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Bibliography of the Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf

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blanket has been known to have required the use of one-hundred skins in its making. However, most blankets were custom-made, being made to reach from the ground to the top of the head of the person for whom the blanket was being made. Rabbit blankets lasted many years and continued to be warm as long as they were kept clean.

Rabbit fur was so valuable in the primitive life of these people that it was frequently used instead of coin in purchasing articles and for wagering at gambling, the unit of measurement being a strip of fur-covered skin reaching from a point between the thumb and index finger, around over the elbow and thence back to the starting point.

Ground squirrels were commonly eaten for food and are hunted today. When a squirrel made preparation for her young, she would scratch out old holes and make new ones for the new-born. Dead-falls were constructed near these fresh holes. By using a rock covered up with brush and dirt, a little latch and a hemp wrapping, an effective dead-fall was constructed. These animals were often drowned out if water was available; their holes were plugged at times so that dogs could catch them; and various other devices were used. They were eaten either fresh or dried. When being prepared for drying, the heads were left on, the fur singed, and the intestines removed.

Caterpillars and Mormon crickets were a delicacy. Long, green worms, as large as a finger and three to four inches long, came through the country in armies to feed on desert geraniums and other desert plants. During the spring and early summer they were picked and placed in large pine-nut baskets. Their bodies were punctured, permitting the intestinal contents to be squeezed out with the fingers. Both caterpillars and crickets were served while fresh, though large quantities of them were also scorched by red coals, spread out to dry and stored for the winter. It has been said that boiling made them fresh and tender, and restored their delicious flavor.

Considering the variety of animals available for food and the many interesting methods of trapping and catching these animals, one may be apt to conclude that the Early Nevada Paiute lived a life of ease. However, quite the opposite is true. He had to have a thorough knowledge of wild-life, ingenuity and skill in the use of this knowledge, and determination and persistence in supplying his body with necessities. Indeed, his native land was a land of scarcity.

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF BENJAMIN LEE WHORF<sup>1</sup>

Benjamin Lee Whorf, whose untimely death in 1941 was a serious blow to linguistics, anthropology, and general semantics, was born in 1897. At the time of his death, he was an official of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, having joined that firm in 1919. His skill in deciphering Aztec inscriptions brought him, in 1928, to the attention of the scientific world. His studies of American Indian culture and thought, begun as a hobby with the study of the Mayan and Aztec languages, eventually carried him on several expeditions to central Mexico and the American Southwest. The Hopi

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dictionary on which he was working when he died remains unpublished. In spite of the fact that Whorf's writings appeared in many scattered places and were never collected in book form, they have been profoundly influential.

I have no doubt that other Whorf items will crop up from time to time in the future. If any reader happens to know of any that I have omitted, I should be grateful to hear of them. Meanwhile, I am indebted to Dr. George L. Trager of the Foreign Service Institute, Washington, D. C., and to Professor Clyde Kluckhohn of Harvard University for having called to my attention items that I should otherwise have missed.

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