

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Department of Anthropology

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
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Kimberly, Idaho 83341

May 9, 1972

Dear Don,

I am enclosing a Xerox-copy of a manuscript I received recently from Brian Hayden and Johan Kamminga at the University of Sydney for you to look at and keep in your files. I am also enclosing a copy of my reply to them indicating the worst "horrors" in their paper.

I am afraid that one of the least appealing aspects of Australian scholarship is the way young scholars and graduate students try to score points off their colleagues in this way in order to advance their careers. They are especially ready to criticize Americans, and it is a pattern which they follow regularly and which indicates something about their intellectual isolation and general petty-mindedness. If this paper is published as it stands I feel sure that it will hurt their reputations more than it will help, since the tone is so carping and does such extreme violence to the views we expressed in our paper. By writing it the way they have, they have done themselves a disservice.

Of course they do have a point, and I am sure that further experiments will be needed. But that's how science lurches on. I would be grateful for any suggestions or comments you may have about this matter. Can you suggest any experiments which might be effective in testing their proposition that "handling and general usage" (whatever that means) can give rise to the kinds use-wear or edge-damage patterns that we observed on our ethnographic adze-flakes? Perhaps you may want to play around with this problem a bit yourself.

You will be pleased to know that we recently obtained 2000 lb. of Mexican obsidian from the rock dealer you suggested in El Paso. The price was right and the service was prompt. I am very grateful to you for suggesting him to us. At this time the lithic lab has been used mainly for student demonstrations, but I hope to see it expand next year to include some experimental work. For example, I would like to get some work going on local materials like basalt and trachite.

I hope you and Evelyn are keeping well. Good luck with this summer's lithic technology class. I am hoping to get back to northern California for the month of August this summer and to Central Australia next summer (Lew Napton from Stanislaus State College in Calif. and I are planning an archaeological survey near Alice Springs).

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard A. Gould
Assoc. Professor

Ca. 4.4.21