

7 November, 1969.

Dr. George Phebus,
Department of Anthropology,
Smithsonian Institution,
United States National Museum,
Washington, D.C.

Dear George:

I want to thank you again for your helpfulness during my visit a week ago. I really learned a great deal in a short time, and it was largely due to your impressive knowledge of the collections.

I have written to Bill Sturtevant requesting a number of photographs, and I won't bother you with the details of that. However I do want to mention that I found in Swanton's study of the Tlingit an illustration of what seem to be two of the Beaver partition screens which you have in the basement (AR-Bae 26, Fig. 106). They are identified as belonging to the Decitan clan from Killisnoo. I wonder if you could do some tracing on these, to see if there are existing photographs and find out how Swanton identified them. Maybe they are not from Fort Simpson after all.

The wooden chest collected by Gibbs (his number 638) is absolutely crucial to the book I am writing on personal styles in Haida art, and I would appreciate any further information at all that you can find on it. Boas illustrates it in his Tsimshian Mythology, which suggests that old photographs probably exist (in fact both Boas and Swanton have illustrated their books with items from your collection without a word of explanation). I have asked Bill for systematic photographs of this chest.

The 20 slides I took in the attic are not models of photographic excellence, but are usable. May I ask you for the catalog information on the following:

Slate panel pipe, Gibbs, 717
Pair of paddles, 130782
Pair of paddles, Gibbs 643, 644
Panel pipes: 2416, 10078, 345860-A, 2592, 1746, 2417, 2591.
Panels: 2605, 2606, 2599.

Thanks again, and I look forward to spending more time with you some time.

Yours sincerely,