

Feb. 16, 1930.

Melvin R. Gilmore, Esq.,
University Museums,
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Gilmore:

I was happy to get your letter. I am sorry the one I sent you was mis-addressed. Thanks for your suggestions.

The book of mine you mention, HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS, was written years ago. It happens that the queries you offer bear upon matters in which I relied upon terminology found in the memoirs of early travellers and papers of the Bureau. I think I could back up the terms I used, if I should search the records then referred to, but I believe you are quite as familiar with them as myself. There is nothing in that book which is not a result of personal observation or reading in the standard works on Plains Indian life. As to the bellowing of bison, there are plenty of references to it in early western travels. Perhaps some better term might be found for the noise made: I used bellow.

The statement as regards the zig-zag incisions on an arrow-shaft was made to me by an old Cheyenne who was an arrow-maker. It is possible I misunderstood him, or that he mis-used his English. My study of ballistics during the War does not enable me to say. I tried to present my story from an Indian point of view. It is fiction, not scientific treatises, that I was trying to do. I am satisfied the old man believed the arrow would fly straight because of the zig-zags. Other tribes may have other notions; no doubt other individuals may have, if it comes to that.