

Appendix Three
Letter from Dr. David S. Ruhe on Native Messengers of God / Deganawidah

14 July [2001]

Dear Christopher —

It was a happy thing to find that you are now at Michigan State — a university affiliation which I've been too busy to develop as an alumnus — and have lost classmate contact — thus being an active Bahai and physician!

The ms¹⁷⁵ is coming by separate posting.

If you can bring off the “category” idea at the least, and Deganawida as indigenous Prophet at the most[,] it will be a great coup and a great service. A Bahai Indian woman, with tearful eyes, said that the Bahais gave her no respect as an Indian — a sorry thing.

Your mission = to bring respect for spirituality of the original Americans and perhaps much more — pride in Founders of their spiritual systems.

Nuff said, and thanks for chance to see your thorough scholarship once again —

Warm greetings to Nazy [Nahzy] from —

Dave & Meg Ruhe

¹⁷⁵ Manuscript, i.e. Dr. Ruhe's critical comments on “Native Messengers of God in Canada?: A Test Case for Bahá'í Universalism” prior to its abridgement and republication as: Christopher Buck, “Bahá'í Universalism and Native Prophets.” *Reason & Revelation: New Directions in Bahá'í Thought*. Edited by Seena Fazel and John Danesh. Los Angeles: Kalimát Press, 2002. Pp. 172–201.