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Mr Don E. Crabtree  
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Dear Mr Crabtree:

Dr Wilmsen, editor of American Antiquity, says that he would like very much to see your paper on Hohokam flaking, so, at Dr Haury's request, I am trying to edit it for submittal to him.

I think that from the standpoint of a paper on technology, not only the removal of the general Hohokam section but also a tightening up of some of your philosophical sections might be necessary, much as I dislike depriving some of the younger men of your very pertinent and appropos comments on observation and experiment. I shall do my best to convey your intentions, however. Shall I send you the edited copy for approval, or will Dr Haury's approval be sufficient?

A question of my own: Dr Bird described some stone discoidals from Papagonia in Amer. Antiquity (1970:205-09), and had no suggestions as to their possible use. I just sent an article to Wilmsen on two similar discoidals from Ventana Cave, same age and association, older than 11,000 years, horse and ground sloth, distinctive point types (fishtail in Fall's Cave, Clovis-like in Ventana). Then I read again your note on the choice of a spherical or discoidal stone percussor for percussion flaking, in your present paper, and I noted that you say you use softer stone for certain materials, etc. The discoidals of Bird and Ventana are of tuff, or rhyolite or vesicular basalt, most of them very neatly made and smoothed, but definitely not grinding stones. Is it possible that these might be percussors?

A comment on your paper, a matter of definition: You use the words theory and hypothesis in one section, and say that a theory may become a complicated hypothesis. May I suggest that you have interchanged the terms? Webster's Unabridged, second edition, has very clear definitions of both terms. I quote: In scientific usage, a hypothesis is a

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provisionall conjecture regarding the causes or relations of certain phenomena; a theory is a hypothesis which has undergone verification, and which is applicable to a large number of related phenomena." One may, then, form one or another hypothesis to explain certain phenomena in flaking stone; upon testing this or these hypotheses, the hypothesis which stands up under testing under many conditions may achieve the status of a theory.

Forgive my comment; I am interested in words! Perhaps some of our younger writers in archeology would benefit by a similar interest!

The question of the discoidal as percussor is one which I hope you will make some comments on. Should be interesting.

Best wishes,

  
Julian D. Hayden