

March 5, 1974

Dr. David W. Von Endt
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Dear David:

Your letter was a delightful bombshell. It showed so clearly that inorganic approaches are totally inapplicable to organic problems. So much that I'll take the liberty to send you some samples of the cave residues (we talked about in 1971) from both northern Spain and South Africa. These are much older, 15-35,000 years instead of 1500 years, but there may be totally unexplored possibilities.

2 | I've sent a copy of your letter and data sheets (returned herewith) to Dr. Chittick, the archeologist, for 'clearance' --but expect no problems. It definitely should be published--how about the new 'Journal of Archeological Science' (Acad. Press, London,--I'm on the ed. board)?

One thing I'm still uneasy about. There are next to no soil carbonates in my Axum samples, and calcite is only locally available from breakdown of soda-lime feldspars in alkaline igneous rocks. Is it possible that the organic matter was in fact preserved so well due to being 'ground in into' a mass of milk of lime, with 'protective' crystallization?

Regards, also to Don Ortner,

Karl W. Butzer

KWB/jh

P.S. The samples via Nairobi have arrived safely + are now being processed --