

THE SIGNAL

May 22, 1984

Rudy Busto
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
11 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Rudy:

I would like to thank you sincerely for the invaluable help you gave me when I visited the Peabody Museum two weeks ago in search of information about Bowers Cave. The information that I was able to collect from the files has already been extremely helpful in answering a number of questions about the discovery of the cave and the artifacts.

Under a separate letter I am ordering some prints of the negatives you showed me from Ms. Linton Watts in the photo archives department. After doing some final research, I plan to do a feature story soon on this local Indian cave. I plan to visit the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California, this weekend to see the exhibit of the artifacts which have been loaned from the Peabody Museum.

I would like to ask a favor if you might have some spare time in the near future to help solve a mystery: to locate the missing sunstick. Originally, there were four sunsticks (stone clubs) which were sold to the Peabody Museum in the last century. When I visited the Peabody Museum in September, 1979, I saw two of them in the display case: #39261 and #39264. I was told at that time that one had been traded to a museum in Australia and that the fourth one had been lost. When Robert Heizer studied these artifacts in 1963, he mentioned a third sunstick, #39262. I presume the missing one is #39263. You showed me a negative which pictured all four sunsticks at once and you said

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it might be possible, therefore, to search through your records and discover what happened to it. If this would take a great deal of time, do not worry about it, but any assistance would be appreciated.

Thank you again for all of your help. I will let you know when this article might be published and I will see that you get a copy.

Sincerely,

Tony Newhall
Publisher



PEABODY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

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4 June 1984

Mr. Tony Newhall
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Dear Mr. Newhall:

Thank you for your letter. It was very nice to have met you and I'm glad we took the time to look through negatives and accession files for the Bowers Cave material. I'm sure the Photo Archives department will come through with what you need.

The mystery of the fourth sunstick may not be so mysterious. You saw #39261 and #39264 in 1979; #39262 is currently on loan to the Bowers Museum and #39263 was sent to the Museum of South Australia in 1952. All four sunsticks are thus accounted for, although we will only know for sure once the unpacking of the North American ethnography is completed (in about six months?).

We would very much appreciate a copy of your article on the history of the Bowers Cave and the materials found therein. Any historical/research work done relating to the collections is an essential part of curatorial work and our office is interested in maintaining such work as part of the collections. Please let me know if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,

Rudy V. Busto
Assistant Collections Manager