

Route 1, Box 39  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341  
Sept. 20, 1972

Miss Ruth Ann Knudson  
General Bongono 1135  
Miraflores, Lima, Peru

Dear Ruth Ann:

Thank you for your interesting letter of August 20th and please excuse the tardy reply. I have been prone to put things off because of a back injury and hospitalization. I can not sit too long to do any typing. Fortunately, we had a pleasant summer - not as hot as last year. I gather from your letter that you have some pretty plush accommodations and envy you the change of environment and the opportunity to work with Scotty. He is such a dynamic person with so much experience and knowledge. I have the greatest respect for this man's contributions. I hope that both you and Carl will have the opportunity to continue with him at Peabody.

Ruth Ann, the comments I made about your paper were meant only for you and no one else and were intended only as constructive criticism. I hope you took them in this vein. I suppose I tend to be more critical of my own students but I don't want them to ever write anything which will be subject to criticism. We are all free to agree or disagree and thereby resolve our differences of opinion.

The word "style" is really a shotgun word and encompasses characteristics, traits, techniques, form, materials, etc. For example - Oriental style, Egyptian style, Solutrean style, etc. Parallel-collateral flaking is a technique but not necessarily accomplished by the same method of manufacture. There may be differences in the flake spacing, the termination of the flakes, the transverse section of the artifact; differences in edge preparation prior to flaking, depth of the bulbar scars, the alternating of flake removal from opposite faces on the same margin, the manner in which the ridges between the bulbar scars is removed, etc, etc. Parallel oblique flaking, another of several technological approaches, requires a non rigid support, a different manner of holding, platforms prepared at an angle and the pressure tool held at an angle in relation to the object being worked, etc. Fluting cannot be generalized as there are usually a number of technological approaches. There are a number of different techniques involved before the final removal of a channel flake.

One can go into much detail about the different characteristics and subtle differences but in order to cope with each new crop of students and satisfy the accelerated interest in lithic technology I find it necessary to give simple detailed information and spell out each conclusion. For this reason I try to write in a very simple text book form and still most of the problems, misinterpretations, misunderstandings, etc stem from not enough detail. I now realize that your paper had a time limitation and I was perhaps too critical. It is a worth while contribution showing technological differences in point types. Pat Green is also doing some fine work on the sub types of the McKean points using the technological approach.

I agree that the parallel collateral flaking techniques were culturally preferred and did encompass a considerable time span to produce implements to suit the particular environment. Collateral flaking may have been used because of the type of flake detachment which produces a hollow ground effect on the margin - or, if you will, a concavity - with a relatively thick mid section which made a strong sharp point for deep penetration. But, of course, if the flake was too thin then the mid section would also be thin.

I have hunted my files in vain for your Plainview paper. Two months ago I took all my loose publications to I.S.U. to be cross-indexed and suppose it got lost there in the shuffle. Would like a reprint when you publish.

Tell Scotty and Carl "hello" for me and keep up the good work.

With best wishes,

Don E. Crabtree

I suppose you have or will see my glossary of terminology. We will later want to enlarge this "bare start" and would like to have those interested in lithic technology to contribute to this volume. We did not define the word "style" and no one seems to want to take it on. Do you have any ideas for a definition. Would welcome your addition to this volume - with proper credit, of course.

D.E.C.