



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

January 24, 1969

Mr. Donald E. Crabtree
Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

I am sorry to be so long in replying to your last letter. I decided to wait until I had final, official approval of the "experimental archaeology" exhibit from the Director before getting down to specifics. We now have that approval.

The Director, by the way, is very enthusiastic, and I am delighted that you and Dr. Swanson are so willing to help us. The proposed timing of the exhibit has been changed, mainly so we can make use of a gallery which our Exhibition Department feels is better suited for this type of display than the hall which was originally proposed. Using this new gallery (which is really ideal) means the exhibit is now planned to run for three months, February - April, 1970.

How does this strike you? I now need to know how much you will be available during that period to give demonstrations and advice. We are particularly anxious to have you present shortly before the exhibition opens, to catch any last-minute changes and correct possible errors, and for the first few days when it opens, to give stone-chipping demonstrations. Several such demonstrations would probably be called for (for the press, T.V., and colleagues and anthropology students in the New York City area). We would also like to know what you would charge for these services. In addition, of course, the Museum will reimburse you for any travel expenses connected with the exhibition as well as the cost of raw materials and shipment.

I am already underway selecting materials from our collections for this exhibit. I am being helped by a Museum Volunteer - a Miss Philippa Dunn, an undergraduate from Bard College. She is selecting and researching our European paleolithic materials, and she has been coming up with all kinds of goodies. I am definitely planning to visit you on your "rockpile" in May or June, and I think Junius will be coming, too. At that time I will bring photographs of the material tentatively selected for the exhibit, and I will visit Dr. Swanson at Idaho State University to see the collections there of your work and arrange the loan of specimens and films. I appreciate your contacting Dr. Swanson, and we are grateful for his cooperation.

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You are quite right in insisting on a variety of raw materials for the exhibit - in fact we should consider devoting a case or part of one to the problem of quarrying and preparation of raw materials.

I see from your last letter to Junius that you are discovering the delights of pressure-flaking à l'aborigine. When it comes to motor-patterns, the Australian Aborigines seem to do everything in the opposite way from everyone else (toward instead of away from the body), and I admire you for your willingness to try it. I have a good friend, Mr. Ian Crawford (Curator of Anthropology and Archaeology at the Western Australian Museum, Perth), who has devoted several years to studying the Kimberley Aborigines and, in particular, the manufacture of Kimberley points. He has films of men making these points and has a wealth of data on the processes involved. I am trying to ^{lure} ~~hire~~ Ian to come to the Museum for a year on an Ogden Mills Fellowship to pursue his interest in pressure-flaking, and I hope he will come after he finishes his Doctorate in Prehistory at the University of London in 1970. He's a very personable as well as an able individual, and I shall try to put him in touch with you. Also, in case you are interested in an out-of-the-way reference, A.P. Elkin once wrote a paper in Man on Kimberley stone-chipping ("Pressure-Flaking in the Northern Kimberley, Australia, No. 130, 1948").

Cheers,

Dick Gould

Richard A. Gould

Assistant Curator of N. American Archaeology

RAG:jg

P. S. Dear Don:

I am appalled at the trouble I gave you with my questions and am very appreciative of your well phrased and detailed reply. If I find Ed in a suitable mood some day I will show him your letter as he can in no way take offense at anything you say, only at my suspicion about his remark. Will be with Dick in May or June.

As ever,

Junius

Junius B. Bird