

1212 N.32nd Ave.  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Editor, American Heritage  
Sturbridge, Massachusetts

April 25, 1954

Dear Sir:

I am writing you frankly, an inquiry, if you would be interested in a 4 x 5 color transparency of an Abraham Lincoln oil portrait, that may be a copy from a photograph, may be an original but certainly does not appear to be a fraud.

And if you are not interested, perhaps you have some suggestion where this may be offered to accomplish a possible sale of the picture (transparency) and identification, because the picture is not for sale. I am writing only to you about this and will await your answer a reasonable period of time because the circumstances permits me to offer it exclusive.

Here are the facts:

I am a city editor by profession and not a free lance writer. I set out with a cameraman from the office to visit the first foods feast of my friends, the Wyam Indians at Celilo Falls on the Columbia River, people who are my news contacts and contacts for a source book I have written but is not yet published.

En route home we stopped to visit my friend, the director of the Maryhill Museum of Fine Arts that was endowed by the railroad builder, Samuel Hill. Just before we left he brought out this painting to ask my opinion because I have some art training (Otis Art, nstitute) in my background.

It is 12 x 18, on stretcher and is decidedly not the work of an amateur, although it is unsigned.

The painting was brought to him, today, by an old man who lives in the isolated region of the Goodnoe Hills in Eastern Washington. He acquired it an estimated 20 to 25 years ago, while tearing down an old house in the Willamette Valley of Oregon. It was found between the walls. It is my understanding that he had no interest in the picture but just took it home and it has been tucked away there since. The Museum, while famous, is the pride of the area and while cleaning up, he decided he would send it there, to get rid of.

It is in excellent condition, although obviously old and in that my friend, the director of the museum concurs and he has extensive art training from the Art Institute of Chicago and qualified experience in dealing with restorations of old paintings etc.

As much as he is my friend, he has promised to "sit tight"



while I put out a query. He is also establishing a contact for me whereby I can make a more thorough study into the background of "discovery, determine that the finder never attempted to have it identified, etc. We photographed the director with the picture, including a black and white which I would use in a newspaper story or a possible press release story, depending upon the results of the query.

I would write a short story, a factual account of the discovery for the photographer to submit as his offer. He would ask only the standard rate.

As I have not been in contact with my friends, like Dr. Herman Deutsch (now on sabbatical leave) for some time, I do not know your custom. If you do not pay for submitted material, but suggest where the photographer might offer this for color publication, and definite clues are uncovered to determine it an authentic find, I will do my utmost to have the photographer take a picture of the ~~photograph~~ painting alone for your later use.

I suggest that because at a later date when my publisher gives me a publication date of my manuscript, Drummers and Dreamers, I have in mind submitting you a book for review. This manuscript is based on a source who is the nephew of the Indian prophet, Smowhala [see Mooney, 14th Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology] He was trained 12 years by Smowhala and is now the last person knowing the Dreamer ritual, a religion that spread from Washington into Oregon, California, Idaho etc., among the Indians. His band, called the Sokulk by Lewis and Clark was estimated by them at 2,000 to 3,000 persons and now numbers eight. They continue to live in a mat house at Priest Rapids, an isolated region along the Columbia River. These are colorful people and the old man is an outstanding specimen. That also might lend itself to your consideration later, in view of the approaching 150th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark exploration, and I would be happy to submit something short, with a color illustration.

While I suggested your magazine on the list for my publisher to submit to his advertising agent, it was not included in the schedule returned for my information. Necessarily a book of the type will be of limited edition and does not have an extensive promotion, so I must be content that it was one of 25 books accepted each year by this publisher from some 1,000 manuscripts.

I note Mr. Pollard of the Oregon Historical Society is a regional editor, but since I am not acquainted with him I have written directly to you.

I'm sorry so many words were necessary to cover such a field.

Sincerely

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