

Ottawa, March 5<sup>th</sup>, /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 Egalee. 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 engaged on a scheme of work & writing which left me no time for anything 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 Mehkela. Indeed, I revised, shortened & much improved it last summer, and had it retypeset. Instead of the 65,000 words which you read & revised this part of the text has build down to 35,000. I am now building up a third part I intend to bring up to us to over 50,000. The new part - the 3<sup>rd</sup> - will concern the relations of Cadwin with the child & his bringing up. All this is involved in an adventure which I am now unfolding & which, I believe, will add to the value & interest of the story.

To-morrow I will select a copy for you of whatever is done - 15 chps., & if you feel so inclined, you may read it & let me hear of whatever suggestions you are kind enough to offer; I am still anxious for further improvements. This story is the one on which I will bestow the greatest care and affection. As you & Mrs. Herdige have helped & encouraged me much. We have had delightful conversations about it. I am sorry there are no longer possible on account of the long distance.

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

Delightful trip we took to Quebec and remember the place, near St. Jean Deschamps, 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 wispy self!

The two books (which you will see mentioned in the M.C.M.'s catalogue) will be very attractively illustrated and presented. They have been completed as a result of my preparation but in <sup>my</sup> remarkably little time. I will not tell more about them before you see them.

To-day I stopped at Mr. Harkins' office. I had not seen him for a year. But he called me asking to submit a list of wood carvings etc... for his new museum at Port Chambly, which is now completed. He seemed very much as usual, although he complains of his health and of the amount of work his branch has to do with an insufficient staff. I suppose you have nearly forgotten the existence of the Branch & 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 & legends? as to the length of each I think is your plan. The field for unused (is a literary way) Indian stories is vast enough, but the materials when already published in scientific form are scattered through a large list of scientific books & magazines (J. A. Kollman) etc... The British Museum & Anthropological Institute (in fact 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 these are only as told by the folk tale teller. Several or eight of these series have appeared since 1916. Material I would be glad to let you use whatever you need.

Dalila & Helen, the Daughters too, are going 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 Gray Owl's pre-emption to S.W.? He has just returned and was here in Ottawa last week.

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

Affectionately yours

Sincerely to Mrs. Hendry,

Marie Bonneau

P.S. I will ask Marie Bonneau (from Ottawa) to go and see you. She has worked for me last year to illustrate children's songs and dances and this year she has spent 2 1/2 months working beside me at the office for the illustration of my last two books. She is a remarkable young artist and has developed magnificent in the past year, as you will see from the work she has done - illustrations in black and white and chapter heads. She left for S.W. on the first of March. She has taken a copy of Medals with her to read while sailing.

**Marius Barbeau to MB Williams, 5 Mar 1936**

**Transcription / Additional Information**

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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.

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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.