

Mandan, North Dakota,  
August 16th, 1929.

Mr. W.S. Campbell,  
Norman, Okl.

Dear Mr. Campbell :

I have finished the drawings and will finish packing soon as I can find a flat carton. I have taken perhaps too much pains to make good drawings. The originals are not so good in the matter of the coloring, as the Indian seldom is particular to color carefully and often they are "streaky" from the crayon or chewed stick he uses as a brush.

I have inquired as to No. 14 and the shield carried and arrive at this conclusion, that the Ft. Randall drawings were made at one time and these at another, and the Thunder Bird pictures on the Randall drawings are quite similar as to form and color. I often find that a man will make different forms or leave forms off of pictures drawn at different times. I have two shields of Henopa Wanica (No Two Horns), both with Thunder Birds upon them, and one of the pictures indicate the "Swallow" form (swiftness and direction) and the other is a "Power" picture, with an entirely different form and the lines waving from his wings and beak, making it more of a "Medicine" shield, or Wakan. I am perfectly satisfied that Sitting Bull drew these pictures. As to the age when the coups were taken, I can obtain no definite information. In the first place it is not "good form" to talk about another's coups and besides, I have not been able to talk with any warrior with him at the times when he obtained them. I believe that No Two Horns would be able to enlighten me, but he lives in a difficult part of the reservation and I have not seen him for some time, as he is too old to go about much. However, it is well known about the rescue of his friend after he had been unhorsed, and other coups too, are talked about, and he was known as a "great horse thief", which was an honorable occupation in the old days. I shall obtain a sworn statement as soon as I see the party again - the great neice of Sitting Bull, whose mother made the lodge and was a neice of S.B. A close study of the dress and honors worn by him in the pictures, will indicate the earliest ones and perhaps, the regular order in which he obtained the right to draw them. He certainly could not belong to the Strong Hearts and wear their headdress before he had established himself as a warrior among them. (See NO. 14) No. 13 indicates that he might not have been allowed to wear anything but an "Owners" head dress when that coup was made. No. 10 shows but one wound and might have been an early obtained coup, as he was wounded more than that, as indicated in No. 14.

No. 17 is a story of Old Bull, a living Chief of the Hunkpapa and one of S.B.'s headmen. Since he told me this story and made the "map", I have discovered the same story, together with the songs which accompany it, in Bull. 61, Bureau of American Ethnology, "Teton Sioux Musci" by Densmore, pp 412-418 inclusive. I am enclosing his story as told to me. The pictograph is plain when the story is known.

(over)

Sincerely,

A. B. Welch