

R

Dr. Tom Hester  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Center for Archaeological Research  
The Univ. of Texas at San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas 78285

August Friday 13, 1976

Dear Tom:

Since our return from Belize we have both been plagued by ill health, Evelyn is in the hospital now and upon her return I will have to do my stint. I found upon my return that I had an obstruction between the aorta and the femoral arteries is why I had so much pain when walking, even so I was so fortunate to see such fabulous displays of stone working.

Each day I have put off writing to you and Normand but I feel that you should receive a copy of the letter from the Explorers Club. The letter is self explanatory and you don't have to be a member. I think that you, Norman, Mary and the Governor in cooperation with the wonderful Massion family with all of the exciting flora and fauna, the underground rivers and most important of all the unbelievable Archaeology, should provide enough subject matter for several films. I would be so pleased to endorse any such project or projects you may have in mind.

Congratulations to you and Normand for the most successful conference that I ever attended, too you were so kind to my wife and I. I was most impressed by your organization and how you have accelerated the interest and enthusiasm of all of the participants. Most impressive is the vast lithic industrial complex and the spectrum of highly sophisticated technologies represented. The single site # 100 will contain no less than two thousand tons of implements and their manufacturing by-products. Of great importance is that upon analysis one can expect large populations of the representative implement styles and the stages of manufacture. The site may present the archaeologist with the problem of excavation. Upon my return home I had time to examine a few surface specimens, two macro, trapezoidal blade sections, one appearing to be an adz with unifacial work on both margins, but still leaving the dorsal blade scar, the other blade section had minute pressure retouch on one margin possibly used as a planning tool. The blade fragments are comparable to those from Grand Pressigny, France and to my knowledge the largest known. I do not wish to imply that the technique came from France. Also there were two bifacial tools, they appeared to be lance points or pointed knives, but the basal part was heavily abraded and bruised showing rigorous use at that part, the pointed end had a minimal polish that would indicate that the point was inserted in a heavy shaft, the tool being ideal for cultivation, weeding or just digging. I also had seven adz sharpening flakes (orange peel flakes) my total collection. Without exception the platform part of the adz flakes had been modified at the bulbous end into assorted tools. Two by detaching a burin spall, leaving a fine chisel edge and others were unifacially pressure flaked to resemble the modern engraving tool tips. Of concern is that these implements are multipurpose tools that have been used and then abandoned which presents a series of yet to be answered questions. Was the chipping debris and exhausted and broken tools gathered from nearby farmers and manufacturers and deposited on a non tillable rocky outcrop ?? As I remember there appeared to be concentrations of flakes of similar size and character, indicating separate industries or that the waste was dumped at the same location.

CE.5.3.221



Too there seemed to be a variety of assorted materials with a variability of colors and textures, some was banded concentricly, some granular and opaque and one blade quite glassy translucent amber colored. It is indeed an exciting enigma that will be resolved upon excavation and provide a wealth of information.

Lithic resources have been little explored but have great potential for the archaeologist in understanding what materials were selected to perform specific functional implements. The glassy rock had sharper edges while the coarser rocks would withstand more demanding tasks.

Tom it has been nearly a month since I started this letter, we both have had multiple health problems, hopefully things will improve.

I feel badly that I promised you and Norman that I would try to assist in promoting your most important work in Belize. There are prolific techniques of stoneworking that have never been described and each deserves a paper of some depth with illustrations. There may be some confusion in the following list as I saw so much, Mary brought her obsidian collection the day we were supposed to go swimming, Hattula had the collection from Tical and the quantities from Coha.

This letter is still in the typewriter and another month has passed, Evelyn is still in the hospital and I just returned. I have tried to call you at your home but you may be in the field. I have a long list of technologies that should be described in detail, but will have to forgo it for now and just get this letter posted to let you know that I have not forgotten. Please make my apologies to Norman, your site is so worthwhile and has the greatest potential for lithic studies of any yet to be discovered.

I am enclosing some brochures that you and Norman may find of interest. Do wish for a secretary at this time in order to be of more assistance.

Thanks so much for your kindness,

Don Crabtree  
Route 1, Box 210  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341  
Phone 280 - 733-3275