



Brigham Young University

New World Archaeological Foundation

May 27, 1980

Dr. Don E. Crabtree
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Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

I just received your letter today and apologize for my long delay in writing. I have just finished my field season and am trying to get organized and let people know what is happening with the Pachuca conference. I guess I assumed that the information that I sent Gene would get back to you. Otherwise, I have been waiting on my co-planners to come through with a form letter we discussed two months ago. The long delays are due to communication problems. Pachuca is 1700 kilometers away and I don't often get up there.

I am sorry about the photographs. At the time that I asked whether or not you had received them I had checked all of my things and couldn't find them. They were 8 x 10 glossies. If I have time I will have to ask for another batch.

The Pachuca conference is still go. I just returned from there last week. One thing that I made very clear is that I want them to sponsor you, Gene and Jeff--all expenses paid (all except extra curricular activities). They have the money and your names are at the top of the list. I am in the process of translating the form letter and instructions now and will send you a copy presently.

Thank you for the encouraging word on the prismatic blade paper. For the moment it is collecting dust while I wait to find out who the new editor of American Antiquity will be. If it is accepted it will still be about two years before it gets into print.

I will indeed be coming up for my annual August trip and look forward to extended conversations with you. If you are up for it I may get a little knapping in. I am interested in your large blade experiments. Unfortunately, I really haven't had the time to do anything for several months.

You will be excited to know that this season a colleague of mine here in the Foundation, Douglas Bryant, recovered the remains of a workshop for the production of prismatic blades. All of the debris had been deposited in a chultun with some other trash. I am in the process of looking at it now. It really looks good. My first intentions will be to classify everything

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that I can presently recognize and then try to classify what is left in some logical manner. After my artifact sense has been sharpened I will do another series of experiments in order to determine what the anomalous pieces are, how they are formed and at what stage(s) in the reduction sequence. One of the interesting features that is already apparent is the lack of cores. (There is only one in the whole collection of approximately 5,000 pieces.) I'm sure you are not surprised that they were probably using them. However, there are about ~~60~~¹²⁰ plunging blade tips, a few crested blades, hinged blades, numerous blade distals (about 10 times the normally recovered number), as well as several blade fragments of hinged blades which look like they were removed by placing the tip of the pressure tool on the hinged mass. They are similar to the pieces I have removed experimentally. They show an obvious hinge but also have a slight bulb of force on the ventral surface. I am really excited about the collection. However, since I am already occupied full time, and more, with other responsibilities I am having a volunteer help me with the separations, counts, and measurements. We will do the study with all of the care that it deserves. I hope to have a copy of it in hand when I see you next.

It was nice to hear from you. I will be writing again soon. Please say hello to people for me.

I thought you might enjoy this brief article. Until August.

Hasta la vista,



John E. Clark

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