Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho

July 4, 1965

Dr. Jorgen Meldgaard
Nationalmuseet
Etnografisk Samling
NY Vestergade 10
Kobenhavn, Denmark

Dear Dr. Meldgaard:

You cannot know how delighted I am to receive such a wonderful package of the Danish Flintwork. Each time I study this material, it recalls a high point in our visit to Europe. The skills of your stoneworkers are outstanding and I just wish I had the ability to duplicate this type of artifact. These specimans will be put to very good use, not only for study, but when I lecture. I treasure each and every piece and am not about to use the axes as raw material. Next week, I plan to join Dr. Earl Swanson at a dig in the primitive area of the Lost River Country in Idaho and I will take these specimans along to show to Swanson and to explain to the students during my lecture.

Thanks to National Science, I plan to start this month to compile my notes and experiments into a handbook on flintworking - with, of course, the help of Dr. Swanson and Butler of Idaho State University. However, I can never hope to do as well as you did on Kragh.

I am sending you some old photos I have of hand-held pressure flaking. I believe that these photos will show the position much better than I can explain it. The right hand pressure is supplemented by pressure from the right knee. For my tool, I use a piece of copper rod mounted in a wooden handle. When requested, I use a bone or antler tool such as primitive man used, but for purposes of imterrupted manufacture, I generally use this copper tool, as it saves me stopping to sharpen the bone or antler for copper holds its shape better than the bone or antler. There is little or no difference in the final results. However, when reproducing the Folsom point, I find that I must use the antler tip to avoid crushing when removing the channel flake.

The blades are removed from the polyhedral cores by using a crutch with a copper or antler tip. This crutch is placed against the chest, with both hands on the staff and the pressure point of the staff resting on the leading edge of the prepared core. The core is held vise-like between the feet. The blades are removed by a thrust of the body, giving pressure on the staff.

All of the specimans I sent you, except the blades, were made by the hand-held pressure method. All of the projectile points were thermal treated, except the obsidian. Since I have seen you, I find that quartzite can be pressure flaked and nice parallel flakes removed after the material has been heated. Also, I find that the alteration of quartz family minerals takes place at - between 350 and 450 degrees Fahrenheit. The shape of the pressure tool is a blunt-round or a flat-round tip.

To make the Dorset point, I used a blunt-round tip on the pressure tool. The example that I sent to you is a very poor one and I have much work and improvements to do yet on this technique. As yet, I

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am not satisfied with the results. There is so much material to move when removing one flake in relation to the very small platform used which must withstand the necessary pressure. This technique is still a challenge.

I am going to try to copy one of the Artic pressure tools if I can find the ivory. This tool seems to be ideal.

I have been working on various methods trying to reproduce the type of Egyptian blade I saw in the Louve in Paris and have finally been able to reproduce the same type of flake scars. However, I am not using the method shown in S.A. Semenov's book "Prehistoric Technology", but have been able to get the same character by hand-held pressure. Have still much work to do on this but it is an interesting challenge.

I do hope you have a very successful and rewarding Summer in the Arctic and I want to thank you again for the wonderful Danish specimans. Both my wife and I still have hopes that you will be able to visit us in our country so that we may not only have the pleasure of again visiting with you, but may also have an opportunity to repay the hospitality shown us while in Denmark.

Hope I have answered your questions satisfactorily, but, if not, please do not hesitate to write at any time for any information I may be able to give to you. It is a pleasure to hear from you and we do hope we will have the pleasure of future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

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