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Mr. Thomas F. Kehoe
c/o Dr. Alice B. Kehoe
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Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter of June 5th and for enclosing the small flake for inspection. Please excuse the tardy reply, but have just returned from a two week trip to see Haury and Thompson at Arizona, then to Grasshopper, and then to see Wormington and Bird at the Kersey site. The trip and excavated materials were very interesting, but the weather very hot.

Now about the interesting flake. The flake is typical of a thinning and sharpening flake detached from the edge of a biface. Examination of the dorsal side of the flake indicates that the worker was removing flakes from right to left. The striations on the ventral side of the flake - directed toward the platform and at oblique angles to the lateral margins - are characteristic of a thin flake detached from a platform previously prepared by flaking and grinding. The platform preparation, or dulling of the margin, causes a lip on the ventral side of the biface platform. It is the force applied to the platform to detach the flake from the edge of the biface that causes the fissuring. When a flake is removed from a biface, with this type of prepared platform, the edge of the artifact is left very sharp; for when the thinning flake is detached, the margin is also removed with the flake.

The lateral margins of the flake show that minute functional flakes were removed from the ventral to the dorsal side of the lateral edges. This would seem to indicate that the flake was held at a steep angle when functional pressure was applied; and that the dorsal side of the flake was next to the piece being worked - possibly wood.

If time permitted, I could do a more detailed analysis for there is so much information to be found in debitage flakes. Do hope that these few comments will be of some use.

I am delighted to learn of your interest in lithic technology and am sure you will find it most rewarding. I hope you will be able to attend the Great Basin Conference to be held in Pocatello the latter part of August where we could talk further about flake studies.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

P.S. Suggested reading: Francois Bordes' new book "The Old Stone Age" World University Library, McGraw-Hill Book Co. New York Toronto. This is a must. In English and priced at \$2.45

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