

177 37th Ave. North  
Seattle 2, Wash.  
February 19, 1958

Mr. Wilson Duff, Anthropologist  
Provincial Museum  
Victoria, B. C.  
Canada

Dear Wilson:

I am delighted with the news that you received the Senior Fellowship and will be in Ottawa this summer. I hope that we can discuss the project, but what you can do will depend so very much on what there is to work with and the cooperation you can get from Dr. Barbeau. I know of no one else I would predict could work successfully with him. I am sure that you can. We need all of the ethnographic materials that can be salvaged from the upper Skeena and the interior Tsimshian generally. I suspect that Kitwanga is the real dividing line between coast and interior Tsimshian, but that up river people differ quite markedly from each other also. Barbeau promised a Social Organization of the Gitksan, and that is one thing we definitely need. I would also like to see a volume of myths published. With William Beynon's help and Barbeau's prediction for details about who told a story, who 'owned' it etc. there should be very good data about all of the stories. Since there are certainly ties between the Athapascans and the coastal peoples, these should be clearly reflected in both the tales and the customs of the people. What happens to the clan organization and the guardian spirit quest are of particular interest to me. Both are intimately tied to the potlatch or the kinds of festivals that occurred.

Thanks so very much for the centennial dollars. I tried to get them here but am inhibited by Mr. Garfield's illness from much prospecting. You should not have sent me five. I thought that I recognized the source of the design but was not sure of myself. Thanks for the corroboration. I was amused by the Seattle papers' reports, including Eleanor Neal's insinuation that this might be a design with off-color references, and if not it surely referred to death symbols. Just jealous of a Haida design?? It is a beautiful design. I gave one to Dr. Gunther and for once got her something that she did not already have. She has tried, and been unsuccessful in locating even one of them. They are evidently scarce here.

To return to your Ottawa adventure; I think that publications are going to depend very much on what you can assemble. The most important paper will be Gitksan social organization, for which there is surely ample material if it can be disentangled and interpreted.

Sincerely yours,

  
Viola E. Garfield