

New World Archaeological Foundation



Brigham Young University

May 30, 1977

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
Box 210, Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

Thank you very much for your quick response to my letter. I hope you rapidly recover from your operation without any complications. Did they really use blades in the operation or are you pulling my leg? I know that you have previously stated that they would make excellent tools for such purposes.

Thank you very much for the information on blade-manufacturing and core rejuvenation techniques. I have seen you replicate the Sherataki technique in one of your films. Unfortunately, all the literature I have seen on the subject was in a foreign language. I have never heard of the Lena River method. Where could I get more information on this interesting technique?

I have recently seen several cores in the museum at Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas which may be of interest to you. They have one macrocore in their storage facilities. It compares favorably with those described by Hester. The only major difference is that the platform surface is natural cortex. They also have 8 cores that appear to be the transitional stage from percussion to pressure flaking. They compare favorably to the core size you mention in your 1968 article and also the sawed core of Sheets and Muto. They also appear to be similar to the cores Holmes described at the Mexican obsidian mines and those reported by Coe and Flannery (1964) from El Chayal. They all have a conical or a truncated-cone shape. They are about 7 cm. to 10 cm. in length. The platform size is 7-8 cm. minimum width and 8-9 cm. maximum width and circular to ovoid in shape. They look similar to the core prepared by indirect percussion in your 1968 article. The only difference being that these cores may have more and more regular negative scars or flutes from blade removal. I think these cores were the exported form of obsidian--at least to the highlands and central depression of Chiapas. Examination of the debitage from Lagartero, Chiapa de Corzo, Tenam Puente, and El Mirador support this hypothesis. I am presently writing up a description of these cores and also a proposed term for them. I would like to send you a copy for your use and also criticism.

I have heard of your cousins but do not know them personally. I hope to be able to come and visit you upon our return from Mexico if it is feasible. I hope that all goes well with you and that you will be able to continue your pioneering research.

Sincerely,

John Clark
John Clark

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