

THE DENVER ART MUSEUM

CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING, CIVIC CENTER
AND CHAPPELL HOUSE, 1300 LOGAN STREET
DENVER, COLORADO

Please Reply to
Chappell House, 1300 Logan Street
Denver 3, Colorado

December 23, 1947

Professor W.S. Campbell
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Professor Campbell:

The horns on the four-horns war bonnet are as follows: on the front, young female mountain sheep somewhat carved; on the sides the tips of buffalo horns, also somewhat carved; and on the back an unworked buffalo horn tip. On my recent eastern trip I found a war bonnet ascribed to Crazy Horse which had a pair of pronghorn antelope horns at the temples. Another bonnet, called Cheyenne, had a pair of eagle feet at the temples. Of course one often sees cow horns but these are obviously used as substitutes for buffalo horns.

In the second paragraph of your last letter, December 18, you refer to a fringe of black and white tail feathers at the back of the bonnet. Actually these are both wing and tail feathers from several kinds of birds, including sage hen, raven, hawk, and both eagle down and small wing feathers. These hang free from thongs in a rather hit-or-miss way.

One detail I may not have mentioned to you is this. The trail of buffalo skin is in two pieces. The upper section appears to be the original for at the end it is cut in a two point fork. The lower part is sown on with sinew and also ends in a fork. This arrangement suggests that the bonnet was originally made in the short form, perhaps for a foot soldier, and then extended for use on horseback. The photographs of the Senora robe are at present in Los Angeles but I will send them to you when they are returned.

Merry Christmas to you

F. H. Douglas

F.H. Douglas
Curator of Native Art

PDM:FHD