

Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho
11-11-68

Mr. David P. Libbey
20832 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California
90265

Dear David:

I am delighted to hear of your interest in the study of techniques, materials and the waste products. An analytical study of flakes provides an incite into the various stages of manufactur, technological traits, manufacturing techniques and the selection of materials for certain implements. Function, however, can only be implied and experiments to define the actual use are practically non-existent and this is certainly a wide open field. Much experimenting must yet be done to resolve the behavior of lithic material when subjected to force. I would certainly suggest that you spend as much time as possible experimenting with the fracture of stone. There is not substitute for experiment; and then the experiment must be verified by actual replication.

In the Yermo area of Calico hills there is an abundant variety of good experimental material to allow one to make a comparison of textures and homogeneity. Such a study could prove to be of great value to your project.

I would suggest that you contact Michel Dauvois who is doing some fine work on the sequence of flake and blade removal, as well as lithic material studies. I am sure that, via correspondence, you would have a great exchance of ideas and results. Michel is an artist for Jacques Tixier, who has published extensively and who, in my opinion, is one of the world's great typeologists. Both men ^{are} at the Museum National D'Histoire Naturelle, Prehistoire, Institut de Paleontologie Humaine, 1 Rue Rene Panhard, Paris, XIII, France.

For recommended reading: "Modern Prehistory", by Denise De Sonneville Bordes; and "The Old Stone Age" by Francois Bordes. Both are excellent. Wilmsen's and Whitthoft's work are fine, but they are not based on experiment. I am sure you are already familiar with "Man the Toolmaker" by Kenneth P. Oakley; and B.A.E. Bulletin # 60 by W.H. Holmes.

Please give my regards to Jim Hill and I hope you continue this most worthwhile project. If I can be of further help, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

Don E. Crabtree

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