

Dear Mr Muto---

I was happy to get your letter but it was a long time in arriving.

You see, it went to whoever is mail clerk for the anthropology faculty at Texas, then to the Balcones Research Center, then to the University of Texas Press, then to the Houston Post, and finally to me.

I am no anthropologist. I am a retired newspaper man, now living in the cut-over pine forest of East Texas, sixty-eight miles from Houston.

I take it that the article you gentlemen are talking about is the one in American Antiquity for October, 1964, showing photographs of a dozen flakes made by freehand percussion.

I am sending you, under separate cover, the eight flakes that I still have left. The other four have been lost. This happened in the course of moving three times from one part of Houston to another and finally from Houston to the cabin in the pine woods, complete with a stick-and-mud fireplace and a crop of Texas wildflowers in the yard.

Pasted inside that copy of American Antiquity I still have a list of the twelve original flakes, with notations showing which tool was used to make which flake. Those which I am sending you are shown as: a . . . d . . . f, g, h, i, j . . . l in the illustration. You gentlemen will note that one is made of sorry flint, one of fairly good flint, and the others of low-grade opal.

I take it that you gentlemen are friends or at least acquaintances of that extraordinary craftsman Don Crabtree. At the time when I offered that brief article to American Antiquity, Crabtree had published very little and it was not generally known that such a craftsman existed---or that Marvin McCormick was turning out these handsome fluted points for the tourist trade in Colorado. The only responses I get to the article were a few requests to make fist axes for various professors who were quite unaware that Crabtree

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and McGermick were making things that are a damned sight harder to make than fist axes. I remember making a twisted Acheulean ovate for some oceanographer in California, who was astonished to hear that you can make the thing twist either way just by undercutting it with the hammerstone.

But nobody at all offered to guess which of those flakes was made with which tool. If you gentlemen really can tell, I am going to stand in some awe of you.

If you gentlemen want to make absolutely sure that I am not going to change the rules on you in the middle of the game, write to me when you are ready to announce your decision, then wait three or four days before notifying me of the decision. In the meantime, I will give the nearest notary public a sealed and dated envelope containing a sheet explaining which flake was made with which tool.

Regards. I admire your courage.

H. Mewhinney.

Route 3, Box 307-A, Cleveland, Texas 77327.

October 24, 1970.

Oct. 24. 21.2

Received
Don -

Here is the correspondence
to date hope to put
you a
Please soon



Idaho State University
POCATELLO, IDAHO
83201

Anthropology

Nov 3, 1970

Handwritten initials: JUD

Mr. Mewhinney
Route 3 box 307--a
Cleveland Texas, 77327

Dear Mr. Mewhinney,

I have received both your delightful letter and the flakes. It sounds like your house is situated in one of the prettier parts of Texas.

Don Crabtree is indeed both a good friend and instructor, however he has not yet agreed to contribute an estimation of technique on your flakes. There are two of us here, willing to attempt, at present.

All of our analysis to date has been based on populations of flakes which have been produced under controlled conditions, by myself, Don, Doug Bucy a graduate archeologist, and Francois Bordes. Along with discernable individual characteristics, there has to date seemed to be a general flake character related to technique.

Technique, per se, is very difficult to ascertain. Other variables realitively more easy, although no cinch in an isolated instance. Not to hedge the bet, however, we will each make separate assesments based, I feel, on approximately the same criteria. These will be sent to you (no need for the notary hocus-pocus) as individual estimates, with criteria spelled out in length, and ought to prove most interesting from both your end and ours.

The final estimates will arrive in a few weeks as we are now trying to replicate the flakes in flint from harrison county in Indiana, Lone Tree Wyo., and local chalcedony, obsidian, and cherts. MOST INTERESTING.

Thank you very much,

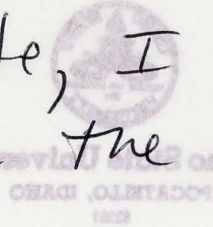
Sincerely,

Guy Mato

Co. 7.4.22.3

Don -

Here is the correspondence to date, I hope to get you on the phone soon,



Nov 3, 1970

Guy

Address

Mr. Newberry
Route 3 box 307-a
Cleveland Texas, 77327

Dear Mr. Newberry,

I have received both your delightful letter and the flakes. It sounds like your house is situated in one of the prettier parts of Texas.

Don Crabtree is indeed both a good friend and instructor, however he has not yet agreed to contribute an estimation of techniques on your flakes. There are two of us here, willing to attempt at present.

All of our analysts to date has been based on populations of flakes which have been produced under controlled conditions by myself, Don, Doug, and a graduate archaeologist, and Francis. Along with discernible individual characteristics there has to date seemed to be a general flake character related to technique.

Technique, per se, is very difficult to ascertain. Other variables relatively more easy, although no cinch in an isolated instance. Not to hedge the bet, however, we will make separate assessments based, I feel, on approximately the same criteria. These will be sent to you (no need for the rotary hours-pours) as individual estimates, with criteria spelled out in length, and ought to prove most interesting from both your end and ours.

The final estimates will arrive in a few weeks as we are now trying to replicate the flakes in Flint from Harrison County in Indiana, Lone Tree Wyo., and local chert, obsidian, and MOST INTERESTING.

Thank you very much,

Sincerely,

Guy

60-5-4-552