

C-11-97-11

Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho
March 7, 1969

Dr. H. Muller-Beck
Hbernstrasse 77
CH-3000
Berne, Switzerland

Dear Dr. Muller-Beck:

It is indeed a pleasure to receive your letter of Feb. 9th and thank you so much for the kind words about the Polyhedral Core paper. I had your name on my mailing list for a reprint but did not know if you were in Germany or Switzerland. Enclosed are the reprints you requested plus an article from Science.

I would be very pleased to know of Dr. Kerckhoff's reaction to the cone principle and its inversion by application of bi-directional pressure to detach blades from a polyhedral core. Since I do not have the laboratory equipment to make final tests, my conclusions are based on a personal reaction to repeated experiments. You are most fortunate to have a physicist and the equipment to furnish factual information and thereby arrive at positive conclusions. To my knowledge, there has been very little done on the controlled fracture of lithic materials which have the properties of a solid but behave like a viscous liquid when subjected to applied force.

It is coincidental, but I, too, am working on a paper dealing with intentional fractures and those resulting from natural forces - "Nature-facts" we have dubbed them in this country. I do hope that our papers will contribute in some measure to the problems that have perplexed a great many of the archaeologists. I am also in the process of writing a paper on the relationship of the cone to flake removal which should be ready soon.

Our visit was much too brief at Ann Arbor. Wish I could see you at the INQUA conference in Paris where we could discuss and experiment in detail with some of the many stone fracture problems of man vs. nature, but, as always, there is a problem of finance. However, there is a remote chance that I will attend the S.A.A. meeting in Milwaukee in May. Do hope you will be there. Fortunately, both Francois Bordes and Jacques Tixier will be here in Kimberly in April for a visit and we can do some joint experiments in stone flaking.

With kindest personal regards,

Don E. Crabtree

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