

What made the Blackfoot lodges particularly interesting was the painting on the outside. These designs are not purely decorative but represent frequently (as among the Sioux) visions of the owner and have the function to protect against disease and other evil influences.

As soon as I find time, I shall send you a few copies in colors of such designs.

You will find further information (illustrated by photos) on this subject in: "The Old North Trail" by W.

M^r: Cinstock, M^r: Millan & Co. 1910.

"The Lodges of the Blackfoot" by S. B. Grinnell, Amer. Anthropologist, N. S. Vol. 3.

Being painfully aware of the incompetencies of this information, but hoping that it will be of some use and interest to you, I remain

Yours very truly

Frederick Verzygold.

P.S. It is impossible for me to discuss the Blackfoot without mentioning briefly the frightful treatment they receive at the hands of the white people. The government is looting their tribal funds by building a huge irrigation system, although it is known that agriculture is permanently impossible in that region (on account of the high altitude). It is a natural grazing country, but you see today no cattle, because the neighboring ranchers have all stolen all ^{the Indian} cattle they had until about 10 years ago and the Indians have no access. Their last agent, after many years of misrule, has at last been removed (\$15,000 shortage in his accounts, many Ind. actually died of starvation because he had embezzled the rations!) but not punished. He is now editor of a newspaper and helps the corrupt 1/2-breed party of traders to rob the ignorant full blood.

It almost makes you feel ashamed of being a native citizen of these glorious U.S.