

27 North 26th Street
Corvallis, Oregon
March 25, 1936

Mrs. Murray Warner
Heathman Hotel
Portland, Oregon

My dear Mrs. Warner:

I am writing to you on behalf of my brother who lives in Havre, Montana. While attending the University of Montana he and two other students purchased what appears to be a very nice collection of Oriental antiques. I am enclosing a quotation from one of the Missoula newspapers which will give you some idea of part of this collection. In addition to the articles mentioned in this clipping there are two temple lanterns (Chinese, I think) a vase and some lovely wood carving. It has been some time since I saw these things and I could not describe them in detail. Recently my brother wrote to me asking if I could find someone who would be able to advise them of some way to dispose of this collection, as they feel very definitely that they are museum pieces, and Miss Perkins advised consulting you.

My brother is coming to Eugene in June, and would like the privilege of showing these articles to anyone who is interested. I should appreciate receiving a reply from you and should be very grateful if you could advise us of someone who might be interested in seeing these things or giving us some idea of their value.

Yours very truly,

Rhoda C. Cougill
Rhoda C. Cougill



.....Two long Japanese spears or pikes, with inlaid mother-of-pearl staffs and points of good steel; two southeastern Asiatic spears with inlaid heads; a long Melanesian ceremonial canoe paddle; a long Malaysian re-curved bow; a bundle of arrows which includes several types; four Samuiai sword hilts, inlaid with copper, silve , and gold; one Malay Kfis (knife); one Eskimo walrus harpoon with a detachable ivory head, and three ancient Chinese muskets compose the list of articles. This collection of rare articles was recently bought from the Lusk estate by John C. Cougill, graduate of the state university in 1935, and he has loaned it to the ethnological department for study.

Although a complete analysis of the articles has not been made, the inlaid work and the steel of thespears indicate a high degree of civilization. The old Chinese muskets are truly beautiful specimens. The barrels, which have a bore of about three-quarters of an inch, are richly engraved and inlaid with silver and gold. These guns are still in working condition. They weigh more than the modern army rifle and were fired from a rest which the Chinese soldier carries with him. The arrows, some of which are similar to those still used in middle Asia, have charred wood points, thorn barbs and small poison receptacles.



