1936

Correspondence from Frank Speck, 1936-1939

Frank Speck
University of Pennsylvania

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My dear Mrs. Eckstorm:

My delay in answering your last letter has been due to illness in my family and my absence in Washington.

I am very much pleased at your comments and notes and am filing them to use as an improvement on the Penobscot manuscript if occasion arises for me to prepare it for the press.

Your comments on the questionable character of specimens illustrated in various papers are interesting and yet I think I should say that the specimens illustrated were not all intended to represent what one might wish to call categorically ancient types. In the changes of native culture taking place all the time, we are interested also as acculturations and sometimes do not hesitate to illustrate and discuss material which is distinctly "modern". The moose-hoek boots which you specify as fakes are to be sure not representative of the entire skin, seamless hoek boot of which specimens are available. The one illustrated was a specimen used and worn by one of the Atteans along about 1915, an adaptation to the thong and lacing style which later came into use. The other one, the shoe-pack, is a true acculturation and your notes on the period and spread of this type are just the thing we need. The specimens in question were, however, made of native tan moose skin and represented a stage in the evolution of Penobscot footwear, even with such modern dating. These illustrations, however, entered the paper on Penobscot art somewhat surreptitiously.

Trusting that things are going well with you and that I shall hear more from you soon, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Frank Speck

Mrs. Fannie H. Eckstorm
173 Wilson Street,
Brewer, Maine

FOS/DM
My dear Mrs. Eckstorm:

Again I find myself convinced and checked by your experience and shall see to it that in future publication, should it happen, the objectionable pair of moose boots be deleted.

I too had a smile over the emblazonment of Needahbeh. I happen to have known him since he was a boy, and he is Roland Nelson not Joe Ramco. I would regard him, from the scientific point of view as quite harmless. Fortunately, he is sensitive about adverse criticism.

Your character sketch of the Park Naturalist is a wonder and duplicates what we all encounter from time to time.

Apropos of the word "culloo" I have, since giving my note in Wawenock texts, wondered if the word might have been an Indian corruption of "curlew" (Numenius sp.). Could this be a query occurring to your mind?

Yours very sincerely,

Frank Speck

Mrs. Fannie H. Eckstorm
173 Wilson Street,
Brewer, Maine

FGS/CM
Jan. 9 39,

Dear Mrs. Eckston,

Your letter breaks the silence which I have often thought
5 interrupt. Time goes so swiftly and
affairs erlard as so fast.

I am glad to do my best
with Pancacamompoitje. It is inter-
esting that he was a Mohican, 1727.

Pancacamompoitje = "divided a halfed"
(Moh.)
numbe = "man"

Poitje = over (in supposed trans-
literation, F silent) = parti-
cipial ending - "he who is -"

"Man who is divided or separated
half one thing, half another" is
very significant in the name

title of the gentleman.

You can find some of these sten
equivalents in Tremblay's
etc. Of course this is only any
work-out and may be all aside
from the true meaning if we had
accents. etc, marked. How does
it coincide with your rendering?

I am able to tell you of my good
fortune re Pennsalt Etymology.
The Council of Learned Soc's has
granted a scene for its manufactura
which will subsidize the Union of
Penna. Press enough to begin
work as if this Spring. So it will
soon be on the press. The public, the
libraries, etc, will then decide the
rest.

I recall with cordial appre-
ciation your interest in its fate, and
I trust that you will find it useful
of some commended with all its
theoretical shortcomings.

With sincere best wishes

Sincerely yours

Frank Stock
Jan. 25 39

dear Mrs. Eckstone,

Your letter and its very thought-provoking proposals has reached me in the deep swamps of La., where I am delving into etnic problems of the Houma (Muskogean) tribe continuing a price of research begun three last year. A funny place for a devotee of the far north to be placed in and yet it is all the same in at bottom. So you will not be surprised that I hear the West-Dept - Moličan matter come to me like a cool dream.

I have gone over the notes very carefully and hear no mention in feeling that you had gotten something there. That reference to Basile Amalagiors
has been calling at the door for a long time. The frequent
naps to Semathcoks going to join
the Wabamunk has left an
open space for just the 24 hours
now you give. The Semathcoks
were a subdivision of Mahican
(Mahican = Mohican). Mrs.
Mrs. This was not the Nehekag
of Comm. as Nehekag has now
been proud to list, a dialectic
connection with Mohican.
Nehekag has no 2. It lacks
I in every form of recruits
I there. So please beware
against missing them. Two
similar names. The work in
Mohican is quite fragmentary
in
Manhattan Hotel
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

But it may need to recur that they call themselves generically Wapanachki (Ch = Semin.
ch = phonetic X) the same as the N. Eng. Wabanaki.

Writing will be done on
Penobscot MB until late in
spring until I get their
report on field work. My
hands. I value your
esteem and will wishes.

Please give me all
consideration & allowance for
being in the field at this
writing. My pen ran dry
And I have only a non-descript handful of your hotel sheets.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

F. Speer

I shall await further word of your paper in "Mohican (Manhattan)"
upon my return to Seattle later.