

CP 4-0051

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Rt. 7, Box 39

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Dear Rick:

We thank you so much for your thoughtfulness in sending your most interesting letter and your excellent paper on the mechanics of the enaillure formation. It sounds as though you have an exciting site which should yield valuable information on stone working. You are, indeed, qualified to evaluate the aboriginal work particularly if you experiment with replication. I hope you will continue the mechanical experiments on blade technology. I have been doing some work on the Danish blades and am getting close to the technique of making 20 cm blades with little or no platforms and no enaillures. I used to think that it was impossible to use a hammerstone to make percussion blades without enaillure scars. However, it is possible by grinding the platform on using a soft percussor. Then one gets a flake or blade with a diffused bulb and no enaillure. I just wish that we had more time to spend on more experiments. There is still so much to do on the Meso-american polyhedral cones as they are now finding at least six different cone types made by diverse techniques. Like fluted points, one can't put all cones in one classification. I hope you will have access to some lapidary equipment to grind out a set of uniform conditions representing different aboriginal cone types. Then by using bidirectional pressures your machine can control the curvatures and terminations of the blades as well as requiring the least amount of pressure necessary to detach a blade of a certain dimension. You have made great progress in explaining the fracture principle so please don't stop the experiments.

Evelyn and I have just returned from the University of Hawaii and have been out of touch for awhile. Hope you will try to get Kris to present her paper. It is a good one and it's practically finished. Evelyn and I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and every success.

Best wishes,

Don E. Crabtree

CP 4.1.10