

Louisville, Ky. Sept. 27, 24.  
Deer Park, 1970.

Dear Professor:

Upon my return from a trip to Niagara Falls I find your letter of Sept. 15.

The copy of the Mandan robe arrived shortly before I left, so that I had to wait until my return before I could send it on to Norman which I am doing to day. It is a very conscientious piece of work and is probably the only authentic record (besides the original, of course,) of the war paint of the Mandans of that time. Other details were, of course, recorded by both Catlin and Karl Bodmer but the late James Mooney told me of his doubts concerning the reliability of Catlin's work, especially in certain details, as, for instance, in the recording of patterns in quillwork, on moccasins etc. to which he seemed to give little attention.

It is, of course, highly desirable that the drawing should be framed, as you suggest, because it can hardly be fully appreciated until then. The framing ought to be done, however, as I have also written to Mr. Baber, by somebody who knows how to handle watercolor drawings because they are easily ruined if any water gets on the wrong side. The application of water (perhaps by spraying) on the back of the drawing is probably necessary in mounting such stiff paper on a stretcher before framing. I suggested to Mr. Baber that architects probably had some experience in framing large watercolor drawings.

As to the publication of your book I agree with you that we cannot force the publisher to do anything as long as we have no contract with him. He probably is afraid of the expense to publish and to advertise the book properly in order to make it a success from the business point of view. He now has all the illustrations we planned for the book, including a colored jacket design (in oilcolor) and a design for the stiff cover of the book. As to the pictures or designs required to advertise the book, I offered to do for him what he ~~desired~~ necessary, either paint oil sketches or, as he himself suggested, make a design for a posterlike advertisement to be reproduced in color print. The latter device would, of course, reach a much larger number of people. But at this point he stopped our correspondence and left me waiting for his decision.

*He never answered my questions as to size, technique etc. of such a design.*

I would suggest that you inquire, having now given him sufficient time to make up his mind, what he intends to do in this matter. In case he has decided not to publish, you ought to demand back all the illustrations, four large designs for full page illustrations (29 1/2 x 19 inches), one oilpainting for a jacket, one design for a bookcover besides the pen and ink drawings and the manuscript.

I cannot very well undertake to make any further designs for advertising purposes because I don't know what the publisher who will ultimately publish the book wants. This shall, however, not affect our private agreement as to the paintings in color of the full page illustrations for yourself, to be used first to advertise the book in your neighborhood. This promise would go into effect only if a publisher definitely undertakes to publish the book, or until a contract to that effect has been signed.

I am glad to hear that you had an opportunity to see so much of the West north of Oklahoma as you say you did. With the improvement of roads, especially also to and in our great national parks this will increasingly become the ideal way of seeing America.