

January 31, 1975

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Dear Don and Evelyn:

It's atrociously late to be typing, after having been sitting here all day, but I'd like to write to you while I'm still totally immersed in the lithics book. And I set aside these couple of days for this, and I want to finish! How are you? Is the weather as temperamental and generally miserable down there as it is up here? One day it rains and the roof leaks with the accumulation of melting snow, the next it is snapping cold and the car won't start--and then it rains again! I sure am getting lots of work done, because there sure isn't much point in going outside. But that's what winter is for, and I really do like to good feeling of lots of work accomplished.

As you can see, I am sending along a copy of the preliminary table of contents and abstracts of the lithics book we are putting together. I thought you would like to have some idea of the papers that were being included, and I for one would like to have any comments from you about the papers. I have sent the same packet off to all the contributors and asked that they send any comments about any of the papers (criticisms, suggested references, comments on concepts or directions) to me, and I will collect them and forward them as anonymous messages to the individual authors. If you have any similar comments about any of the papers, I'd appreciate it if you'd do the same---send them to me, and I'll make them part of the unsigned packet that goes out to each person. Some of the papers are stronger than others, and some are weaker, but I think they will all be valuable, and all will certainly be well worked over by time they ever get to press. As the papers come in, I am going to read and edit them carefully, then send them out to 2 other people for critical review. Each individual author is putting together a mini-glossary of specialized terms from his paper, and I will coordinate these and send them out to the group again for discussion to make sure we are all on the same wave-length, and have used no unnecessary jargon on our audience. We don't want to provide a substitute for your own glossary, but at the same time I think we have a responsibility to the unspecialized reader to provide a basic dictionary within the book itself. I am also going to coordinate the bibliographies so that there is just one general reference list, and we are going to include a brief biographical sketch on each contributor. I am going to write a brief biographical paper about you, and I'd like to come south sometime later this spring or in the summer (if you're around) and work on that for a couple of days, with your permission. I know I mentioned that last summer and didn't get very far, but I think I am finally getting the work here under control, and the book in realistic shape. I am still trying to get papers from a few holdouts (Green, Phagan, Ranere, Bucy), but there are dissertation conflicts and other things involved. Jeff Mauger was most disappointed to have to drop out of the project, but says he just is too out of touch with the recent literature to put together a quality paper. As a final note to the book, Earl Swanson has been most enthusiastic and helpful, and I am now seriously dickering with a possible commercial publisher and looking for funds to underwrite the publication costs. So, we will get there! I hope it will be a volume of which you can be proud; if not, it won't be for lack of trying! We're all very proud to be Dierkes Lake alumni, believe me.

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As for the regular work around here, it goes on--and on--and on. I really have had a delicious feeling of accomplishment the last few weeks, and have been wound up like I haven't since I was sitting in Oregon writing my dissertation. That, by the way, is sitting at the Archaeological Survey of Canada office in Ottawa (along with Rob's thesis and others) awaiting publication. I didn't change it a bit, but did add a brief few pages on the obsidian hydration dates from MacHaffie, and the "Scottsbluff II" piece, all found after I finished the thesis. I sure will be glad to have that in print.

Right now I'm spending most of my time on the Red Smoke project, especially the lithics identification. I've been reading voraciously, trying to put together all the possible ways of analyzing the raw material to get information that's significant to the prehistoric knappers, and that's a lot of ways! I'm sending along a hand-out I put together for a student of mine (Tom Hudson, the rather diffident ^{young} man with lots of reddish-brown hair who was in Calgary with the Idaho group) who's going to spend the spring working up the description of the Republican River Jasper for me. I got some quarry samples of Jasper last September when I was in Nebraska, and we are really going to work them over. I have spent hours writing letters to geologists in Kansas and Nebraska, getting information on the depositional unit and structural history of the Jasper outcrops, and am about to mobilize the high school science classes in 8 counties in Nebraska and Kansas to map those outcrops for me (trying, at least!). The Laboratory for Nuclear Archaeology at the University of Missouri is going to run neutron activation analysis of the material for me this spring, and I am having petrographic descriptions done here at Idaho. Tom is also going to take the Jasper over to the Materials Testing Lab here on campus and see about getting all the mechanical tests run. We sure are going to know about Republican River Jasper when we're done! There's some tool use experiments going on at the same time, and some knapping, and of course the analysis of the archeological collection. I'm learning a tremendous amount by trying to put all of this together, and having a great time with it! I think you'll be pleased with the final report when it's all together, tho that's a ways away at the moment. I'm about to put together another NSF proposal for next year, for my half-time commitment to finishing up with project with the additional debitage and materials analysis not covered in the original request, and hope it goes through. Should be a hell of a monograph when it's finished, and I haven't really gotten to the artifact analysis yet!

