

is among our Indians closely similar to the process that led in Egypt to the hieroglyphic stage of writing (as the Egyptologist at the University of Pennsylvania has assured me) from which our own ancestors derived their system of writing (by way of Phœnicia, Grèce and Rome) as you will remember,-- for these reasons everything that illustrates the evolution of this basic invention of human civilization, from whatsoever quarter it may come, is of particular interest and importance and ought to be most carefully studied and preserved.

In the Handbook of American Indians you will find at the end of the article on pictography the Reports of the Bur. Am. Eth. and perhaps other literature mentioned that deals with that subject. In the volume of the Bur. Am. Eth. by Mallery you will find a good deal of illustrated material on the pictography of the Sioux. Have you the book on the signlanguage by Clark? you might find some information there.

Copies ought to be made on large sheets of tracing cloth, traced on to strong paper of buckskin tint and then colored with the ordinary crayons or watercolors, although that requires rather more skill--you should try out small sections first and then adopt the best method. If you want to make a facsimile of the whole specimen you probably will have to take a heavy kind of cotton duck and tint it an appropriate color by dipping it first in a solution of ordinary color powder (ocher plus whiting, for instance). Try out small specimens first to get the right tint and stain the duck before you sew it because it will shrink.

I still have piles of tracings and copies of pictographs which I made twenty years ago in Europe of the Berlin tipi and of many old buffalo robes.

If you want a copy of reduced size you would have to reduce every group of the drawings with a "pantograph" I think it is called but it must be a good one that works with absolute precision. ---- In every case you have a tremendous job before you and you will do well to multiply every estimate you make of the time required to do it by four.

A story, as the one you mention, about several generations of Indians in one family belonging to different stages of civilization should be full of great dramatic and tragic possibilities. I saw something of the sort among the Sioux when I ~~sometimes~~ photographed a grandfather in buckskin and beads and warbonnet ~~when~~ and we were interrupted by the grandchildren coming home from school with their books and slates and modern clothes. It was as if you kept in your back room some ancient ^{ancient} ~~granny~~ still wearing a bearskin and an iron helmet with eaglewings and bronze armrings with the double spiral and, not to forget, the mentality of Hengist and Horsa---- it might lead to some very comic, pathetic or tragic situations. Instead of going with you and your family to church on Sundays he might want to sacrifice an ox in your front parlour.

Did you ever hear or read of the professor of Greek at Oxford who got so thoroughly converted to Greek paganism in the course of his studies that he actually on one occasion sacrificed an ox in his back yard? It must have made a tremendous sensation.

Yours very truly

Frederick Weygold

* on Picture -
writing

with water