

Route 1, Box 210  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341  
May 21, 1980

Willard Elsing  
Elsing Museum  
8555 South Lewis  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

Dear Willard:

My, I'm so grateful to receive the most interesting booklet on the Mack Tussinger report. It was indeed with great excitement when I saw in the Lapidary Journal that at least part of his collection had been preserved intact.

These are most exquisite and elaborate forms showing the artistry of our early culture. I do hope that you will be able to search out and acquire more examples of these "Michelangelos" of the past. These eccentrics depict unbelievable skills and technologies in the art of fracturing brittle materials. I do know of one example approximately twelve inches long in the possession of Ted Folsom, now retired from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego. I have had the opportunity to examine this particular eccentric, and it is much like the three illustrated on the back of the booklet. Too, Ted sent me a slide of this particular piece, and I am now getting a print made from the slide and will send it to you when done.

I had the good fortune to see eccentrics from Belize (British Honduras); however, these pieces were very large and massive and were not related to the fine quality pressure flaking of the Oklahoma points. They were done by indirect percussion - some of them weighing eight or ten pounds. They were in the form of geometric and zoomorphic shapes. Three hundred of these pieces were found at Altun Ha, but unfortunately I have not seen that collection. Sometime in the future I would like to write a short article about the skills required in producing these artifacts.

I would like to see a record of these pieces (or when you get photographs of them) submitted to a new journal called the Flintknapper's Exchange, 1701 Catron SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123.

I will keep in touch and send you the photo in a week or two. Again, thanks for your quick reply, and I will be hoping to hear from you in the future.

Respectfully,

Don Crabtree, D. Sc.  
Research Associate in Prehistoric  
Technology