

Barbeau, Marius: Haida Carvers in Argillite,  
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This is the accumulation of countless notes made by the author during his many trips on the Pacific West Coast. When Dr. Barbeau first went there in 1915, his delving into all the facets of the Indian's culture started to fill volumes of note books. Little seems to have escaped his notice. Artists, ethnologists and anthropologists and those just interested in the Pacific Coast people will find the *raison d'être* of many folk legends, myths and traditions which possibly have puzzled them in the past. Today these meticulously gathered facts, long stored in note books in his files at the National Museum, are at last seeing the light.

Shortly after the 1st decade of the century, Dr. Barbeau became intensely interested in these Indians and conscientiously recorded verbatim their life stories, customs and legends. One of the most remarkable features of this volume is the excellence of the photographs. The reader should take himself back many years to the days when the art of photography was still in its infancy -- realizing that flash bulbs, light meters and many of the gadgets now necessary for good photography were either not yet invented or were considered far too expensive to be included in the paraphernalia supplied to scientists from the Museum going out on field research trips. Today even the reasonably priced cameras seem to have eliminated the necessity of many of the former attachments to obtain good photographic records. Then the casual reader should place himself in the time place where many of these pictures were taken. Candid shots much like the quick sketch of an artist are so often far more forcefully authoritative than ones laborously worked over in the studio, invariably losing their directness, spontaneity and true proportions

of the scene or situation being recorded.

The "biographies" also contain much information pertaining to the cultural life of these people, the informants often revealing long past events in history, both legendary and true. There are also some photographs of the carvers themselves.

As in many of Dr. Barbeau's books, it is quite likely that Haida Carvers in Argillite with its companion volume, Haida Myths, will become the authority on argillite carving of this period.

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