



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, BURNABY 2, B.C., CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY; 291-3111

December 5, 1974

Mr. Don Crabtree
Rt. 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho 83341
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

In the fall of 1976, the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University intends to host a conference on lithic microwear studies. It is our conviction that such a conference is not only timely, but essential at this point in the development of microwear studies if the field is to avoid logistical and procedural problems which have plagued the rest of archaeology: namely, lack of standardized definitions and foundation systematics.

The number of researchers actively engaged in usewear studies are few enough and the conceptual frameworks being used are recent and flexible enough to enable all concerned to assemble and hammer out fundamental definitions, identifications and procedures. Although the field is embryonic, it is growing rapidly in divergent directions, and one is hard pressed to find any two researchers using the same terminology or the same criteria for interpretations. Typical are often interchanged terms such as "gloss", "polish", "smoothing", "sheen", etc. while description of fracture types is utterly chaotic.

If microwear studies are ever to reach the nomothetic state of the art, it is essential, now, to arrive at some consensus regarding these basic descriptive units, as well as adequate criteria for drawing inferences. Thus, the emphasis of the conference will be on fundamentals. This part may be grueling, but will be well worth all the effort. Another key concern will be the defining of variables which create the wear patterns we observe. Finally, there will be a symposium on interpretation of use wear and potential applications.

In order for this conference to work, participation is vital. We would like to know at this point, if you would be willing to prepare research or data as a contribution to this endeavor. In order to insure that results of the conference are available to all researchers for reference, it is fully expected that the papers and discussion will be published soon after the conference, and that it



will be a milestone reference work for many years. Again, although not as appealing as theoretical interpretive contributions, what we need most are solid foundation contributions. In order to proceed to the next step, we need a commitment from you now to prepare data or research for the conference in fall 1976. Please reply as soon as possible.

First suggestions of symposium titles are:

- I. Microwear definitions: Edge rounding to gloss.
- II. Microwear definitions: fracture types.
- III. Sources of microwear morphology.
- IV. Interpreting microwear.

(Adequate provision will be made for discussions.)

Any further suggestions which you may have for further symposium topics will be gladly received and considered. Additionally, the names of any persons which you feel should be notified of this conference would be greatly appreciated (you might Xerox this letter and send a copy of it to them; but in any event, please forward their name to us). All efforts will be made to provide travel and housing funding for those who require it.

Very sincerely,



Brian Hayden, Coordinator
Simon Fraser University
Conference on Microwear

BH:inb
Encl.

CC: Ahler, S.	Nance, J.
Bordes, F.	Semenov, S.
Crabtree, D.	Sheets, D.
Frison, G.	Thomas, D.
Gould, R.	Tringham, R.
Hester, T.	Wheat, J. B.
Kamminga, J.	Wilmsen, E.
Keeley, L.	Witthoft, J.
Keller, C.	



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, BURNABY 2, B.C., CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY; 291-3111

This is a reminder that we are now in the process of arranging space, schedules and funding for the S. F. U. conference on lithic use-wear to be held in October, 1976. We would like to know at this time whether you are interested in participating in the conference.

Response to the conference has been most enthusiastic. We have even had a publication offer already! A list of those who have so far agreed to present papers is enclosed.

The tentative dates for the conference have been set at Thursday, October 14 to Sunday, October 17, 1976. At present, we envisage a workshop format, wherein papers will be distributed to all participants prior to the conference, so that during the 4-day session it will be possible to confront basic problems (i.e. the establishment of fundamental procedures, terminology and independent variables) in a workshop fashion. Toward this end, we request that you submit a copy of your paper at least 2½ months prior to the opening day of the conference. This will enable us to duplicate and distribute copies of all papers to all participants in time for pre-conference reading.

Regretably, since funds for conferences these days do have finite financial limits, we must encourage everyone to make serious attempts to procure travel and lodging funds for themselves. This does not mean that we are not trying our best to procure travel and lodging funds for participants. But participation is international, and the cost is high. At this point, we need to know approximately how many people anticipate needing travel funds in order to generate a preliminary budget. A postcard is enclosed for convenience, to send us an indication as to whether or not you will probably require partial or total funding. Space is also provided for further suggestions of topics or participants you feel would be valuable in the conference. Speedy replies will be appreciated.




CC.51.55.3

We are looking forward to a highly productive workshop conference with participation by North American and overseas delegates.

We would greatly appreciate notification of your anticipated participation or inability to participate, at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Hayden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Hayden
Conference Co-ordinator