

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12230

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND
ANTHROPOLOGICAL SERVICES

October 30, 1981

Rev. Henri Bechard, S.J.
Vice-Postulator
Missio Sancti Francisci Xaverii
Box 70
Caughnawaga, P.Q., Canada J0L 1B0

Dear Rev. Bechard:

Enclosed are two photographic prints one of which I think will answer your question to me. The one with the zigzag lines leading into seven crosses is the belt called Caughnawaga and is said to memorialize a treaty between the Caughnawaga of Canada and the St. Regis band of the Mohawk.

The belt with the single cross at one end and the human figure and diamond at the other is called the Remembrance Belt and is said to recall to mind the Iroquois Indians who removed to Canada in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century. Another version says that recalls to mind the treachery of the French.

I think that the Remembrance Belt is the one that General Clark had in mind when he located it at Onondaga. I do not believe that it is as old as Chaumonot's period in its present form. However, it could be a reweaving of an older belt which may have had similar figures.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Gillette

Charles E. Gillette
Senior Scientist

CEG:m1
Enc.

Dimensions:

Caughnawaga 31 5/8 in.x 2 1/8"
Remembrance 40 3/8 in.x 2 1/2"



