

Norman Oklahoma  
July 9 1920

Dear Mr. Weygold:-

I have your letter containing the sketches for the chapter headings for Chapters I, III, and IV. I think them very excellent indeed. I shall have to hustle to bring my work up to the level of yours. But I shall continue to work at this, and I have no doubt that your work will give me a good many ideas as regards details which I can incorporate in my revisions. There are a number of passages that must be greatly improved and vivified.

As regards criticism of your work as to the facts of the story-- There is nothing in the heading for Chapter I that seems to require any alteration. I think the lance as you have drawn it is very much more decorative than it would be without the leather grips or guards. The whole thing is admirable both as regards composition and realism.

As to the heading for Chapter III- I shall alter my story to include the bed in the lodge, as you have drawn it. There is nothing improbable in this, and it makes a more decorative design. The only thing that I could criticise on the basis of fact is that the Cheyenne willow beds I have seen actually rest firmly against two legs of the tripods which support them. The legs of the tripod are thus behind the mat of willow sticks and several inches in from its edge. The mat thus affords a stiffer back rest. Cheyenne beds are commonly in three pieces- mattress, head, and foot, and I suppose this fact makes the firmer support necessary.

Such detail, however, would scarcely be apparent in a small drawing, and in any case my observation may not cover the field adequately. So, if you have artistic reasons for leaving the design unaltered, please do so.

I particularly like your studies of the Mandan, especially the one nearer the middle of the border of the sketch below. It portrays the character of the man excellently.

1. Regarding the chapter heading for chapter IV- I am not clear that you mean to represent the calumet with pipe-stone bowls or not. But I do not believe that you have them in your picture of the calumet dance. Henry says nothing about them. Perhaps it would be better to omit them.

2. The tepees should have somewhat longer flaps, and the poles of a Cheyenne tipi are somewhat different in arrangement. The best view of a Cheyenne tipi from the side to show this is that small photograph at the end of my article on the Cheyenne tipi printed in the American Anthropologist, of which I think I sent you a copy some years ago. I am sending you a number of others herewith which may give the idea. The front pole of the Cheyenne tipi is at the very bottom of the nest at the top and protrudes quite a bit below the others at the back of the tent. The edges of the flaps almost parallel the side of the tipi instead of melting into it as in the Blackfoot type. These details may seem pedantic, but inasmuch as the tipis loom so large in the picture, perhaps you may see fit to include them. It may be that I have already sent you a few photos of tipis that will elucidate what I mean. Perhaps this is too small a detail- but nearly all tipis have tufts of dark horse

3. As regards the Cheyenne travois..the only one I ever saw in use was a hoop with leather network on the Sioux model- oval in shape. But I would not assert that this was the only type used. The Arapaho who camped with the Cheyenne certainly used the oval Sioux type, often with a sort of basket framework overhead to be covered with a robe for a sun-shade. I have no doubt that both types were used by the Cheyennes. So feel free to use this as you have it,

over

hair at the upper corners of the tipi smoke-flaps.