

BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DIAMOND JENNESS

by

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Diamond Jenness was born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1886. He was educated in Wellington Boys' High School and graduated in 1908 from Victoria University College in that city with first class honours in classics. Later he attended Balliol College, Oxford, where he took a B.A. degree with honours (Lit, Hum.) a diploma in Anthropology in 1911 and a Master's degree in 1916.

Dr. Jenness conducted, in 1911, an anthropological expedition for the University of Oxford amongst the Northern d'Entrecasteaux of New Guinea, where he collected much material on Papuan ethnology.

In 1913, he took part in the Southern Party, Canadian Arctic Expedition, conducted by V. Stefansson and for three years, until 1916, studied closely the ways and customs of the Western and Coronation Bay Eskimos who until that time had had only limited contacts with the Whites. His contributions as regards our knowledge of the Copper Eskimos have been of primary importance. Back in Ottawa after a short period devoted to classifying the collected materials, Jenness joined the 58th Battery, C.E.F., of World War I as a gunner. Following the Armistice, he returned to Ottawa and joined the National Museum staff as an ethnologist. In April 1919, he married Frances Eileen Bleakney, a native of Ottawa.

During the period between the two wars, Jenness was busy with the preparation and publication of a very large number of scientific works, interrupting his office work from time to time to undertake new field investigations. In 1921, he carried out a survey of the Sarcee Indians of Alberta on their reserve near Calgary. In 1923-24, he visited the Sekani Indians of Northern British Columbia, the Carriers of Fort Hagwilgate and the Stony Creek reserve. In 1926, Jenness was appointed chief of the Anthropological Section of the National Museum of Canada. The same year, he undertook an archaeological expedition at Cape Prince of Wales and Little

Diomedes Island (Bering Strait); he made an archaeological survey of Newfoundland the following year. During the summer of 1929, he studied the Ojibways of Parry Island in Georgian Bay and the same year was appointed official Canadian delegate to the 4th Pacific Science Congress, Java. The University of New Zealand conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in 1933, in recognition of his contributions in the field of anthropology. Shortly after, he was appointed chairman of the Anthropological Section of the 5th Pacific Science Congress held in Vancouver in 1933. His interest in the various Indian cultures of British Columbia had not diminished, as shown by the investigation he made among the Coast Salish on Vancouver Island in 1935. Two years later, he took part in the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences held in Copenhagen in 1938, as Canada's official delegate.

At the outbreak of the last war, Dr. Jenness left the Museum to work with the Dependents' Allowance Board. Then he was successively RCAF Deputy Director of Intelligence, from 1940 to 1943; Chief of the Inter-Service Topographical Section, Department of National Defence, from 1943 to 1946; and the following year, Director of Research, Geographical Bureau, Department of National Defence.

Although he retired in 1947, Dr. Jenness has continued his anthropological activities. During the autumn of 1948, he gave a series of courses at the British Columbia University. The following years, he made extended trips to Europe where he had undertaken various anthropological surveys including an investigation on land use on the island of Cyprus. Dr. Jenness is a member of the following organizations: The Royal Society of Canada, The Canadian Geographical Society, The American Association for Advancement of Science (Vice-President in 1938), The Society for American Archaeology, The American Ethnological Society, The Arctic Institute of North America, The American Anthropological Association (President in 1938), The Royal Danish Geographical Society (Honorary Fellow), The Royal Society of New Zealand (Honorary member).

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