Don Miris Williams.

I was Delighted to receive your Cetter, as I have often Hoght of writing to you but renounce I to idea as I did not have your address. Ton speak of Esalee. It is a strange consciouse that I should yeth Day have resumed workig on this story. I lett it aside even before you did, when you were still in Ottawa and intended at the Cinic to five it a good by rest, but I have Hough Hat His words mean more their six years! I have since been objusted or a scheme of work a writing which left me no time for authorities and which is legining to lear fruit. I have had I on & books published in la past two years and several more will come out this consignar. But I am now findly shall I have one a month to finish Mehlala, Indeed, I revised, I have ad much In proved it last runner and had it retyped. Instead of to 65 our words which You read a reised It's part of the text has briled on to 35000. I am now hild; up a third part I intend to by up to me to over 50000. The new hart - the 32 - will concern We relating of Caleir with the child whis briggs up. all His is the volved in an adventure which I am how mufold a which, I believe, will add to to to rate w interest of the strong.

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Jun cajog 9 hope you product stag in Lander a ochoa. I have had insprecise news 9 you from true to true. Co was respect, slad to read hear conj direct from you. Mrs. Herrolpis som is , I prosono, shill in Lander? Sive her my affectivale reports. I still of the

Dekightful ting ne look to Quehec a) remember the place, wear

St. Jean Derchailling, where Mrs 4 sently burnful a cart is which as

Or farmer send that surprises! And their an augel (worden!)

leaged overboard and fell infrom the road without infuny to it winged

Self!

The two books (which you will see wealined in the McM. is cataloque) will be very attactive of illestrated as presented. They have been completed as a result of my preparation but in remarks, little time. I will not tell more about their before you see them.

To-Day I stopped at Mi Hankins strice. I had not seen him
for a year. But he called one asking to substitute a like of wood carries.

ete... for his new musiculate fort Chamby, which is now completed. He
seemd vy much as usual, altish he complain of his health a of the amuch
of work his branch has to do write an insufficient stafe. I suffer you
have meanf forgother the existence of the Branch of Body!

The speak of storing for shilven while you are prepared a seem to rout to how about more materials - Courtin materials. What kind of naturals about more materials - Courtin materials. What kind of naturals are made in mind? In have a cash a climite in you plan. The field for moused (in a littory way) In hair storing is rout enough, but the materials when a hours habitud in scientific from an exaltered this a laye los of recentific book a mappening (J. A Kolkedone) item. The British Myoun a Anthropological Institute (in fruit of the British Myoun at Anthropological Institute (in fruit of the British Myoun at Anthropological Institute (in fruit of the British Myoun at Anthropological Institute (in fruit of the British Myoun at Anthropological Institute (in fruit of the British of more a sund be plad to sive attention to it. It much be infractical to the infractical to the infractical to the infractical to the infractical in an tendent following the pure Britished in the Journal of American Following to make the following the you. But they want to be reached as the following the you. But they want to be reached as the following the your Britished to the reached as the following the plants for a sight of the following have affected as the following the plants between the town have whatever you have affected in the following the much be plants between the plants are the following the plants.

Datila D'Hobino, the Daughten have, are joug fast. D. is now 16 and is as tall as myself - a Stevence since you last saw her!

To-mora I will read you , under another rower, a few publications ad various this meant as news. I prosume you have been riterated in Suy oral's peregrinalin to S/W? He has just retained as may here is Ottawa last week.

well, I will hope to hear from you again very short.

Affectivatel yun

Such to Mrs Hamily.

Thanks Borkean

O.S. I will ask therefore Boden (from Others) to jo a see you. She has worked for the last year to illighted children's some of no Dances at the office for the has spent 2 1/2 months works books. She is a remarkable you artist at has developed majoricent to past year, as you will see from the work she has done -itlight rations in black of white a chapter head. She left for She and the first of march. She has taken a copy of Medical with the to read while saily.

