

Cap 4/1/70

Route 1, Box 39
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Nov. 14, 1969

Dr. Rosa Fung-Pineda
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass 02138

Dear Rosa:

How very nice to hear from you and to learn of the visit with your children in Peru; I am sure they were as happy as you were. The dig at Chivateros sounds exciting and am sure you enjoyed studying the lithics there.

I have been on location for five weeks making a series of films on lithic technology for Idaho State University, which I think will be really fine films. We are not finished yet and still have the cutting, sink, and editing to do which will involve a great deal of time. With my time limited, no cameraman or artist available, I am afraid I cannot give you a competent or adequate report on the implements. I tried to make two sketches of your artifacts to help explain some of their features, but they were bad and I gave up. I do note, however, that the texture change on one of the Peruvian pieces may indicate thermal alteration. You may have noticed under magnification that most of the specimens show some polish on their margins - possibly the result of function. Number 10 appears to have several intentional collateral flakes removed on one face from one margin. But, because the material is granular, the technique is difficult to verify or determine. The Peruvian material is unique for it is random flaking by direct percussion and lacks the sophistication normally found on implements in the Western United States. Because of the embryonic workmanship on the specimens, one should have a large population for examination and know more of their context before defining the technique. If they were found in a large deposit of local material, there may be a remote possibility that they are products of natural forces.

Junius has invited me to be at the American Museum in February (date as yet unknown) and I was wondering if it would be possible for us to get together at that time and discuss these artifacts in detail. It would certainly be a pleasure to see you again.

We have not heard from Bordes in some time but had a card from Tixier who has an international team excavating in Lebanon. Bordes is proposing a "Cro-Magnon Project" in Idaho for next year with Tixier, Gene and myself and graduate students, but so far we haven't got enough details from him to apply to NSF for the funds.

I am enclosing a sample of some Idaho material that is somewhat similar in geologic character to the Peruvian specimens, but not in flaking quality. One of the Idaho samples was made by resting the lithic material on an anvil stone and striking with a small hammerstone.

Another was made by simple freehand percussion.

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Thank you so much for considering Evelyn and I your good friends. We were both impressed with you and your fine work and, certainly, consider you one of our finest friends in the profession.

We plan to leave for Mexico around December 1st for a little holiday and also to try to locate the site of the peacock obsidian near Guadalajara. Hope we find it.

Will be talking with Junius on the phone before I leave to set the date for the New York visit and we both sincerely hope you can be there.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

Dear Rosa:

Just wanted to add a note to say how very happy I am that you got home to see your children. I know they must have grown a lot during your time here. Do hope you are happy at Harvard and know you are doing some fine work there. Hope you worked things out with Ed and will remember to not look back - but forward and be so grateful for the two wonderful children.

Have a fine holiday and do hope we see you in February.

Evelyn