

# The American Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th Street New York, New York 10024 (212) 873-1300



DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

October 27, 1970

Mr. Don Crabtree  
Route 1, Box 39  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don,

Many thanks for the manuscript and the accompanying comments.

I have revised the paper, making the corrections and additions you have suggested. Junius has also read it and made some changes. I think the paper is much improved now, and it will go "into the works" soon.

Your idea about "method" vs. "technique" is fine, but I'm not crazy about your use of two words with such identical meanings as labels for two quite different concepts. Wouldn't "approach" be better than "method"? This idea of yours is very similar to Jim Deetz's notion of the "mental template," but you have gone a step further by stressing not only the idea of advance planning (in terms of the finished form) but also the plan of execution leading up to the finished form. I hope you will compare your approach with Deetz's in your article for the Dictionary of Prehistory. I did not use this distinction in the Curator paper, since explaining it in the text proved too cumbersome under the circumstances.

The exhibit is down in the Shipping Room now being packed. It should be on its way to Idaho this week. All of your material is with it (this includes both your personal items and those belonging to Idaho State University).

I (along with two co-authors, Dorothy Washburn and Ann Sontz -- both Columbia students) have a paper due to appear in American Antiquity in April which will interest you. It is a

Ca. 4.9.15.1

2.

really detailed analysis of the entire lithic toolkit of the Western Desert Aborigines. It includes data on microscopic study of use-wear, edge angle measurements, etc., and goes considerably further than my earlier paper in Natural History. I would send you a manuscript now, but it would lack the illustrations (which are extremely important). Anyway, I'll be interested in your comments when it does come out.

Please remember me to Evelyn. We are looking forward to seeing Earl Swanson soon -- he is due to visit New York in a couple of weeks.

Cheers,

*Dick*

Richard A. Gould

RAG:mw

cc. 4. 4. 15. 2