

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
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May 3, 1955

Miss Edith Bristol,  
Americana Dept.,  
Gill's Book Store, Portland Ore.

Dear Miss Gill:

You may or may not recall that several months ago I talked to you briefly when I was in Portland concerning a manuscript, Drummers and dreamers of Priest Rapids to be published by Caxtons.

This will be published next spring and is, as you may recall, not a vanity publication.

The book was delayed at my request because of the role of the Wanapums, the nearly extinct band featured, in the \$400,000,000 Priest Rapids Dam. I also discussed briefly the growing importance of Indian Affairs and those things you have seen come to pass, such as the termination of the Klamath, settlement with the Yakimas for \$15,000,000 plus for The Dalles fishery etc. No one then or as yet realize the full importance of these developments, other than those closely familiar with the situation.

I mentioned that Mooney's Report BAE, Pt. II, gave information about Mowhala, the prophet, who lived at Priest Rapids and is an ancestor of my main character, (Historical Americana, footnoted and to be indexed.)

I suppose you are well familiar with the situation generally confronting publishers. It is Caxtons desire to issue circulars about June or July to get an idea as to number of books to publish. I have been willing to help push this although I am under no obligation to do so. And I can assure you that the Wanapums of Priest Rapids will have considerable good stories in the months ahead.

[1955?]

As you may know, Caxtons operates with a returnable agreement and provides a 40 per cent discount to dealers.

I am hopeful that you may wish to place an advance order at this time, and will be most happy to forward it, together with any request for advance circulars you yourself may desire, direct to the publisher where it will be acknowledged.

Under separate cover I am sending you with my compliments a copy of the recently issued 1855-1955 The Yakimas. This is a 64 pp, 30,000 word illustrated wrapper item that the Yakima Indians asked me to write several chapters of and edit. I felt honored to do this because the Yakimas have been the most aloof of all Indians, have refused to talk to ethnologists and have never authorized anything of this nature.

The tribal council decided they wished this printed and came to me with the authorization 12 days before I had to meet a printer's deadline so it could be out in time for the centennial observance. So my only regret is that I had but 12 evenings at home to put it into shape.

Drummers and Dreamers is a book I have worked five years on. My principal source has been the nephew of Smowhala the last of the prophets. You no doubt are familiar with the Bureau of American Ethnology Report No. 14, pt. 2, commonly called the Mooney Ghost Dance. In it you will find a chapter on Smowhala and the Priest Rapids or Wanapum Indians. There were 200 of them then. There are less than half a dozen now. But the book is more widespread than that.

+ sincerely hope you like the pamphlet that is under way to you and hope you desire to advance order several copies of Drummers and Dreamers at this time.

Sincerely

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