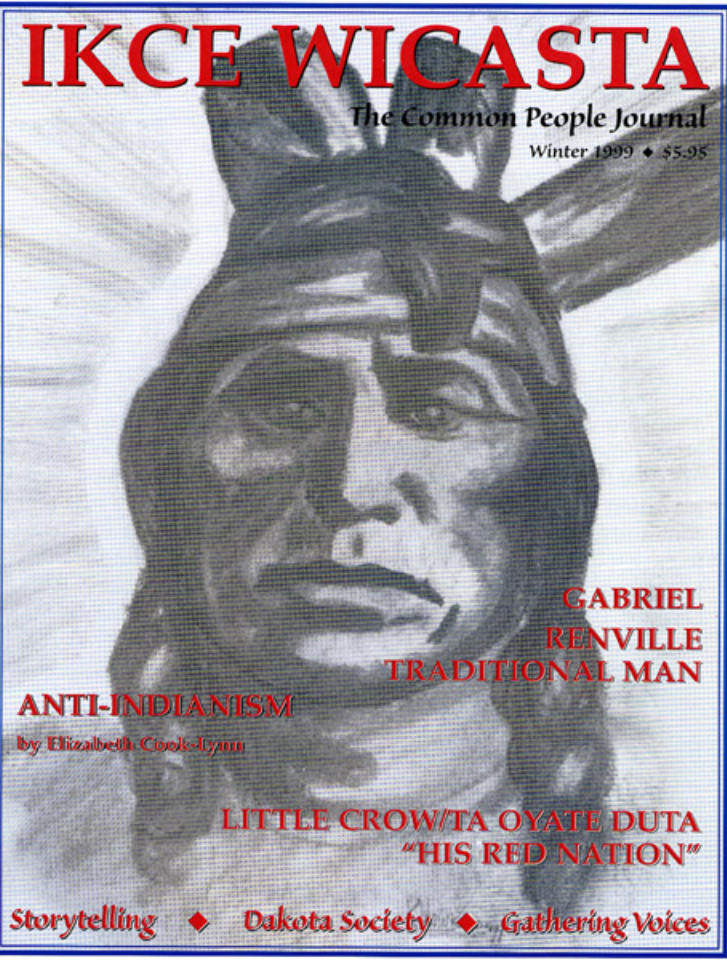


IKCE WICASTA

The Common People Journal

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**GABRIEL
RENVILLE
TRADITIONAL MAN**

ANTI-INDIANISM

by Elizabeth Cook-Lynn

**LITTLE CROW/TA OYATE DUTA
"HIS RED NATION"**

Storytelling ♦ Dakota Society ♦ Gathering Voices

Note: The following letter explains the article on Repatriation by Ms. Sackler.

*American Indian Ritual
Object Repatriation Foundation*

AN INTERCULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

*Ms. Florestine Renville German
Publisher
IKCE WICASTA MAGAZINE
RR I, Box 75
Peever, SD 57257-97.34*

Dear Ms. German

October 28, 1998

It was informative and moving to hear your speech at the Interchurch Center on October 17, 1998. I purchased your magazine, IKCE WICASTA, and read it with care and interest. Your mission is clear regarding the content you include. Although the Repatriation Foundation does not fall distinctly within your guidelines, it occurred to me that we might, nonetheless, be of service to your nation. Therefore, I wrote a few pages that I ask you to consider for publication in an appropriate issue.

Thank you again for taking the trip to New York to speak to us.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth A. Sackler
President*

REPATRIATION

An Intercultural Strategy for the Private Sector

By Elizabeth A. Sackler

President, American Indian Ritual Object

Repatriation Foundation

As is widely known, the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is legislation that requires federally funded institutions to return human remains, associated and non-associated grave goods, cultural patrimony and ceremonial material to Nations of origin.

But what about the private sector? Since 1992, the American Indian Ritual Object Repatriation Foundation has been concerned with just that. The Repatriation Foundation is nonfederally funded and provisionally chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. The Foundation's strategy emerged from the premise that in this arena, the sale of ceremonial material from auction houses and dealers, the education of collectors, and the return of spiritual friends and material from the private sector, would be best achieved through intercultural partnership. Our Board members, National Support Committee and Native Advisors hail from different American Indian Nations and religious/cultural backgrounds. The Foundation emulates the intersection where White Man's Law and Indigenous Law meet under NAGPRA in search of models for constructive dialogue, resolutions, and strategies. Most importantly, our intercultural union ideally positions us to be heard in the museum, art, auction and scholarly world as well as in Indian Country.

We are committed to assisting in the return of ceremonial material to nations, clans, individuals, and societies of origin and would be honored to assist the Dakota. We could assist in strategies to effect the return of spiritual materials from the private sector, be a liaison to museums and advocate for the Dakota regarding rights and responses to NAGPRA. *Mending the Circle: A Native American Repatriation Guide (Understanding and Implementing NAGPRA and the Official Smithsonian and other Repatriation Policies)* is a definitive guide to repatriation that has been distributed free of charge to all federally recognized tribes and has been purchased by institutions and individuals concerned with repatriation. We have been pro-actively calling for policy changes and established codes of ethics in the Indian Art Market so that the Dakota and other Turtle Island Nations would be considered and notified before sensitive

materials are sold from auction houses.

Repatriations from non-Indian donors in the private sector over the last year indicate an optimistic future. Christie's Auction House in New York City referred Continental Insurance Company to the Repatriation Foundation, who donated a Cherokee mask that was then returned to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. A collector in Massachusetts donated a Snake Dance Regalia to the Foundation for repatriation to the Hopi First Mesa Snake Dance Society. The Yurok Tribe of northern California welcomed home their first repatriation, a ceremonial basket cap, after Professor Franchot Ballinger contacted the Repatriation Foundation to guide his repatriation. This repatriation ceremony took place at the 1998 Keepers of the Treasures Annual Meeting and was witnessed by people from more than 50 Native Nations at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe.

The Repatriation Foundation's Board of Trustees are Elizabeth A. Sackler, Founder and President,

Marilyn Youngbird (Arikara/Hidatsa), Vice President; Vine Deloria Jr. (Standing Rock Sioux), Anne Bleecker Corcos; Oren Lyons (Onondaga); Carol Master; Franc Menusan (Creek/Metis) - Sheri Sandler; and Michael Haney (Seminole/Sioux). The Native Advisory Committee includes Gloria Emerson (Navajo), LaDonna Harris (Comanche), Winona LaDuke (Anishinabe), N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa), Buffy Sainte-Marie (Sac & Fox), Gail Small (Northern Cheyenne), and Dagmar Thorpe (Sac & Fox).

As Reuben Snake, Jr. said when he spoke to a gathering of non-Indian and Indian people in 1992, "I lift my hand in friendship and brotherly love." And so, I reach out now in the same manner. The Repatriation Foundation is available as an advocate and assistant to the Dakota people. Please feel free to contact us.

Visit our website at (<http://www.repatriationfoundation.com>). A resource for repatriation and NAG-PRA that serves to educate and advocate. ¶

