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November 11, 1979

Dr. Thomas R. Hester
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Dear Tom:

You don't know how much I appreciate the publications you sent me - The Colha Project, 1979: A Collection of Interim Papers and the most excellent Archaeological Studies of Mesoamerican Obsidian. The illustrations and text were so very well done. The photographs of the large pressure cores have given me some ideas that need experiment regarding the detachment of these very large blades. There is almost a duplicate of one of those illustrated at Washington State University in the collection of Jeffrey Flenniken. The proximal end seems to be constructed with a certain amount of undulation before the regular plane starts which indicates that possibly some percussory aid was used in order to detach these large pressure blades. But, it seems that rather than being unique, this technique seems to be fairly consistent. The publication certainly brings obsidian technologies on blades and cores up to date - what we need now is more experiment in order to make finer replication.

I have called several times, but unfortunately have missed you and find that you are out of state. Hopefully you have visited our friends in Italy and that they will be able to return for your coming season. They were great fellows and I certainly enjoyed their company. I am sure you are looking forward to a very rewarding season for the coming year. The potential of Colha in the way of technology and the prehistory of man appears to be tremendous and particularly in the field of lithic studies. Again let me thank you so much for the publications - they have provided much information which brings together more information regarding blademaking technology of Mesoamerica.

We both share a great loss in the death of our mutual friend Robert Heizer. We will keep in touch upon your return home.

Your friend,

Don Crabtree, D. Sc.
Research Associate in
Prehistoric Technology

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