



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024

December 19, 1968

Mr. Donald Crabtree
Rte. #1, Box 39
Kimberely, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

During your last visit here Dr. Shapiro may have discussed with you the possibility of an exhibit of "Experimental Archaeology" based on your work.

I am writing to learn your reaction to this idea. I have prepared a tentative outline for such an exhibit and am enclosing it with this letter. The outline has been read by Junius Bird, Gordon Ekholm, and Harry Shapiro, all of whom have made suggestions which I have incorporated. Representatives of the Museum's Exhibition and Public Relations departments have also read and approved the outline. It was the suggestion of these latter individuals that this be one of a series of temporary exhibits now being planned for a special hall we have here.

Such temporary exhibits are planned to be open to the public between one and two months. According to our present schedule, this one would open in September, 1969. I am responsible for selecting materials, writing captions, etc., but, of course, I would be depending on your guidance at every turn.

So far openers; are you interested? And what, if any, changes would you suggest in the outline? If you are interested we can get down to particulars about your travel expenses and fees for your expenses and work on the exhibit. Would it be possible to use your films as part of the exhibit? As we have discussed it thus far, I think the plan would be for you to supply us with examples of your work along the lines of the themes and lithic traditions set forth in the outline. When the exhibit opens you would be asked to give a demonstration of your work, mainly for the press, scholars from the New York area, and the public (if possible). Then the exhibit would run on its own, perhaps augmented by films showing you at work. As you know, we are extremely well equipped with artists and other personnel who can do a first-class job with graphics, photos, lighting and other display techniques.

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Personally, I think this could be an exciting and valuable exhibit. The interest around here in your work is high (as, no doubt, you realized when you gave your demonstration here). It would also be an ideal way for you to communicate your approach to prehistory. I value your advice on this matter, and I hope this plan appeals to you.

Please give my regards to your wife. I am still keen to visit your "rockpile" this summer (at your convenience, of course). Betsy and I will be returning to Australia for another year of fieldwork, starting in August, 1969, but by then the exhibit will have to be completed for installation anyway. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dick Gould

Richard A. Gould

P.S. Junius just got back from Tierra del Fuego. He has probably told you what he found, but he asked me to tell you that he has some basalt for you from there along with some wooden flakers he has made for you to try out. He will send these to you anon. By the way, did you know that the Kimberley District Aborigines do bifacial pressure-flaking with wooden flakers? We have one of these flakers in our collection.

RAG