



CANADA

DEPARTMENT

OF

NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

Human History

~~NATIONAL MUSEUM~~

BRANCH

Ottawa, October 23, 1957

Dear Dr. Duff:

Coming back from a trip in the Arctic, I am finally able to answer your letter of August 12. The reason for the delay is not only the trip I made but also the fact that at this stage of the study of the estimates I did not know really what would be the future, but last the estimates were presented to the Minister and I realize that the Government is really interested in our Museum. Nevertheless, for this year they will not be able to comply entirely with my request.

I plainly realize that one of the functions of the National Museum is to have for a short period specialists of certain phases of Amerindian civilization. Nevertheless I have not succeeded yet to have a specific item for such a function. I obtained nevertheless in the budget a physical anthropologist. If the estimates are voted as they are presently this salary will be available from the first of April, but this anthropologist no doubt will come only four or six months later. This will mean that we would have probably a third of a year's salary that we could employ for other purposes, like your temporary stage at the museum, but this does not settle entirely your problem. It is possible that I might find in other items of the budget some money to cover another part of the year, but this I would know only at a later period. Before coming to a more definite plan let me tell you that I am highly interested in your suggestion as well as Dr. Barbeau, who reported to me about this in a letter, of which I am sending you a copy. I know very well about your qualification. I had already read some of your publications and I thank you very much for those you have sent me and which I shall read with great interest.

Dr. Wilson Duff,
Curator of Anthropology,
Office of the Provincial Museum,
Victoria, B.C.

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Since our participation in your plan at this stage is still incomplete and partly doubtful, I think that you should not lose any opportunity to try to secure elsewhere grants which would help to solve at least a part of your problem. Why not apply to the Guggenheim Foundation. I may tell you confidentially that at a request of the Executive Director of that Institution, Dr. Barbeau suggested your name as a possible candidate. If you apply there you should mention Dr. Barbeau's name as a reference, you may also use mine. Why not also ask Canada Council? I recently had an interview with Dr. Trueman, the Director of the Canada Council, and he is certainly very sympathetic toward our organization. Of course, they will never give a grant to us directly because we are a Government agency. They will not pay either a salary to somebody to be temporarily a member of our staff, but they can give a grant to somebody who would come to the Museum for a certain period to study some of our collections. I learned recently that they had agreed to give a grant to Dr. Helen Creighton from Nova Scotia to study at the Museum some of the folkloric collections (I think that the grant is of the order of \$5,000). If you are sending a report containing similar data as the one contained in your letter of August 12, I am quite sure that this would be considered with interest, but do not mention that you would be a member of the staff. You could mention nevertheless that we would be ready to receive you here, put at your disposal all of our collections, and co-operate with you in all possible way to help you.

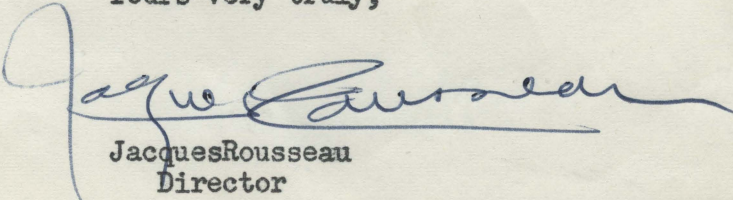
When we come to the problem of grants, it is a domain where "one has to hunt many rabbits at the same time" - I am giving here the literal translation of this French expression (Chasser plusieurs lièvres à la fois) - you must have an English equivalent. Since the Guggenheim Foundation has recently asked a report from Dr. Barbeau, it would be advisable for you to apply there immediately. No doubt you have the address. In any case you could write to the following:

Dr. Henry Allen Moe,
Secretary,
John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation,
551 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

As for the Canada Council, the address of Dr. Trueman is the following (P.O. Box 97, Station D, Ottawa). You would oblige me greatly in informing me about the results either positive or negative.

I remain,

Yours very truly,


Jacques Rousseau
Director

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CANADA
DEPARTMENT
OF
NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

NATIONAL PARKS
BRANCH

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

Dr. Jacques Rousseau,
Director, Canadian Museum of Human History
(National Museum of Canada),
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Dr. Rousseau:

I have just read Mr. Duff's letter of August 12th, about the Tsimsyan project, and I hasten to give you the opinion which you desire concerning it.

Without hesitation and with great emphasis, I support his proposal, subject to a few precisions. For a long time, as you know, I have tried, without success so far, to get an assistant who would become acquainted with my North Pacific Coast materials, especially Tsimsyan, in order to help in making them available and publish them. The Nina Epton project on secret societies and the potlatch which you are endeavouring to bring about is in line with this development, and I am giving my entire support to it.

This project will not function for the time being 9A

Mr. Duff's qualifications for this project are first class, and I agree that it would be an inspiration to work with him. We would soon adjust our views and ways about the vast materials which in most part now lie dormant in my files. The Tsimsyan project has been my chief contribution to research in Canada, and it has an important bearing on recent Siberian migrations in the North West.

I beg of you to give your entire practical support to the Duff project, covering a year's of his time at the Museum.

The precisions I have to introduce at this point are of minor importance, and will take care of themselves in due time. The work to be done would be in collaboration, as long as I can be of service. Due credit to each would have to be given to each according to his contribution.

I have not ceased to be interested in Tsimsyan on North Pacific Coast, far from it. But Mr. Duff is not acquainted with my monographs and books which are now at the publishers and at our Editor's office. These are: Haida carvers in argilite, now ready to appear as a museum publication; Medecine-Man on the Pacific Coast;

Tsimshyan Myths illustrated; Slavic Cultural Influence on the North Pacific Coast - all these at our Editor's and ready for publication; also Pathfinders in the North Pacific, to appear next spring at the Caxton Printers, in the United States and at the Ryerson Press. The plan for next winter is to work on my most important Pacific Coast monograph called "Recent Siberian Migrations on the North Pacific Coast - Part I - The Thunderbird and the Raven Clans. And I intend to collaborate with Nina Epton on the subject of Secret Societies and the patlatch.

Another point to rectify is as to how available my field materials in my files now are to outsiders. No doubt my guidance and initial assistance is needed. But the files are in good shape and in order. There is very little in shorthand in this bulky file, covering two or three drawers of a filing cabinet. Some of it (on songs) has already been published and is being transcribed into manuscript by Mrs. Darling, and her assistance is being continued. The bulk is in English and in Tsimshyan, carefully written and annotated. So there should be no real problem here.

And Mr. Duff is right in laying emphasis on the urgency of this enterprise. No time should be lost. And I hope no technical difficulty will stand in the way.

Yours sincerely,

(SIGNED) MARIUS BARBEAU.