



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

CUSTODIAN SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

Mandan, North Dakota,
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note & file

not so

Dear Prof. Campbell :

Returning herewith, the photostadts of Sitting Bull's exploits, as drawn by himself. Some of these coups were "given" to him and he did not personally "take" all of them, but owned them and the right to relate them, by reason of "gift."

When a young man without honors, his name was Jumping Badger. After his first coup, and upon return of the war party, he was given the name of S.B. In NO. 1. there is nothing to indicate a Crow. The hair as shown could be either a Crow, Gros Ventre, Mandan or Arikara. But his story as told by himself evidently calls the enemy a Crow. This is the case in several pictures. No. 2, has the head dress of the horned and plumed back piece, which is insignia of the Sunka toksa koda (Fox Society) This is a badly contracted sentence and shortened words. Means something like "Brothers of the Foxes against the enemy." Now extinct. Head dresses in Nos. , 6,8,33,35,38 and 52, is that of the Cante tiza (Strong Heart) Society. This is a horned ermine or white weasel affair. A famous warriors society now extinct as to organization. Late young warriors of the war in Europe claim the right to belong, but the old men do not take kindly to the idea.

Remember that all coups are not kills. If armed with a rifle, one may kill an enemy armed with a bow or club, without danger to oneself. No great bravery in that, and it is not a coup. But to close with the enemy and strike him, is a coup. Coups count first, second, third and even fourth, as enemy is struck consecutively, as the warriors come up to an enemy.

Instances are known when the actual killer, waited to "give" the first coup to a brother or friend, by permitting him to "strike" him first. No. 4, shows woman on horse, front of saddle shown (horn saddle) and bag pendant from covering of horses back. NP 6 is not the same episode as NO. 3 - enemy in 3 and 6 have different hair dress; No 6 has powder and shot horn and pouch; and S.B. wears head dress of the Strong Hearts in NO 6, and horse is not same color, and does not carry tail the same. Pictures with a so-called scalp under horses mouth (see no 6 and others) This is NOT a human scalp. It is a patch of hide taken from a horses neck with the mane on it. Worn by any one whose has an authentic witness, when he carried a brother or friendly warrior away from the field after he had been unhorsed. See NO 11.

Quirts are sometimes used as coup takers. They are made as per the individual fancy and are not insignia of any societies. (No 7) Weapon held in left hand in NO 8, is probably a stone headed club, held head down, but coup was made with lance. Stripe on leggins, held up to belt by thongs, probably indicates a Gros Ventre. (Hidatsa) (Probably winter time but not clearly indicated) No quiver shown in No 9 - enemy armed with a gun instead. The red blanket in No 10 is worn by S.B. and not by the horse. In this enemy drops bow and S.B. drops gun and makes coup with a stick (not a lance). Lance used in 11. In No 13, the enemy is not a soldier. Head dress in 14 is made of a piece of blanket, and indicates that perhaps he has taken the coat from the white enemy Nothing indicating takeing of a scalp in 23. Shot him in the back. No 26