

I fully agree that the decoration and illustration of this book will have to be entirely different from that of HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS and probably in the nature of the highly conventionalized type, following so far as possible the typical designs of the regions with which the myth is associated in the book. However, the merely illustrative portions of your part of the work need not be in all particulars ethnographically correct, it seems to me. I believe that you will find the book will gain readier acceptance if the illustrations suggest romantic setting rather than too literal or photographic treatment. At the same time, I think that the book will find favor with the readers if the decoration follows the modern decorative design in the regions where the older design has been lost, as for example, among the Ojibway or in the eastern and southeastern portions of the United States. This should simplify your labors and permit you more freedom. I have no doubt that such magazines as the Geographical Magazine will prove very useful to you and to me in setting forth the natural features, costume to a certain extent, and also the architecture and physiognomy of the various areas and people treated. I recall an article in the Geographical Magazine splendidly illustrated with photographs of the land of the Incas, and of course there must be innumerable works of travel available. It is perhaps our good fortune that not too much is known in the English speaking world of the decorative arts of South American tribes which will therefore permit greater freedom in handling.

As I see it now, my work will be to attempt a simple, human telling of these myths in a uniform style throughout, insofar as the material of the myths permits. In other words, a dignified, direct, and poetic style suited to the stories which will be to the English reader, in effect, fairy stories.

I hope by the first of the year to have made some progress in sketching at least a portion of our book, so that I may have your criticism as to the arrangements, grouping, and selection of the myths before beginning actual writing on any one. I feel that even more than in our previous work the closest cooperation and agreement will be desirable.

While I wish to be true to the spirit and the fact of American mythology, I intend to handle the material somewhat freely in detail, so as on the one hand to make the book a unit in spirit, and on the other hand to avoid infringement of copyright.

I believe that Americans will prove to be more interested in our attempt than you suspect. I happen to know of three collections of Indian myth (merely local in scope) which have been published in this state alone within the last year.

I take note of your preference as regards the division of the spoils of HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS, should there be any, and wish to thank you for your encouragement as well as for the references and discussions on Indian poetry, mythology, etc. If you have any further suggestions, please let me have them, as the more thought we expend on this from the beginning the less there will be to correct towards the end.

Sincerely yours,

WSC-M

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