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Kimberly, Idaho 83341  
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Dr. Paul F. Healy  
Assistant Professor  
Trent University, Dept. of Anthropology  
Peterborough, Ontario Canada  
K9J7B8

Dear Paul:

I am pleased to learn of your interest in use-wear of obsidian blades. It should prove to be a most interesting study. Unfortunately, I am still convalescing from a series of major surgeries (three different ones were done with obsidian blades, the surgeon was impressed); however, just the initial incisions were made with blades and I wouldn't recommend this course of use-wear studies. An uncut-up chicken would probably be the best approach for initial experiments. It is my feeling that the blades were a multipurpose tool, being used from everything from blood letting to finally ending up as even projectile points. Some were even used as inserts in a variety of tools and harvesting equipment. There are examples portrayed as swords in the codices and glyphs.

At this time I am not able to use the chest crutch or hand pressure, but have a friend and associate that has been working closely with me for the past twenty years and is the only person that I could recommend that will make exact reproductions of the aboriginal blades. These will be in mint condition as these blades will be caught on a soft fabric as they are detached from the core thereby preserving the keenness of the edge and they will avoid contact with any other blade thereby insuring a perfect margin. There is considerable time involved in material selection, core preparation, and other conditions to detach perfect blades. You can discuss the price with Mr. Gene Titmus, Route 3, Jerome, Idaho 83338.

Also Mary Nievens, New York, New York (26 East 93rd Street) 10028 is doing some blade work from material in Belize, and Alice Benerfer, University of Missouri, Columbia, on blades from Mexico. You may correspond with these people of interest.

Paul, I am interested in knowing your location in Honduras and the character of the blades from your area. I do hope that this will be of help.

Sincerely yours,

Don E. Crabtree  
Research Associate, Anthropology Department