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Mr. Jeff Flenniken  
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Dear Jeff:

Please excuse the tardy reply to your most welcome letter telling of your activities. I am delighted by your continued interest in lithic technology. I am really sorry that Francois and I were unable to pay you a personal visit this past summer.

Jeff, you have written an excellent paper and by all means use it for your classwork. You have brought out information that should be made available to the profession and, in particular, that on bi-polar flake and blade detachment. However, I feel that a debate with Binford and Quimby would be a disaster. George and Lew are probably the most formidable opponents in the profession. I know them personally and their nature is such that no matter what factual information you present they would react with a personal affront. However, I feel that your paper should be made public and would suggest that the title be changed to something like Experiments on Bi-Polarism and that you commend Lew and George on the recovery of the lithic debris from the Michigan site in 1963. At that time there was little interest in the study of lithics other than the form of the finished tool and they showed foresight in recovering and recognizing the importance of the debris. I also feel that your article should be reviewed by Francois Bordes who has spent considerable time with Binford over the past years and knows his work and theories.

Jeff, I feel the same as you do about bi-polar flaking. That is - that bulbs of force are not present on both ends of the blade or flake. There are, however, bi-polar cores showing bulbs of force on both ends of the core but this is because the blades or flakes were removed from opposite ends on the same face but were not removed at the same time. This bi-polarism technique - that is the myth of having bulbs of force on both ends of the blades or flakes - started at the Choucouchin (I don't know how to spell it) site in China, locale of the Peking Man, and has been handed down in much the same manner as the old wives tale of dropping cold water on hot flint to chip arrowpoints. Also some confuse bi-polarism with any use of the anvil for support.

Jeff, I want to encourage you to continue your work on the bi-polar technique of flaking. I can only think of one use of this technique and that is a crushing technique used for backing blades and flakes but not for the removal of flakes or blades.

I am glad to hear that you are still spending time on pressure flaking. I am currently working on serrating and a vertical pressure flaking. I have an aboriginal piece that has the serrations less than one mm apart and from that I experimented with a method of deep serrations which can be flaked without turning the artifact.

Anything I have said in this letter is not final and you can use your own judgement about the Binford involvement. You have certainly made comments that should be published. Evelyn and I send our best wishes and congratulations.

Kindest personal regards

Don E. Crabtree

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