

Dedicatory Preface

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This number of the University of California Archaeological Survey Reports is dedicated to Professor Robert H. Lowie, who died on September 21, 1957.

Professor Lowie on several occasions told me some of the humorous incidents which occurred on the sole occasion when he engaged in archaeological research. The locus of this activity was the Johnson Mound (site Sac-6) which had been the scene of earlier excavation by Mr. Elmer J. Dawson, and whose collection, with the collaboration of W. Egbert Schenck, was at the time (1926) being described for publication (1). In 1926 Baron Erland Nordenskiöld was Visiting Professor at Berkeley, and expressed a desire to become acquainted with the local archaeology. A trip was arranged, and in attendance (among others) were Nordenskiöld, Lowie, R. L. Olson and Julian Steward. It was on this 1926 trip that the photograph reproduced in the frontispiece was taken.* Professor Lowie once presented me with the print, and would, I am certain, not consider its publication in the present connection inappropriate.

The Survey has chosen this particular Report to dedicate to Professor Lowie's memory since its contents deal with the Great Basin-Plateau region, a culture area which he believed to be important, and where he carried out a fairly considerable amount of fieldwork. His first trip to the area was in 1906 when he studied the Northern Shoshone of Lemhi Agency, Idaho. This work resulted in a general ethnographic account, of which almost exactly one half consists of myths, 39 in all (2). In 1912, 1914 and 1915 he returned to the area and visited the Moapa and Shivwits Paiute, Northern Paiute (Paviotso) of Pyramid Lake, Fallon and Lovelock, the Ute of Navaho Springs, Ignacio (Colorado) and Whiterocks (Utah), and the Wind River Shoshone of Wyoming. The ethnographic results were published in 1924 (3), but myths and folk-tales appeared separately (4).

Professor Lowie's deep interest in the Basin-Plateau area is best exemplified in his contribution to the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Memorial Volume published in 1923 (5). Here he concludes that the Plateau Shoshoneans and California peoples "may perhaps be conveniently united as representing a single basic ultramontane culture area or stratum marked off from the remainder of the continent." He further observes that the culture of the Pueblo area could be conceived as "largely resulting from the superimposition on the primeval ultramontane layer of the horticultural complex originating to the south."

His later field research in the Great Basin area dates from 1926 and 1928-29 when he investigated the culture of the Washo (1926) and in December

* Mr. E. J. Dawson is seen in the background of this picture, behind Dr. Lowie.

1928-January 1929 visited the Bannock at Fort Hall and at Blackfoot, Idaho. The published report on the Washo (6) is, like that on the Northern Shoshone, about half social and material culture, and half myths and tales. The Bannock investigation, referring chiefly to kinship terminology, was published in 1930 (7).

Taken altogether, Professor Lowie has contributed, in a quantitative sense, an amount of data on Great Basin peoples which cannot be equalled by any other student with the exception of Julian H. Steward.

That Lowie was deeply interested in the simple cultured Great Basin tribes is shown by the fact that he repeatedly mentioned them in his general works (Primitive Society; An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; Social Organization), as well as in such broad articles as his "American Culture History" (8) and "Some Problems of Geographical Distribution" (9), where he called attention to a number of specific trait parallels between marginal peoples in North and South America and proposed their explanation in terms of ancient cultural community.

References

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3. R. H. Lowie. Notes on Shoshonean Ethnography. Amer. Mus. of Natural History, Anthropological Papers, Vol. 20, pt. 3, 1924.
4. R. H. Lowie. Shoshonean Tales. Journal of American Folk-Lore, Vol. 37, Nos. 143-144 (pp. 1-242), 1924.
5. R. H. Lowie. Cultural Connection of California and Plateau Shoshonean Tribes. UC-PAAE, Vol. 20, pp. 145-158, 1923.
6. R. H. Lowie. Ethnographic Notes on the Washo. UC-PAAE, Vol. 36, No. 5, 1939.
7. R. H. Lowie. The Kinship Terminology of the Bannock Indians. American Anthropologist, Vol. 32, pp. 294-299, 1930.
8. R. H. Lowie. American Culture History. American Anthropologist, Vol. 42, pp. 409-428, 1940.
9. R. H. Lowie. Some Problems of Geographical Distribution. In South Seas Studies, pp. 11-26, 1951. Museum für Völkerkunde, Basle.