

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
FAYETTEVILLE
72701

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

April 27, 1973

Carl Alexander
Epps, Louisiana

Dear Carl,

You will recall I visited briefly with you a couple of times this past winter while making field trips to the Poverty Point site. At that time, I expressed an interest in the Poverty Point microblade industry, and you were good enough to give me a small sample of polyhedral blade cores as I was unable to find any on the surface. I have since become even more interested in this fascinating core and blade assemblage, and have decided use it as a thesis topic. Basically, what I hope to do is to replicate these blade tools, called Jaketown perforators after they have been used and discarded, first by learning to produce the lamellar blades, and then using them in a number of modes in an attempt to duplicate the wear patterns which appear on the working edges of the Jaketown perforators. Hopefully such an approach will establish once and for all what function the microblade industry played in Poverty Point culture.

I have discussed this project with Don Crabtree at Idaho State University Museum in Pocatello, Idaho. Don, as you probably know, is an expert flint knapper. He is very interested in the Poverty Point microblade industry and would like to have a sample (cores, unmodified blades, and Jaketown perforators). Each summer Don teaches a flint knapping seminar funded by the National Science Foundation, and if he had representative examples of cores, etc., Don and his group could address themselves to this problem this

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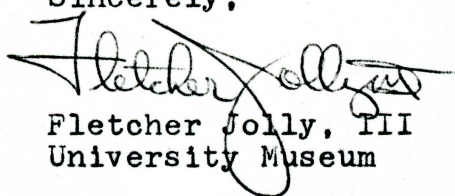
coming summer. Experimental archaeology is a coming thing, replacing armchair theorizing with solid facts impossible to derive otherwise. Hopefully, Don and his group can provide some of the answers we are seeking.

As for my own thesis problem, I have an adequate sample of the microblade industry from the Jaketown site only. I visited with Jack Lancaster in Sunflower and we picked up a very large quantity of material from the surface in a single day. I need additional material, especially cores and unmodified blades, from the Poverty Point site. Since there is no way for me to collect it myself, as the site is no longer being plowed, I would also like to request a sample for my own work showing the full range of variation in cores and blades. I probably have enough of the Jaketown perforators from Poverty Point, but if you want to send a few more I suppose it would be worthwhile.

Carl, if you can help us out it would be greatly appreciated. You are one of the few sources of study material from Poverty Point, and without your help both Don and I are "hurtin." If you can spare this material, we can put it to good use. Should you find that you can help, pack this material carefully to avoid micro-damage to tool edges and core striking platforms (the postman often seems to handle fragile packages roughly). Needless to say, both Don and I will immediately repay you the cost of mailing.

Thanks much!

Sincerely,


Fletcher Jolly, III
University Museum

cc: Don Crabtree

FJ/se

DON -
IF YOU HAVE A CANCELLATION FOR THIS SUMMER'S
SESSION, WRITE ME AND BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR ARM. FLETCHER

CC.5.5.47.2