

Nov 10 '79

Peter Keelerborn  
Rainsstr. 372  
CH8706 MEILEN

Dear Don,

How are you? Winter is coming and I wonder how much snow you usually get in Kimberly.

I am trying to work through my notes on my wonderful visit to your house and workshop. Included you find the information I promised.

a.) Heat treatment: For whatever it is worth, it follows from literature that with "pure  $S_2O_2$ " there are points of interests:

$\gamma$  Tridymit  $117^\circ C$   $\beta$  Tridymit  $163^\circ$   $\alpha$  Tridymit

$\beta$  Cristobalit  $180-270^\circ C$   $\alpha$  Cristobalit  
 $230^\circ C$

$\beta$  Quarz  $573^\circ C$   $\alpha$  Quarz

With Silix from Grand Pressigny and Belgium (Spienne) I know that surpassing  $573^\circ C$  in all cases of my experiments the material completely cracked up and looks like grey or red sugar cubes.

Presently I have the feeling that Le Grand Pressigny Silix even cannot stand  $300^\circ C$ , while the grey

Silex from Belgium/Southern Holland is reacting very nicely to  $300^{\circ}\text{C}$

b.) Liore de beurre. I hope that in the meantime this nucleus has reached you undamaged and safe. To give you a optical impression on these blades I copied those articles which had the most and the best drawings. The study of the liore de beurre nucleus has kept me busy for the last 3 years. From analyzing over a hundred pieces, and comparing this analysis with the studies on the blades found at "la Crensette" I have a pretty clear picture of the manufacturing process as a whole, but details are missing and I have not enough Silex to seriously work on duplicating. One point of interest is whether these gigantic blades were struck directly with a hammerstone or a bone- or wood mallet or with a punch??

Presently I am in the last stages of work on an article on liore de beurre, coming out next year in the official yearbook of the Swiss Society of archeologists. I still can't believe it, so I keep my fingers crossed!!  
I wish you good health and remain in  
gratitude enjoying the samples you gave me,  
Sincerely yours Peter