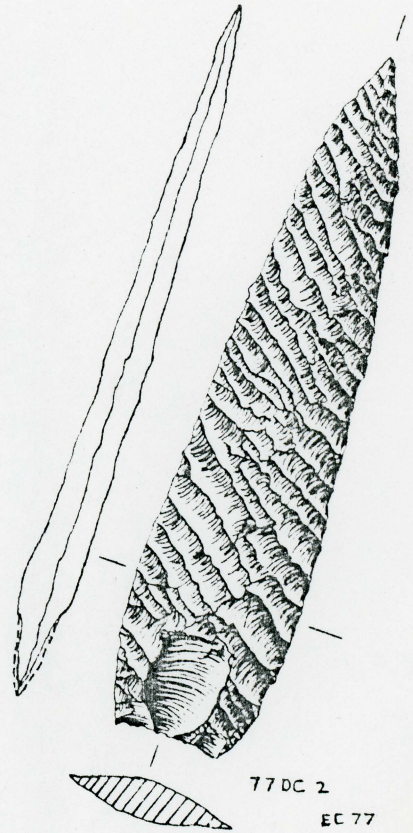
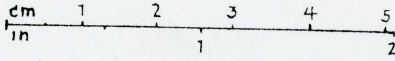
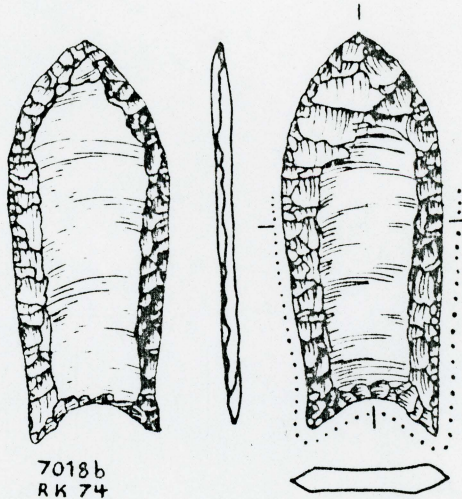
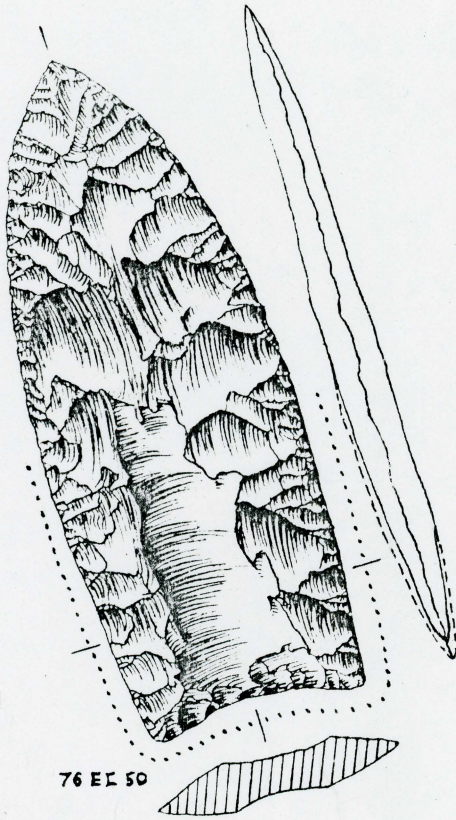
C-RRETT

Errett Callahan

encl: rough draft of cover of Flintknapper's Exchange

P.S. I would like to use a drawing of one of the points you sent me as part of our logos (see the enclosed). May I? Inside I will indicate the specifics and give you credit but I need to know what kind of point it is. Or is it a freeform? I have given it a catalog number of 77DC2 (year, knapper, unit), but if you have another number for it I'd like to use that instead.

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the FLINTKNAPPER'S EXCHANGE

Editors,
Errett Callahan
and Jacqueline Nichols

vol 1, number 1

December 1977

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