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photo

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO CAMPUS
LAKE SHORE DRIVE AND CHICAGO AVENUE
CHICAGO

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
WIEBOLDT HALL

1 January 1949

Dear Stanley:

Just a note to

1. Wish you a Happy New Year (in which wish Mrs. W. joins me)
2. Tell you how much I've enjoyed your "Warpath and Council Fire" which I've been meaning to do but have neglected until now). I think it's one of your best. Incidentally, it will be among the "Ten Best Western Books of 1948" which WESTERNERS will announce in the Brand Book soon.
3. Enclose a copy of a checklist of photographs of Sitting Bull which I have compiled with the hope that it may be of some interest to you, the biographer of Tatanka i-Yotanka, and that — which is the biggest, though a bit selfish, hope — you may be able to supply some of the missing data as to who took which picture where and when.

Maybe this is not terribly important but considering the fact that historians agree what valuable historical documents contemporary photographs are, it occurs to me that there may be some merit in compiling such a list and trying to get it as complete as possible. As a matter of fact, this project came about when one of our WESTERNERS asked me "Which Indian chief was most photographed?" My answer was "My guess it would be either Red Cloud, Sitting Bull or Geronimo". I've done Red Cloud and Sitting Bull and, so far, it's Red Cloud over Sitting Bull by 38 to 26. That may be changed when all the precincts are heard from. I doubt if Geronimo can do better than "show" with Red Cloud's "win" and Sitting Bull's "place".

I'm still trying to establish the identity of the photographer who took the first picture of Sitting Bull — the one which you used as the frontispiece in your "Sitting Bull" and I've recently uncovered some leads which may help determine that. Do you have any more information on it?

Also I'd be glad to have a look at that data on Sitting Bull's family (wives and children) when, as and if you come across it in your files.

Enough for now.

As ever

Elmo Scott Watson