

Louisville, Ky. October 30, 1926
Deer Park Ave. 1970

Dear Professor:

I have written to Carnahan about the 6% (my acceptance, of course) and enclose his letter to you.

Thank you for your answer to him.

It is, however, perfectly possible that his staff illustrator can produce illustrations which are in some ways "better" than mine, if he uses models which is probably the case.

If I can use models I can also produce better illustrations but models cost money (they would charge several dollars a day) and I could not afford the outlay when I made the illustrations for your book.

To judge by illustrated books of this kind (of the Carnahan kind) which I have often seen in libraries, the illustrators usually know little or nothing about Indians. In a book I had here the other day on the founding of Jamestown (1607) the illustrations are technically very good, but it is rather puzzling to see a modern Blackfoot warrior, in the unmistakable costume of that tribe, prepare to crush the head of Captain John Smith with a typical Sioux war club, stolidly watched by a group of Apaches, the proceedings being directed by a typical Ojibway medicine man. The Carnahans, of course, proceed on the theory that the public does not know any better, which may be true but neither ethical nor in the long run wise because "you can not fool all the people all the time". The hack illustrator might as well have represented Captain John Smith with a "stove pipe" hat and in a Prince Albert coat with a Browning pistol in his hand, or Pocahontas with bobbed hair.

Pocahontas, by the way, will cause me considerable embarrassment if I start to illustrate the book on Virginia because my researches in the National Museum in Washington (where they have some excellent material on that period) and careful reading of the contemporary writers show that that young lady had the disconcerting habit (like all the girls and women of her tribe) to present herself to the view of entire strangers, in broad daylight without a stitch of clothing. She came often to Jamestown bringing corn entirely nude and romped with the English boys turning handsprings and "cartwheels". It will hardly do to be too strictly historic in my illustrations.

Hoping that your negotiations with Carnahan will lead to something tangible, I remain

yours very truly

Frederick Weygold

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