

Dear Laura: Perhaps you know Mr. Orman? Jean Hodge suggested that I forward this to you- carbon of my reply will leave it to you to decide if you want to do anymore.

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Mr. Fred E. Orman Jr.
214 West Orman Ave.,
Pueblo, Colorado.

Sept. 6, 1962

Dear Mr. Orman:

Thank you for your letter of August 28, 1962 in which you describe a number of things collected by members of your family in past years from the west and southwest. My division of the Museum is the Spanish Colonial, and therefore I wonder if you would care to pack the Chimayo blankets, sarapes and Germantowns in a good carton and send them down, insured. If too large for parcel post you could send them by one of the truck lines that bring freight in- (Navajo or ICX or even railway express.) We can not guarantee purchase but on the other hand never can form any opinion without seeing the items- whether they will fill gaps in the collection, or if we have others that are similar.

You also mention a bulto, but not its size. I know how fragile these are- rather than ask you to send it on approval I wonder if you can have a clear snapshot or kodachrome taken of it to send me? With measurement of height.

Because the indians of course took over Spanish forms of saddles, bridles, spurs etc. in most cases, I wonder if you have any which reflect this influence- or might even have been from Mexico?

The old types of Navajo jewelry such as heavy, crudely set rings or bracelets, or small flasks which copied Spanish examples, I would be interested in, if you would like to send them on approval with the blankets. If you will do this, please list your prices on everything.

The letter which you sent I am forwarding to the Chairman of the Indian Arts Fund, whom you may know, Miss Laura Gilpin. This organization makes purchases for their collections on occasion. The Museum itself has very little money, but we have generous benefactors, sometimes. My own department has a group called the Spanish Colonial Arts Society which helps in acquisitions. It may be that the Indian Arts Board may be interested in some of the Indian items in your collections. I am sure that if my late friend Eric Douglas went over them and catalogued them that they are good pieces. Awaiting your reply I am, sincerely,

(Miss) E. Boyd
Curator, Spanish Colonial Dept.

214 West Orman Avenue
Pueblo, Colorado
August 28, 1962

Mr. E. Boyd
Museum of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Boyd,

I have a rather wide and varied collection of American Indian artifacts: pre-historic pottery, Navajo blankets, clothing, bead-work, and totem poles.

This collection has been in possession of our family for the last fifty years, and is all in very good condition. However, at this time, we would like to sell it, all or in part.

The pre-historic pottery, all in good condition, was collected by my parents around 1906, 1910, and 1914, while living in construction camps in Durango, Farmington, Taos, Santa Fe, Gallup, and in Arizona. There are also pieces from Mesa Verde. (They camped there when Dr. Fewkes was excavating the Sun Palace.) At one time these pieces were catalogued for me by Eric Douglas. In this collection there are not only bowls, (large and small), but ladles, mugs, water jars, cooking pots, axes and tools, and figurines.

I have quite a few Chimayo blankets, all in perfect condition, also some Germantown ones, which are now nearly 100 years old. The serapes (given to my grandfather, Governor Orman between 1880 and 1900) are unusually beautiful. There are also quite a few saddle blankets, all before 1900; also some Hopi blankets.

There is a collection of about 15 water jars, all old, old ones, finest of their kind. Each, the work of a master potter, from Zuni, Sia, Acoma, Santa Clara, San Juan, Laguna, etc., they were bought in the various pueblos, San Ildefonso, Cochita, Walpi, San Domingo. One rather interesting Taos jar, made of the metallic type clay, has an open mouth, and could have been used to store meal. It is larger than the regular size, and a different shape, has handles. Most of these are 50 years old, at least.

Also have two handsome steer heads, mounted by Jonas, the Elder. They were originally owned by Captain Jack Sinclair and his Cowboy Band. They were mounted on a float used by him in the inauguration parade of President Harrison (1888). One is a white steer, with long beautifully curved horns, the other, perhaps more typical, a wilder looking dark grey steer with wide spread straight horns.

There is a white buck skin dress, beautifully fringed and beaded; some buck skin paintings signed by "Weakee"; an Acoma woman's dress, (has been worn, but in perfect condition); a Hopi woman's dress; a Navajo squaw dress, and a beautiful completely beaded Sioux vest. There are also sashes, pouches, bridles, spurs, saddles, gloves, mocassins, boots, head bands, scabbards, quivers, katchinas, etc.

Also have a split buffalo horn headdress used in the Buffalo Dance; a good old Bultos, pottery tiles, a drum, and various other miscellaneous articles.

In addition, I have a collection of baskets of various types and kinds. Have a very large old Apache grain storage basket in perfect condition, and an Apache burden basket. Have Hopi baskets, plaques, etc.

Have a lovely four strand wampum necklace, with many, many hundreds of tiny pierced sea shells separated at intervals by pieces of coral and turquoise; some odds and ends of jewelry, a couple of men's old rings, rather crude, heavy silver, and big stones, settings made to fit the stones, etc.

Have some very unusual Alaskan door totems, which were bought around 1920. They were made by a Makah Indian by the name of "Young Doctor", (Indian name - "Sueye"). Some pieces of his work are in the Smithsonian. These totems were supposedly 50 years old when we bought them, and were placed around an inside door in his home. They are 7'2" tall, and are beautifully carved and painted, (greatest inside width - 5'2"). They are made from hollowed out logs, and in perfect condition.

If you are interested in any of this, please contact me, if not, would appreciate your advising me of someone who may be.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Very truly yours,

Fred B. Orman, Jr.

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