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Kimberly, Idaho 83341

April 29, 1975

Dr. Fredrick Engel  
Mission Arqueologique  
Francaise Au Peroud  
Le Directeur  
C.P. 330 - Lima Peru

Dear Dr. Engle:

Today the lithic specimens arrived in good condition. I have been awaiting their arrival before answering your letter of Feb. 17th. We are both fortunate to have a friend and advisor like Francois Bordes. I have spent many enjoyable hours with Francois on different occasions and covered many facets of lithic technology. Since I received your letter, we have lost our director and chairman, Dr. Earl Swanson to a massive heart attack. At present I can make no commitments about the future as it may mean the closing of the Museum and perhaps the department. His death is a great loss to the profession.

I am more than pleased to learn of your interest in lithic technology and do encourage this particular line of research. As an aid to your students, I am sending the titles of some films which can be rented and am enclosing a little paper on pressure flaking. I am sorry that I have no complimentary copies of the monograph, "An Introduction to Flintknapping", but it is just about out of print. However, you may still be able to obtain a copy by writing to The Museum, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

About the rough stone specimens: Unfortunately, I can not find the numbers 1,2,3,4 so will refer to them by color. The black flake is the most desirable and the greenish one of second preference. The other two have cleavage planes due to the varves which resulted from the sediments deposited and later silicified. Such deposits are highly variable in flaking qualities. I would suppose that the aboriginal stoneworkers were very selective in their choice of materials, apparently discarding much of the inferior material.

It is impossible to make any definite statements about the occurrences unless one can make a thorough examination of all conditions. Too, it is possible that when the stone is heat treated, it will respond to the minute pressure flaking you mentioned. The smaller pieces can be worked by hand-holding the objective piece and using a hammerstone and only using the anvilstones for reducing the large pieces. I am sorry that I can not give you more information or send you a specimen made from the material you sent. From all appearances the greenish rock would work well but when I attempted to remove a blade-like flake from a corner, I found the material was badly checked and unsatisfactory for making an artifact. Some day I would like to visit Lima and see some of your wonderful collections.

Sincerely yours,

Don E. Crabtree

Ca. 3.5.74