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Feb. 4, 1974

Mr. Jeff Flenniken  
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Dear Jeff:

Thanks so much for the treated examples of Novaculite. I am glad to hear that you are going to submit a paper on the thermal treatment of stone and the aboriginal counterparts. I hope that you will give the maximum and minimum ranges of treating novaculite as related to jaspers and chalcedonies which will show that temperature control has considerable sophistication and variation. Novaculite, basalt and obsidian have a much greater tolerance to higher heats and radical temperature changes than do other forms of chalcedony. Also the colors can change from white to pink and some will assume a smoky color which is quite unusual. From the appearance of the samples you sent, a slight increase in temperature and perhaps a sustained period of time may increase the luster and elasticity of the material. Dan Morse sent some novaculite and after treatment in an open fire the luster increased and it responded better to pressure flaking.

I have been working on a paper describing the Danish blade technique of making blades some twenty to thirty cm long with little or no platforms. I use the edge of a hammerstone to detach the blades. I will send you a copy when I finish the writing. Also am working on a serrating technique with a spacing of less than one mm between the barbs. Am also working on the mechanical approach to pressure flaking. There are still endless approaches and techniques to be resolved.

I am glad to learn that your interest in lithics still persists. Keep up the good work. Thanks again for the specimens. It is great material.

At present I do not know of any job openings but will keep you in mind and let you know if I hear of anyone looking. Do hope you find something good.

With best regards,

Don.

P.S. Am sending the letter of recommendation as you request.

CEH.2.8