

H. E. Gould

Louisville, Ky. August 2, 1929
Deer Park Ave. 1970

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Dear Campbell:

I was glad to hear from you again - I thought you had long since disappeared into the wilds of Dakota quite out of reach of any post office.

I certainly would like to see the Arapaho sun dance but don't think I can afford the time, since I have many other matters to look after.

You may keep the books you mention as long as you need them.

As to Friderici's book on scalping, I am so fortunate as to have also a somewhat abbreviated digest of that paper in English. This latter translation seems to contain everything about the Sioux and other western tribes which I have read in the original. The original goes more into details about South America and historical details about eastern Indians. I hardly think a translation of the whole book would be necessary for the work you have in hand just now, especially if you only want to know what it says about scalping among western tribes. The translation covers that point fully.

For proof that the Sioux formerly cut off the whole head he mentions that in Indian pictography the bodies of slain enemies are represented without the heads. I would mention as another proof the signlanguage sign for Sioux (i. e. "cut-Throat" which originally probably referred to the cutting off of heads. The better equivalent for the sign would therefore probably be "headhunter" or something to that effect). Another proof are the pictographs on a Sioux buffalo robe collected by the Prince von Wied and now in the Berlin Museum where you find

The sign for Chyenne probably referred to ancient finger trophies.