

April 15, 1974

Professor D.E. Crabtree
Idaho State University Museum
Idaho State University
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Professor Crabtree:

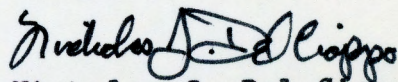
Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nicholas Del Cioppo and I have been involved with experimental stone tool replication for the past several years. I hesitate to use the more generally accepted term "flint-knapping", as my studies have for the most part been restricted to the use of obsidian as a suitable material for flaked stone tools. I am also a lithic consultant at Cal State, Sonoma, and a guest lecturer at Santa Rosa Junior College and the Novoto Museum of Prehistory.

Recently myself and a colleague, Gary Berg, have undertaken a joint lithic research study involving observation of possible patterns left by breakage in stone tools. We have studied all the available literature at our disposal, i.e. your own publications, and those of Messrs. Bourdes and Bordaz, to name but a few. Our own ethnographic data here in California is, to say the least, scanty and ambiguous concerning techniques of manufacture. Other research here is for the most part concerned with sourcing of raw materials and wear pattern analyses. In short, my colleague, Mr. Berg, and I are starting off cold and any data concerning breakage specifically which could be put at our disposal by either yourself or your facility would be extremely valuable to us.

Here at our institution, we receive American Antiquities, but realize that the majority of your published works appear in Tebiwa, which, unfortunately, we do not receive. Perhaps a listing of pertinent articles which have appeared in that or other publications would be of assistance.

In order to further clarify our interests, a copy of our research proposal is included. Any assistance and/or criticisms would be greatly appreciated. It is our opinion that any mutual correspondence concerning current research in lithic technology would prove to be both most stimulating and scientifically valuable to any interested parties. As both Mr. Berg and myself are primarily archaeologists, we also realize the inestimable contribution these data would confer on the discipline.

Sincerely yours,


Nicholas J. Del Cioppo
Dept. of Anthropology
Cal State College,
Sonoma