

Mr Wilson Huff.
Vancouver B.C.

Nov 8/74

Dear Mr Huff

I regret sincerely that I have taken so long to respond to your most interesting letter of last May. I really feel very guilty. Since then I have been to the Pass and to Ireland & Scotland. I am in the progress of rooting out information which, if I find the answers I hope will be of some help to you and Peter McNeil. I am looking forward to on some visit to Vancouver being able to find time to contact you and have a chat.

As far as the Lead dress is concerned it throws a whole new light on Native Art as a whole and I consider this a breakthrough and you may well have found an interpretation which no one heretofore has seen. I am looking forward intensely to your forthcoming writings.

As regards the speech, from the timing I am rather inclined to attribute the contact to Henry E. & William Collison the eldest son who went back there after obtaining his education and degree at Trinity College in Dublin & then finished off at Cambridge.

I think William would be more likely
to have introduced Henry to the Classical
authors, then of course Wil could have helped
him concoct the letter as a means of introducing
Henry to these authors. From what I know of the
Edenshaws my uncle has frequently discussed
them with me and tended to attribute to them
the power of Philosophy etc. Why couldn't many
of these artists have had the power of Philosophy
and yet having difficulty in expressing it
easily without a written language. I have
after listened to their stories & legends (mostly translated
by my mother who spoke the Mass language like a native
and also after teaching several years at Massett became
quite adept at the Hindi), if only I had had the
foresight to make notes!

I am glad you are getting around to some
serious writing, I shall wait anxiously.

Your Sincerely

Jack Macdonald.

P.S. I have my grandfather's copy of Arttendus
book on Duncan. This includes extensive marginal
notes. I think (W. V. the old man) was quite fair and
frequently acted as a go between Duncan &
Kidley. I don't know if this would be of any
help to you, if so and I will bring it over some
time - I wouldn't want to trust it to the mails.

J.