

January 31, 1956

Dr. Alexis A. Praus, Director  
Kalamazoo Public Museum  
335 South Rose Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Dr. Praus:

I find that in my letter of January 23 regarding Sitting Bull's shield, one of my phrases is misleading. I would like to correct that now.

The passage about Sitting Bull's shield begins on page 152. The design of the painting on the shield is described correctly on page 154, the second paragraph beginning with the words "On this white surface"; the next paragraph beginning "Chief One Bull" refers to the shield of Four Horns, Sitting Bull's uncle. As does the paragraph following which ends with the words "for the lightning." However, the words "The rainbow was there all around, because when a rainbow appears, the rain stops quick. So, when a man is being shot at, this shield would be a protection, having the rainbow on it."

I am asking Professor Sutton, the bird expert on our campus, to try to identify the three possible birds mentioned in the paragraph on page 154 which reads as follows:

"On this white surface Jumping Bull painted a design which had been revealed to him in a vision. All around the edge of the shield he painted the rainbow. Within this circular rainbow the surface of the shield was blue-green. On this blue-green field he painted what was apparently a dark bird with wings displayed. Because the bird's breast is against the shield, and therefore invisible, there is some uncertainty as to what bird was intended. It might be one of three, old men say: one which lives in hollow trees and has a white breast; one which lives in holes on the banks of the river, a greenish-black bird with red or orange breast; or a dark green bird with speckled breast. In any case, it has a split tail, and is one of those birds which dart rapidly up and down, here and there, and are very hard to hit. These are the opinions of men who have seen the shield."

I hope this will clear up my mistake for you.

Cordially yours,

W. S. CAMPBELL  
(Stanley Vestal)