

Route 1, Box 210
Kimberly, ID 83341

December 2, 1979

Dr. Jaroslav Malina
Husitska 1, 612 00 Brno
Czechoslovakia

Dear Dr. Malina:

Received your letter of November 19, 1979, and I thank you for your kind words regarding my experiments in primitive technology. I would be glad to co-operative with you in any way possible.

Most of my pictures of artifacts and stoneworking are color transparencies (35mm slides) and, unfortunately, I have no pictures of myself in black and white. Since I do not have photographs available, these will have to be provided after I get a photographer. In what media do you want these pictures - color photographs, black and white photographs, or slides?

I was born in Heyburn, Idaho, on June 8, 1912. My present address and experimental workshop is located at Kimberly, Idaho. My mailing address is Route 1, Box 210, Kimberly, Idaho 83341.

In regard to experimental archaeology and the replication of artifactual materials, I am most interested in the work being done now in Belize (formerly British Honduras) of a very massive Mayan workshop. Excavations are being conducted by Dr. Tom Hester, University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas. There are numerous unresolved technologies represented at this site that need continued experiments before the techniques are resolved. Some of the technologies are comparable to the blademaking of Grand Pressigny.

Another is providing a new insight into training lithic technology. Generally the students have been on a one-to-one basis with the introductory course lasting a month or more. But now a different approach was made at the University of Alberta at Lethbridge, Canada, in August of 1979. The course was sponsored by Dr. Terry Moore who graciously provided sophisticated television equipment with three monitors - two for the class and one for the demonstrator. The zoom lens provided for magnification of the close-up work being demonstrated, allowing a large group of people to participate and view the various stages of rough stone reduction to the completed artifact. The third monitor provided the demonstrator with a magnified view of the artifact and the use of the tools.

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Intercontinental techniques were demonstrated and numerous diagnostic techniques were shown. The session lasted five days with night practice sessions. I feel this is a most successful method of teaching manual manipulative skills. At the end of the session, all participants were able to develop an insight into numerous technological developments. I feel that there are innumerable techniques and technologies still to be resolved that will add much to the understanding of man's prehistoric past. Any work and experiments done in stone technology are to be encouraged.

For those with an interest in experimental archaeology, there are two publications which I think most would enjoy and find of interest. They deal in current experiments of both amateur and professional in all phases and varieties of stoneworking. They are:

The Flintknappers' Exchange edited by Jacqueline Nichols
1701 Catron S.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123

Lithic Technology edited by Susana Katz, University of Texas
at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas

It may be of interest to those pursuing experimental archaeology that a school is held each spring at Washington State University by J. Jeffrey Flenniken. To my knowledge it is the only permanent course now in existence.

My work is still continuing in resolving various technologies with my friend and associate, Gene Titmus, an excellent knapper and friend for the past 20 years. I haven't any recent formal publications.

I wish you every success in your new edition of Archaeology: How and Why?

Sincerely,

Don Crabtree, D. Sc.
Research Associate in
Prehistoric Technology

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