

550 East Twelfth  
Denver 80203  
6 May 1973

Dear Drs. Wormington, Schultz, Stout, Lewis and Messers Crabtree, Bradley:

I write to you seeking brief counsel, which can be forwarded on a postcard, if necessary. I am in love with a mastodon and a Folsom point, and I don't know how to resolve the crisis!

I had pretty well finished my material on the introduction of early man to the area when Marie Wormington discovered that I was not dealing with the mastodon, and she felt that this was most grievous lapse. She convinced me that I should at least re-study the whole problem.

But if I use the mastodon, I cannot use the Folsom point and will have to move two or three thousand years backward to the Clovis point.

As Crabtree and Bradley know, having seen what I wrote about the artistic merits of the Folsom point, I am much addicted to its beauty. But when I discussed the matter briefly with Drs. Schultz and Stout on a recent visit to Lincoln, they showed me that the Clovis could also be a beautiful object and I have since thought that my concepts could almost as easily be applied to it.

My question on which I seek your counsel, is two-fold: A. Is the Clovis-mastodon relationship preferable since it is older and involves a Pleistocene mammal which has vanished? B. If the Clovis is preferable, which specific type of Clovis should I use and where can I find the very best representation of the type recommended? (I have access to most of the standard books on the subject.)

To Mr. Crabtree I would say that I have not yet rewritten the point section in light of his comments, but I would suppose that they apply equally well to the Clovis, should I decide to adopt it. I certainly thank him for his attention to detail. Working in the relative dark, as I often must for a spell, makes me doubly appreciative of expert counsel.

To Mr. Bradley, you almost torpedoed this whole letter! Just as I was writing it I received from the postman your letter with the Folsom point, and it looks even better than I remembered. I would appreciate your counsel on this matter.

To all. I notice as I finish this letter that the INQUA journal uses as its rubric a beautifully drawn Folsom point, so I apparently am not alone in appreciating the quality of this particular work. However, I have recently seen some Clovis points that were most handsome, so I am prepared to make the shift.

Just finished attending the two-day conference of geologists concentrating on the Laramide orogeny and was delighted with how many papers related specifically to things I was concerned with.

Most warmly,

James A. Michener

Cc. 7.2.88