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J. Gunn  
Dept. of Anthropology  
University of Pittsburgh  
234 Atwood  
Pittsburgh, Penna.  
15213

Don E. Crabtree  
Route #1 Box 39  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

It was certainly a thrill to read your letter, and it makes me realize what a novice I am in the stone technology department. I will most importantly keep in mind your distinction between prehistoric man, who probably had individual and well set habits of doing things, while modern experimenters are continually changing their approach.

This is a concept which broadens my approach quite a bit. I originally chose the biface type of tool over pressure flaked pieces, because I thought that the free-swinging movements used to make bifaces might emphasize individual differences more than the more standardized appearance of pressure flaked tools. From what you say, I can see that individuals might develop different ways of producing pressure tools, too. The cache of tools Dr. Swanson has sounds interesting. Also, I know of a cache of points found in three bundles in a grave at Cahokia which might be interesting.

I have been thinking about this thing for two or three years, but what finally set me into action was a conversation with Michael Collins last spring, or maybe it was the fall before last. He said he thought that you and Francois could tell the difference between your own work and that of the other, or even, say, you could tell the difference between Bordes' work and that of Tixier if you were given a room full of flakes and tools. This scar pattern idea was just a shot in the dark. I would be interested in knowing how you would go about deciding whether Bordes or Tixier made a given biface. Is it something explicit or is it one of those perceptions that you get from experience?

Thank you very much for consenting to make some bifaces. I will write Guy Muto and the other people you mentioned as soon as I can get the materials explaining the project together. I just transferred to Pittsburgh, and my head is still spinning, so some things are a little slow these days.

Sincerely,



Joel Gunn

JDG/sg

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