

Zahringerplatz 11
CH-8001 Zurich
Switzerland

December 12, 1974

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
Idaho State Museum
Route 1, Box 210
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

I am presently writing up the nonce from the Maya site of Tikal, Guatemala, and you could give me some information about the relative flaking qualities of green obsidian.

At Tikal, as at many other Maya sites, we have prismatic blades of both grey and green obsidian. The grey obsidian comes from various sources in Guatemala and Mexico, but the green obsidian apparently only comes from the distant site of Cerro de las Navajas, near Pachuca, Hidalgo, in Central Mexico.

Years ago A.V. Kidder suggested that green obsidian had superior flaking qualities over grey, and it is - in fact - the kind used nowadays for the souvenirs sold in and around Mexico City. But as far as I know, Dr. Kidder never attempted to replicate a Mesoamerican prismatic obsidian blade. It would greatly interest me to know if you have had any experience working this green, Central Mexican obsidian? If so, could you comment on its relative flaking qualities?

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Hattula Moholy-Nagy
Hattula Moholy-Nagy

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BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

Aérogamme

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