

Rt. 1, Box 39

Dec. 28, 1972

83341

Dr. Thomas Hester  
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Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 17th. The core-blade technology symposium sounds exciting and I appreciate your invitation to attend. I would love to hear about, or see, the collection of material from Southern Micohecan. Southwestern Mexico can contribute so much to lithic technology. I can not give you a definite answer at this time on attending the meetings until I hear further from Swanson who is now in London. He has written asking me to come there in May but we have set no definite date. Think he had to talk to the University people and Ian Cornwall. Will let you know as soon as I hear.

The series of unbroken blades which Lynn Langdon has appear to be made from the same core. They are unique as they are the first I have seen where the platform was not altered by removing the bulbar scar of the previous blade detachment. I worked on this collection for several days to reassemble them in sequence but could not make a positive contact. One would think with 17 very uniform blades that I would have had better luck. This would seem to indicate that the cores yield quantities of blades in excess of what we normally presume. I think you can get a loan of these blades by writing to Mr. L.L. Langdon, 400 Main St., Buhl, Idaho. This man has an unbelievable collection of material from the State of Colima - lithics, beads, pottery, etc. which he personally excavated. If I remember correctly, the blades came from a burial somewhere between San Blas and Tuxpan. However, he has collected south of Colima - so I am not sure. I wish it were possible for you to see his collection of museum-quality material. He is a well informed amateur who has spent some time with Isabel Kelly and has catalogued his materials.

You may also be interested in - or know of - Alice Benfer, 1100 Lakeshore Drive, Columbia, Missouri, University of Missouri. According to her phone call, she is writing her dissertation on 150 cores from Hidalgo.

I.S.U. had my copy of the old bibliography which I now have. Sorry to have bothered you.

I am glad that Jerry Epstein will attend the conference as he is an old friend and it will be good to see him.



I began this letter early in December and got side-tracked. Since then I have been to Hawaii to do a stint at the University there with the Leibans and Dick Gould. Also gave some lectures at the Bishop Museum and the local school for Hawaiians. It was a grand trip and a chance to see their material which is very interesting. Dick and I went to the big island and saw some sites but could not pin down a reported source of local obsidian.

My health is improving but it will be some time until the lung is back to normal. Wonder how my lung could collapse with all of the accumulated lithic debris?

My wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year and thanks for your offer to send a copy of the new bibliography when it is released.

With kindest personal regards,

Don E. Crabtree



Rt. 1, Box 39

83341

January 9, 1973

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Dear Tom:

I am so sorry to hear you are leaving Berkeley for Texas. San Antonio is just too far away. However, congratulations on your new job - they are becoming increasingly more scarce each year. I just received my copy of Payson Sheets paper on the obsidian technology and it is a far better paper than the one he submitted some time ago to American Antiquity. He attended our summer lithic technology field school and did get a little experience with pressure blades. He was selected because of his interest in blade technology and because he was from the Univ. of Penn and, hopefully, could influence John Whittoff. His paper is good, but he left out much detail on percussions and the preforming of the percussion core and was minus an explanation of pressure blades and how they are distinguished from percussion blades. Also he illustrated one core with nearly parallel sides and one core with constricted proximal and distal ends with no mention of the technological differences.

Tom, I do hope that you and Bob will have an opportunity to excavate the Papahuapa site in the near future. It has great promise of furnishing much needed information on blade making and cores. The great variety of cores represented in Mesoamerica promises to be more diagnostic than projectile points.

I hope that you will write to Mr. Langdon for a loan of the blades. I think that you would find them most interesting.

I am delighted that you will have a paper in "Tebiwa". Butler didn't say a word about it. I, too, will be eager to learn of ethnographic evidence for heat treating lithic materials. It has been a month or more since I have been to the University. I will check it out for you the next time that I am there.

I still have no definite plans about this Spring and will keep in touch about the decision when it becomes clear. It will depend on the health problems. I would look forward to seeing you.

With kindest regards,

Don E. Crabtree

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