

Artistry of Gary Johnson (1943-2008)

Part I

Metis artist Gary Johnson lived on the Crow Reservation at Lodge Grass, Montana, where he and his wife, Louella, were owners and operators of *Les Bois Brulé: Metis Trading Company*. Gary is renowned throughout North America for producing museum quality replicas of Plains Metis and Plains Indian artefacts. Most of his knowledge of Metis and Indian art history and comparative art was gained through 45 years of private research into existing printed material and in the collections of numerous museums and private collections in the United States, Canada and Western Europe. Gary's work has won awards at the prestigious Heard Museum Guild Indian Arts and Crafts Exhibit in Phoenix, Arizona. His work has been featured in publications of the University of Wisconsin and the National Endowment of the Arts, as well as *The Cowboy Chronicle*, *Cowgirls and Indians Magazine*, *Whispering Wind*, and *Muzzleloader Magazine*. Gary is one of the featured artists in *All about Cowboy Action Shooting* by Ron Harris, *Metis Legacy* by The Manitoba Metis Federation, and *A Time of Gathering* by Robin K. Wright.



Sepia-tone Gary & Lou at military ball.

The photographs in this compilation date from the Les Bois Brule Photo List of November 1999. They were sent to me prior to the completion of the first *Metis Legacy* Vol. I, book in 2000. some of these images appear in that book.



Front view quilled Metis coat.

This depiction of his quillwork Metis frock coat (1996) and a Metis beaded coat (on loan) were featured in the Metis Gallery of the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec. Other examples of his work can be found in the famous Chandler-Pohrt Collection, the Lessard Collection, the Museum of the Plains Indian (Browning, Montana), and the Beuchel Memorial Lakota Museum (Saint Francis, South Dakota). His work has won awards from the prestigious Heard Museum Guild Indian Arts and Crafts Exhibit in Phoenix, Arizona and has appeared in numerous publications. Currently (2009) his work can be seen in the Montana Historical Society exhibit “Neither Empty nor Unknown: Montana at the Time of Lewis and Clark” at Helena, Montana, and the C.M. Russell Museum exhibit “The Bison: American Icon, Heart of the Plains Indian Culture” in Great Falls, Montana.



Close-up back view quilled Metis coat



Extreme close-up back view quilled Metis coat



Close-up back view quilled Metis coat



Crow lance case ca. 1880



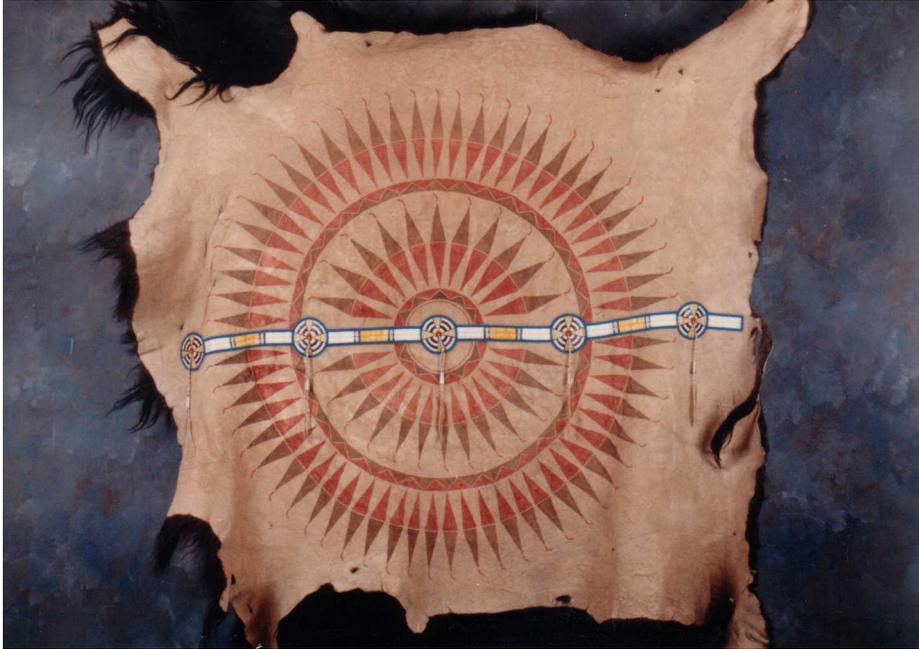
Crow cradleboard ca. 1880



Crow warshirt ca. 1875



"Crow otter skin bowcase, & quiver ca. 1870"



Upper Missouri quilled & painted buffalo robe ca. 1830



Crow horse collar ca. 1880



Crow floral scout jacket ca. 1880 (back view) modeled by Heather Whiteman



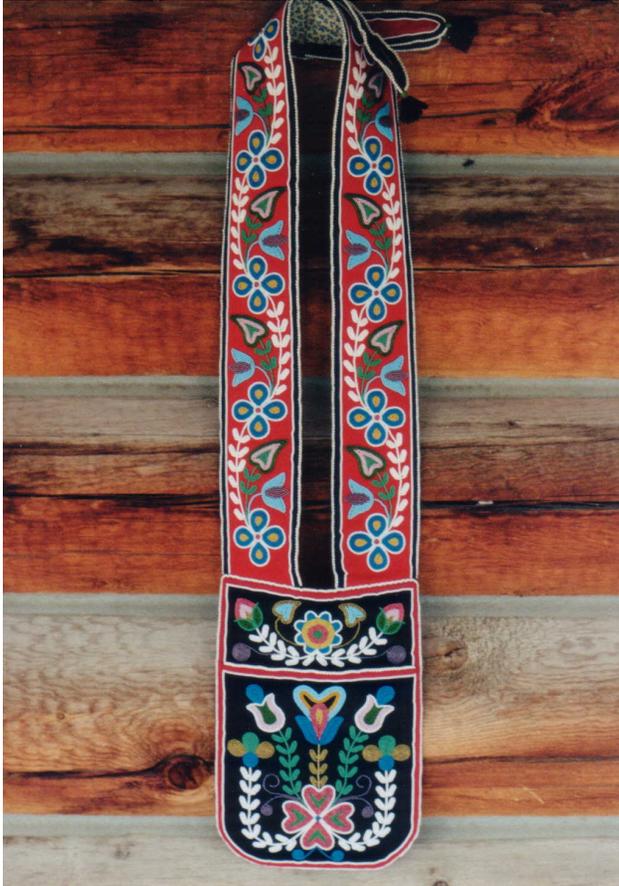
Crow floral scout jacket ca. 1880 (3/4 view)



"Loom & applique beaded Metis bandolier bag ""Jean Baptiste"""



Close-up of Metis Bandolier Bag.



Floral applique beaded Metis bandoleer bag ca. 1835



Red & blue blanket cloth Metis rifle scabbard ca. 1835



Floral seed beaded Metis panel bag ca. 1840 (black velvet)



Reverse of previous.



Pony beaded Metis panel bag ca. 1820 (black wool)



Small Crow single saddle bag ca. 1880



Crow pony beaded mirror bag ca. 1850



Reverse of previous.



Crow pony beaded mirror bag ca. 1830



Crow tobacco bag ca. 1860 (red finger design)



Reverse of previous.



Crow red blanket "horse thief" shirt ca. 1875"



"Crow seed bead wrapped loop necklace w/ 3" conch shells ca. 1880"



"Crow ""Myrna"" doll mounted on stick (3/4 front view)"



Quilled Upper Missouri knife scabbard