

A Blackfoot Winter Count. HUGH A. DEMPSEY. Calgary, Glenbow Foundation, 1965. 20 pp., ill.

Certain individual Blackfoot men, as well as members of other Plains Indian tribes, kept simple calendars, known as winter counts. One important event was recorded for each year. Most events concerned the whole tribe, but personal events would be recorded if there was a lack of generally significant events. With a cryptic phrase for each year as a mnemonic device, they were able to recall other temporally related events.

Hugh Dempsey has collected several Blackfoot winter counts, most of which are in manuscript form in the archives of the Glenbow Foundation in Calgary. He has chosen the oldest and best count as the first scholarly publication of the Glenbow Foundation. Bad Head was an influential minor chief of the Bloods who kept his count from 1810, with an apparent mention of the Wilson Price Hunt Astoria expedition, to his death in 1884, soon after the arrival of the "fire wagon" (Canadian Pacific Railway). The early events record the Blackfoot in their heyday as rulers of the Northern Plains, but a series of devastating epidemics capped by the destruction of the buffalo herds, leaves them starving and miserable at the end of the count.

The original record, painted on skin, has been lost, but the events were written down independently by Father Emile Legal, O.M.I. and Robert N. Wilson, an early RCNWMP constable. Legal and Wilson added pertinent details from informants which Dempsey has edited and expanded from his vast knowledge of the historical records on the area. The result is a valuable source for the historian and the anthropologist and a highly suitable choice for the inauguration of a welcome new publication series.

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Ethno-psychiatrie. R. F. ELLENBERGER. In Encyclopédie Médico-chirurgicale, Supplément 1965. Paris. Folios 37725 A 10; B 10.

Ce dense et volumineux article pose le problème de l'ethnopsychiatrie. Après avoir défini et fait l'historique du sujet, l'auteur en montre l'intérêt pratique et théorique et souligne combien est délicat le maniement des méthodes de recherche de cette discipline; puis il expose les deux parties: l'une théorique et générale, l'autre donnant, par des descriptions cliniques, les diverses affections mentales plus ou moins spécifiques des divers peuples.

Dans la partie théorique, le Dr Ellenberger souligne que l'on est fou par rapport à une société donnée, « mais qu'il n'en existe pas moins des états reconnus partout comme pathologiques, ce qui pose d'emblée le problème des maladies mentales à spécificité culturelle comme « la fureur des Berseks scandinaves », la « maladie anglaise » du XVII^e siècle ou l'Hemweh, la « nostalgie » des mercenaires suisses. Mais l'ethnopsychiatrie relève et étudie les aspects et