

# THE COLORADO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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December 1, 1930

Mr. Perry Andersen  
Yuma, Colorado

Dear Mr. Andersen:

I want to thank you for your letter of November 25th; also to express my pleasure in knowing the arrowhead reached your home in good condition.

You are to feel under no obligation whatever to Mr. Hanington and myself, as we fully recognize that the arrowhead was rightfully yours, through original discovery of the deposit from which it came and because you had generously taken Mr. Cook to the locality as your guest and as a representative of this museum. We regret the embarrassing position of not having been properly informed and thus made responsible for a delay in its being returned to you.

I can easily understand that some of the publicity you have received has been a decided nuisance, in that it has brought interference with the localities you have been visiting over a long period. I had in mind a more substantial and lasting form of publicity. For instance: When your artifacts were examined in the east, they went before the highest group of authorities. But one man questioned the source of the long slender point and that was because nothing of that nature had ever been found in America before. They had been found of a similar nature in Egypt and Denmark. Some of your finds were of such an unique character and of such importance that he simply failed to grasp their significance and that they were from America. The same thing happened at the National Museum, Washington, when I showed them our Folsom discoveries, but now that all the circumstances are understood those same men are among the most enthusiastic.

There is now no slightest question attached to the authenticity of your discoveries and in the scientific world you and your son are given full credit for making those discoveries. Mr. Barnum Brown of the American Museum of New York will verify this, since he represented this museum, at our invitation, in laying all of the evidence, including this museum's arrowheads, before the Andover meeting of archaeologists.

Mr. Perry Andersen  
Yuma, Colorado  
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Mr. Brown regarded the finds so important as to warrant his asking us to send the entire skeleton of the Bison with which the Folsom artifacts were found. I did so. Your dagger-like artifact created a sensation at the meeting and in many ways it was regarded as far more sensational than the Folsom finds--just as I expected it would.

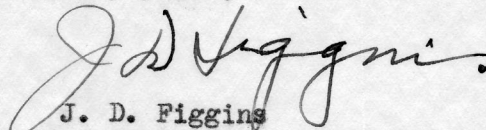
My inviting Mr. Brown to represent the museum had the approval of the then president of the museum, Mr. Taylor, but in a certain quarter here, it aroused bitter resentment. No opportunity was lost to place my course in an unfavorable light and I am aware that my failure to secure your permission before submitting the artifacts was made use of to my disadvantage. In this latter respect, I was, of course, in error, but later developments fully warranted my selecting Mr. Brown to lay the evidence before that group of authorities.

Later on I hope you will have a clearer understanding of my reluctance to speak more frankly with your son. It was not possible to do so at that time, but he will doubtless recall that I questioned him relative to certain items of their occurrence. This was for the purpose of checking on what I was aware had been then but lately written. He will also recall that I expressed the feeling that he or yourself should be credited with co-authorship of that paper, as I knew you had supplied the information upon which it was based.

Reports of the condition of highways do not encourage the prospect of my getting to Yuma in the near future, and in case you get up I hope you will plan to pay us a visit. As you say, there are things one can not express in letters and I feel there should be a full understanding concerning the above matters.

With kindest personal regards and assurances of my appreciation

Sincerely yours,

  
J. D. Figgins  
Director

JDF:LS