

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGYWASHINGTON D. C. November 10<sup>th</sup> 1886.

Dr. M. Much,  
Secretary -  
Anthropological Society,  
Vienna,  
Austria.

My Dear Doctor:

Permit me to thank you for your new work, "Die Kupferzeit in Europa" u. s. w., a copy of which I have just had the pleasure of receiving. I have just returned from a tour of anthropologic investigation, this being the fifteenth year of my researches among our native Indian tribes, and in the regions where pre-historic remains still occur.

Eight seasons I have devoted to "personally examining and studying the petroglyphs and rock paintings, and I am happy to say that I have, during this time, visited every



Known locality, of this character, in the United States and British Columbia.

Few of our tribes, comparatively speaking, used copper. The Mound-builders obtained their metal in the Lake Superior mines; the Shawnees found theirs in the Blue Ridge in Virginia, and a few specimens were found in the country, formerly occupied by the Delawares (Lenni Lenape), in Pennsylvania, near Lebanon. All these localities abound in native copper.

The Makah Indians, of northwest Washington Territory manufactured copper arrow-heads, until very recently, to be used in war, and for the purpose of making them more effective they dipped them in sea water (salt) to cause corrosion and a deposit of carbonate of copper. This they recognized as poisoning, and they were aware that a dangerous, if not a fatal, wound, could be made by a simple scratch. Neighboring Indians also accuse the Clallams of a similar custom, though the latter deny the charge, and very naturally too. I have frequently had Indians tell me, that



they themselves did not employ "poisoned arrows," but that their neighbors did, when at the same time the informants possessed the most dangerous weapons, according to Indian methods of poisoning.

These facts have not yet been made public, and if you deem them of sufficient interest to mention them before the Society, I shall be glad to have you do so.

I beg to ask if the report of the Anthropological Exposition at Budapest, in 1885, has yet been published. I understood that Dr. Aurèle de Török was to prepare a report.

I shall, as soon as I get my work in order, send you a few small relics which I have retained for you.

Accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration:

W. J. Hoffman M.D.,

Ethnologist - Bureau of Ethnology,

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