

BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
688 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

December 27, 1943

Dear Mrs. Eckstorm:

I have no good excuse for not having acknowledged before your fascinating speculations regarding benzoin. Reasons for my neglect are many, extreme busyness with the Army Training Program, illness in my family, etc. But I do feel deeply apologetic for not having thanked you earlier for your generous sharing of a good deal of "food for thought". Have you seen C. K. Bolton's Terra Nova: the Northwest coast of America before 1602? I seem to have missed seeing it somehow but I remember hearing Mr. Bolton read a chapter from his manuscript back nearly ten years ago. It was a section called "The Fisheries of Bacalao". Awfully dull to hear, too! But your mention of the close connection of the Basques & Portuguese with our coast in early times brought it back to my mind and I began to wonder whether Mr. Bolton had made a real contribution to our early history.

Your explanation of the shellheaps interested me more than a little. I had never known before that the Indians dried the oyster for preservation for food. But isn't it possible that a large number of Indians - that is a number within the realm of actual historical possibility - might over a period of several centuries or possibly a thousand years, have