In addition to the Red Smoke work, I'm finishing up the monograph on that Middle Missouri Anton Rygh stuff that I began on last winter. I did get another small Park Service grant to pay for the typing and publication costs of a limited edition Park Service report, and am working with the computer right now. Nothing fancy, but I am dealing with 40,000 artifacts and the computer is the only thing with a memory good enough to sort things out for me. The report is more descriptive than analytical (that would take another decade!), but there is a horrendous amount of information in the bone, ceramic, and lithic assemblages. And I did take off enough time to get a basic debitage analysis on the lithics, which is probably a first with this time period in that area. The bone tool is the real learning experience for me, with 2000 tools in some 2 dozen tool categories. We're doing a bang-up job of illustrating that material, because good treatment of it is rather

he was just awarded a Fulbright for a master's program in lithics and living archeology with J. Peter White at the Univ. of Sydney, Austr.

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unusual in that part of the country at that period. I'm afraid that the final publication were be available only from the Midwest Archeological Center (National Park Service) library, not really published, but I am hoping I can get it put on file at the Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information in Virginia. Too much work to hide it away!

What else am I up to? Well, I am finally completely rewriting that 1972 "On Plainview" paper for the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, and that should be in press in a month or so. I'm including information from my 1972 Plains Conference paper, my thesis, that paper I sent to you that I originally put together on the subject, and some recent work with things like Lipscomb. I'm starting over on the illustrations for that, and working on them right now. I'm also working on a paper for the SAA meetings in Dallas, and that should be fun. Alice Benfer and I are chairing a session on "New World lithic analysis--regional evaluations," and I am doing the paper on the Plains. We have a good group, with lots of ideas in the 4 hours scheduled: John Fagan on the Arctic and Northwest/Plateau, Pat Green on the Basin, Dick Chapman from New Mexico on the Southwest, Dena Dincauze from Massachusetts on the Northeast, Mike Collins from Kentucky on the Southeast, Alice on Mexico and Payson Sheets on southern Mesoamerica, and Lucy Lewis Johnson on South America. Ralph Rowlett from Missouri, Charles Nelson from Massachusetts-Boston, and Art Jelinek are going to be the discussants---all Old World specialists. Got a note from Karen Stothert the other day and she says she is chairing her own session--more power to her! We're not starting any ~~xxx~~activist liberationists group, but a group of us female-type archeologists are going to have dinner together the first night of the SAA meetings, just to get better acquainted; we need the assurance of others like ourselves! You must have parented most of us, I think, one time or another.

*pardon the
typing!*

I'm going to try for one other small project, to be worked on this summer; don't know whether it will work or not. There is a major chert quarry up in Boundary County, Idaho, just south of the B.C. line--do you know anything about it? There is a small fund available for research projects here on campus, with applications due March 1, and I think I am going to try and get support for a preliminary analysis of the quarry material---travel to the quarry to get a description of it, funds for petrographic and neutron activation analysis of it, maybe some mechanical tests, and the like. I heard about it on the way up to Calgary, and Barney Reeves at the University of Calgary showed me pieces of material from the quarry that are identical to one of my unknowns from MacHaffie II! I don't even know the name of the quarry, but I understand Max Pavesic does, and has a legal description of the area. Going to try and see what I can find.

Do you know Maxine Kleindienst well, or at all? She and Charles Keller gave that paper at Calgary on the hand-axes-as-anvils. I've enjoyed all her papers I've seen, and started corresponding with her this winter, and one of her special topics is the definition of "style"--we may end up with some collaboration on Old and New World concepts that is valuable. Sounds like fun.

Going to hush up and run---I can talk for ever, as you well know. Hope you're well, and I would appreciate any comments on the preliminary abstracts, etc.

Chao,

Rutten

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