

Norman, Oklahoma May 11, 1920

Dear Mr. Weygold:

I was very glad to hear from you again. I have no doubt that there are yet many abuses in the Indian service and that the friends of the Indian must keep a sharp lookout.

I was very glad to get your suggestions regarding the Indian book I plan. I shall be glad to have your cooperation in illustrating it, if it is accepted. You may be sure that, if I sell it at all I shall stipulate that it be illustrated by you. If I cannot do this properly, I would rather not do it at all.

It is very good of you to offer to send me copies of the Eastman books you have already illustrated. Thank you. I shall be very glad to get them.

The setting of my story is the region around the Black Hills. The time, early 19th century- before the smallpox epidemics. The tribes concerned Cheyenne, Mandan, Blackfoot and Sioux. Of these you are directly familiar with two, the second is as well known to you as to anyone. The Cheyenne you will find resembles the Sioux in most respects. In any case, the idea is to give a typical plains story in a typical plains setting, rather than to insist on ethnographic detail. What I want is to give a comprehensive picture of Plains Indian life, rather than a limited view of special tribes. So that you need not worry about your lack of experience with the southern tribes. The Northern Cheyennes are very like the Sioux, they tell me.

I take it you have a pretty good knowledge of the Black Hills region...certainly far better than I have. But the story does not turn greatly upon natural features, in any case, If I can get anything that will be of service to you in the way of photographs either of landscape or mankind, I shall send it. Does not the Smithsonian supply photographs to those who ask? I think they sent me some one time.

I shall take up the matters you mention with the publisher I have been corresponding with. Of course there is nothing settled as yet, but with your cooperation I feel sure that, if this chap cannot handle it for us, someone else will.

Sincerely yours,

Walter S. Campbell

University of Oklahoma