

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Re.: A review of Ludmila Zeman's *Gilgamesh the King* in issue no. 73, vol. 20:1
Imagine our surprise when we learned from CCL's review that *Gilgamesh* is a Greek epic. As most people who know the epic can tell you, the story of the tyrannical ruler who befriends Enkidu and consequently searches for immortality, is a Mesopotamian epic, later retold in countless cultures, including Greece. But the Mesopotamian version is the original one and is also the oldest written story in the world, predating the Old Testament. Ludmila Zeman's story recalls the original text. Her landscape as well is Mesopotamian, as the text clearly indicates (with references to the Euphrates and Tigris rivers).

Many people have trouble remembering the ancient civilizations; there is no modern country called Mesopotamia, after all. Still, credit should be given where credit is due.

Arjun Basu, Associate Editor, Tundra Books.

CCL *regrets the error.*

Re.: A review of Evelyn Neaman's *Folk Rhymes from around the World* in issue no. 77, vol. 21:1

I would like to point out that your reviewer dwelt on a supposed deficiency in our book—that it contained no First Nations material—that is simply not the case. Our book does contain an Okanagan folk rhyme but I guess your reviewer did not know that the name “Okanagan” refers to one of British Columbia's First Nations. The rhyme was collected by noted ethnomusicologist Wendy Wickmire of the University of BC for our collection and I feel confident that it is an authentic First Nations traditional rhyme.

Catherine Edwards, Pacific Educational Press, UBC

Reviewer response: My complaint is the ambiguity surrounding the rhyme. The illustration of the woman that accompanies the rhyme does not distinguish her as Native, nor does “From the Okanagan Valley, BC, in Okanagan” make clear to the reader that this is Okanagan Indian (which is how it might have read). This is a small point except for the fact that we do not generally acknowledge our oral Canadian beginnings, and they need to be emphasized.

While I feel we need to get this sort of thing right-on rather than almost-on, it is clear that Pacific Educational Press is interested in promoting Native literature. Since writing this review, I have found another book by this press called *Sima7/Come Join Me*, a storybook for children which chronicles four days in the life a young Mohawk boy as he attends a youth gathering at Mount Currie, British, Columbia, the land of the St'at'yemc. My review reads, “I hope that other UBC publications in this series correct this omission.” And *Sima7/Come Join Me* does.

Cornelia Hoogland, Faculty of Education, University of Western Ontario