

Louisville, Ky. March 18. 1924
Deer Park, 1970

Dear Professor:

In answer to your letter of 3/14/24 I would like to say that I intended writing to you for some time but did not get a chance as I have been very busy working almost night (i. e. evenings) and day on the illustrations for the last five or six weeks.

I had arranged with the publisher to furnish him oil paintings in full color of the four full page drawings and of the picture on the jacket, in all five oilpaintings for advertising purposes when the book is put on sale, these paintings to be exhibited in the showcases of book stores selling the book in various cities. If possible I would furnish him several sets of these oilpaintings so that he can send them to various parts of the country. The pictures would be exhibited as "studies in color for illustrations of the book HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS by Stanley Vestal". Such original illustrations always prove the most effective advertisement for a book in the showcases.

The illustrations I am working on now, from which the illustrations in the book will be reproduced are monochrome (black and white) oilpaintings to save time and also to ensure better results for the reproductions. Only the picture on the jacket is, of course, in color.

This scheme will, of course, help the sale of the book very much but it has the drawback that it takes very much longer time to make even the black and white originals on which I am working now because they must be executed in the quality of good oilpaintings and not merely in the quality of ordinary washdrawings. That is to say, ~~that~~ the elaboration of tonal values and of details must be carried as far as it would be in a good realistic painting.

I am sorry that I cannot send you the paintings before they go to the publisher, for lack of time. I have now finished and shall send away tomorrow: 1. The jacket, 2. The frontispiece (The Calumet Dance) and 3. The fight of the old man with the buffalo bull.

"The Charge" is half finished and I have just begun to paint "The Meeting of the Chiefs". I expect to send these away about next Monday. I have been badly hampered by two weeks of the grippe but can now put all my strength and time into the work.

The Calumet Dance is the most ambitious figure composition I have ever attempted, with the two nude dancers in the foreground, waving the calumets, the picture showing the arrangement of the ceremony according to the Sioux ritual. Apart from the artistic value this composition may have it ought to be also of some ethnographic interest and value. I shall make arrangements with the publisher to return the colored oilpaintings (if he ever gets them back) and in that case you shall have one set. Hoping that this is satisfactory to you, I remain

Yours very truly

Frederick Weygold
Frederick Weygold

P. S. I have not yet received your bulletin.