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April 1, 1971

Dr. Richard S. MacNeish
Phillips Academy
Robert S. Peabody Foundation
Box 71
Andover, Mass.

Dear Scotty:

Thank you so much for the second annual report on Avacucho Project. You are, indeed, the Sherlock Holmes of archaeology and have uncovered a tremendous amount of new information about early man in the new world.

I am particularly interested in the Paccaicasa plano-convex implements because I have been doing some experiments in function by using obtuse angles to form bone and resistant materials. I find that when using a spokeshave if the ventral side of the falke or blade acts as the bearing surface against the object being planed, the cut will be flat, smooth and rapid. The concavities of the spokeshave are most unsatisfactory even though it may look as though they would conform to the shaft to be planed. Recent investigation of a blade from Murray Springs and other collections show that often the dorsal ridge on a flake or blade bears functional polish from use as a forming tool. I have found that even the ridge on the obsidian polyhedral core will remove shavings from dry bone with little or no damage to the cutting edge. Examining these low angles may reveal some interesting tool styles.

I do hope that your health is good and Evelyn and I send our best to you, Diana and the boys. I did not know of the passing of Eric Callen until I read your report. He was a good friend with a wonderful personality and tremendous ability. This is, indeed, a great loss to science and the profession.

Thanks and best wishes,

Don E. Crabtree

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