

KROEBER
ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PAPERS

Number 5

BERKELEY, 1951

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The
Kroeber Anthropological
Society

Berkeley, California

Fall, 1951

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Number 5

May 15, 1952

Published by the Kroeber Anthropological Society

Arnold R. Pilling, President; Dwight Wallace, Vice-President; Ruth Shelley, Secretary; Albert B. Elsasser, Treasurer; Bernard G. Hoffman, Editor; Harriet Huguenin, Program Chairman; Rachel K. Eckman, Program Secretary; Marie Page Beckham, Suzanne Bessac, and Patricia E. Cody, Public Relations Committee; Sylvia Broadbent, Gordon Grosscup, Patricia L. Kleinecke (1952), and Donald Lathrap (1951), Publications Managers.

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PREFACE

The Kroeber Anthropological Society is pleased to present this new issue of its Papers to its membership. It feels that the articles to be found within the number not only cover a varied and interesting range of fields, but also represent significant contributions to the studies of ethnology, physical anthropology, and linguistics.

The first article in the issue calls attention to a neglected but important aspect of Latin American native medicine—the classification of plants and animals, and parts thereof, into "hot" and "cold" categories. The contribution first discusses the historical origins of this concept and the nature of its application, and then presents some suggestions for field recording of the belief. It may be noted here that this classification is still in use in the Old World—in the Mediterranean area and, interestingly enough, in China.

Our second paper initiates a practice which the Society hopes to continue into the future—that of publishing previously unprinted or untranslated materials relating to the Russian period in North America. The documents selected for this issue deal with the trial of a Christianized Tlingit on charges of sorcery, and reveal previously unsuspected aspects of culture change among these people. The documents are followed by an able discussion of their ethnological significance by Miss Menzel.

The succeeding work summarizes the studies of Northeastern Siberian physical types made by G. F. Debets, the leading Soviet physical anthropologist. Based as they are upon the largest series of measurements yet made upon the native populations of the Far North—the series covers 1180 males and 772 females—these studies represent an important contribution to physical anthropology, and will probably not be superseded in the near future. Debets' conclusions are of great interest to all anthropologists concerned with the Arctic: in brief, he finds that the specific peculiarities of the Asiatic Eskimo physical type find no analogies among the other peoples of Siberia—at least among the modern populations; that the "Americanoid" or "non-Mongoloid" traits of these people cannot be explained by European admixture; and that the idea of an Eskimo "wedge" separating the Indians from the Palaeo-Asiatics is without racial foundation. Thus, the question of the origin of the Eskimo physical type must be approached in a new light.

The concluding paper presents a classification of singular and plural suffixes of Kisi nouns, and illustrates this with a variety of examples. This work augments the phonemic analysis of Kisi which appeared in number 2 of these Papers.

Bernard G. Hoffman,
Editor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to offer our sincere thanks to those whose names appear below, for their generous assistance in the preparation of this issue of the Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers:

Mary Allison
Richard Bachenheimer
Marie Beckham
James Bennyhoff
Suzanne Bessac
Thomas Bolt
William Burd
Octavie Page Carleton
Marjorie Cline
Patricia Cody
Robert Conkling
John Costa
Nancy Crenshaw
Charmian Crittenden
Charlot Davis
Goode Davis
Ruth Dowdakin

Rachel Eokman
Albert Elsasser
Winifred Elsasser
Leroy Fischer
James Arthur Freed
James Gazaway
Nancy Gilmer
Chérie Grégoire
Shirley Gudmundsen
Mary Haas
Bernard Hoffman
Harriet Huguenin
Kathryn Huggins
Mary Jean Kennedy
David Kleinecke
Nancy Laubach
Adra Long

Patricia Marks
Margery McCorkle
Thomas McCorkle
Theodore McCown
Thomas McKern
Clement Meighan
William Newbern
Ronald Olson
Arnold Pilling
Janet Pumphrey
Dorothy Riddell
John Rowe
Ruth Shelley
Carol Wallace
Dwight Wallace
Mary Anne Whipple

Sylvia M. Broadbent
Gordon L. Grosscup
Patricia L. Kleinecke
Publications Managers

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