Marius Barbeau to MB Williams, 5 Mar 1936

<u>Transcription / Additional Information</u>

Ottawa, March 5th /36

Dear Miss. Williams,

I was delighted to receive your letter, as I have often thought of writing to you but renounced the idea as I did not have your address. You speak of <u>Egalee</u>. It is a strange coincidence that I should yesterday have resumed working on this story. I left it aside even before you did, when you were still in Ottawa and intended at the time to give it a good long rest, but I never thought that this would mean more than six years! I have since been [waylaid] on a scheme of work at writing which left me no time for aught else and which is beginning to bear fruit. I have had 7 or 8 books published in the past two years and several more will come out this coming year. But I am now finding that I have over a month to finish [Mehlala]. Indeed, I revised, shortened and much improved it last summer and had it retyped. Instead of the 65,000 words which you read and revised this part of the text has boiled down to 35,000. I am now building up a third part I intend to bring up the ms to over 50,000. The new part - the 3rd - will concern the relation of Cadieux with the child and his bringing up. All this is involved in an adventure which I am now unfolding and which, I believe, will add to the value and interest of the story.

Tomorrow I will select a copy for you of whatever is due - 15 chp, and if you feel so inclined, you may read it and let me hear whatever suggestions you are kind enough to offer; I am still anxious for further improvements. This story is the one on which I will have place the greatest care and affection and you and Mrs. Herridge have helped and encouraged me much. We have had delightful conversations around it. I am sorry there are no large possible on account of the long distance.

You enjoy I hope your prolonged stay in London and abroad. I have had imprecise news of you from time to time. CW was, indeed, glad to hear news coming direct from you. Mrs. Herridge's son is, I presume, still in London? Give her my affectionate regards. I still often think of the

[pagebreak]

delightful trip we took to Quebec and remember the place, near St. Jean Deschaillons, where Mrs. H. gently bumped a cart in which an old farmer seemed most surprised! And then an angel (wooden!) leaped overboard and fell upon the road without injury to its winged self!

The two books (which you will see mentioned in McM.'s catalogue) will be very attractively illustrated and presented. They have been completed as a result of long preparation but in remarkably little time. I will not tell more about this before you see them.

To-day I stopped at Mr. Harkin's office. I had not seen him for a year. But he called me asking to submit a bit on wood carvings etc ... for his new museum at Fort Chambly, which is now completed. Seemed very much as usual, although he complained of his health and at the amount his branch has to do with an insufficient staff. I suppose you have nearly forgotten the existence of the Branch and Body!

You speak of stories for children which you are preparing and seem to want to know about more materials—Canadian materials. What kind of materials do you have in mind? Indian or French Canadian folk tales, anecdotes and legends? And is the length of each definite in your plan. The field for unused (in a literary way) Indian stories is vast enough, but the materials when already published

in scientific form are scattered [through] a large body of scientific books and magazine (J.A. Folk – Lore) etc ... The British Museum and Anthropological Institute (in front of the British Museum) have most of these publications. Yet, if you wanted guidance in this difficult mass I would be glad to give attention to it. It would be impractical to think of unpublished materials in a Museum (although there is much) because of its inaccessibility. Many of the French Folk-tales I have published in the Journal of American Folk-Lore might be good materials for you. But they would have to be rewritten, as there are only as told by the folktale tellers. Seven or eight of these may have appeared since 1916. Naturally I would be glad to let you use whatever you need.

[pagebreak]

Dalila and Hélène, [the] daughters here, are growing fast. D. is now 16 and is as tall as myself - a difference since you last saw her!

To-morrow I will send you, under another cover, a few publications and various things meant as news. I presume you have been interested in Grey Owl's peregrination to England? He has just returned and was here in Ottawa last week.

Well, I will hope to hear from you again very shortly.

Affectionately yours

Greetings to Mrs. Herridge

Marius Barbeau

P.S. I will ask Marjorie Borden (from Ottawa) to go and see you. She has worked for me last year to illustrate children's games and [____ ?] dances and this year she has spent 2 ½ months working beside me at the office for the illustration of my last two books. She is a remarkable gay artist and has developed magnificently in the past year, as you will see from the work she has done – illustrations in black and white at chapter heads. She left for England on the first of March. She has taken a copy of [Mehlala] with her to read while sailing.