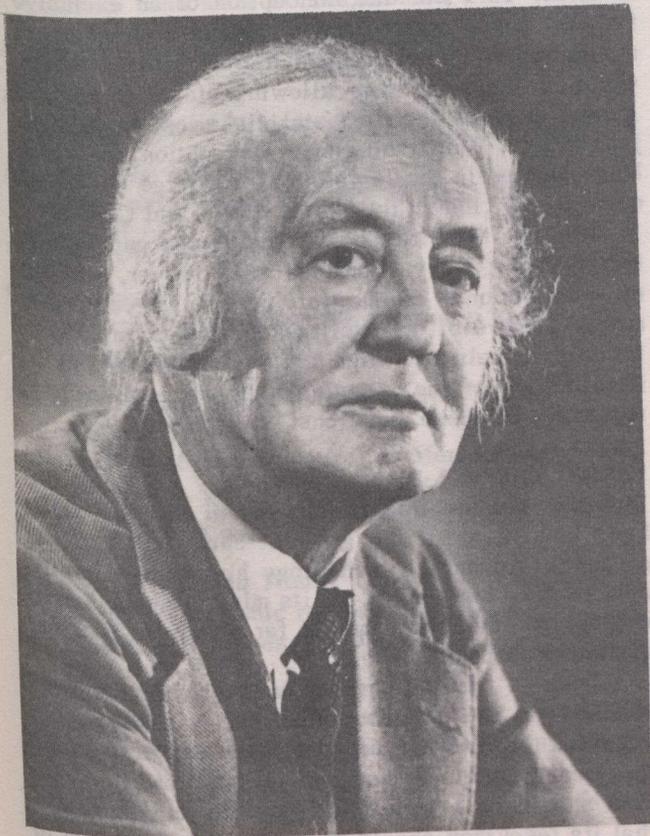


THE PASSING OF MARIUS BARBEAU

Dr. Marius Barbeau, Canada's foremost ethnologist and folklorist, died on February 27 at the age of 86. Dr. Barbeau, one of the first Canadian scientists to interest himself in ethnology, carried out elaborate studies of Canadian Indians, particularly those of the Northwest coast, thoroughly documented in numerous books and articles which are among his many legacies to Canada.

His reputation as a student of folklore was firmly based on an outstanding contribution to the recorded history of Canada by tireless research on and documentation of the spirit, habits and customs of the peoples of Canada.



Dr. Marius Barbeau
1883-1969

Dr. Barbeau recorded and classified historical evidence of all sorts, tangible and intangible: costumes, customs, furniture, firearms, utensils, games, phrases, prejudices, songs, legends, tales, anecdotes, art – anything and everything that dealt with the life of the individual Indian, French-Canadian or pioneer.

Born at Ste. Marie de Beauce, Quebec, Marius Barbeau grew up in an atmosphere filled with the lore, music and art of the common people, all of which was of great importance in his later life. His insatiable curiosity led him into many fields of endeavour, in each of which he laboured with enthusiasm.

In 1910, Dr. Barbeau became an anthropologist with the National Museum of Canada (then part of the Geological Survey of Canada), and thus began an association that was to last for nearly half a century.

His erudition, coupled with untiring work habits, soon made him known to the scientific community, and, within a few years of beginning his career, he had published the first of a long list of books and articles – more than 50 books and some 700 articles – in both French and English. He left some unfinished manuscripts that will eventually be published. His final book, *Louis Jobin Statuaire*, appeared a few months before his death.

One of the most valuable collections in the folklore division of the National Museum consists of 9,000 songs and 5,000 melodies gathered by Dr. Barbeau in the Province of Quebec and the Acadian region of the Maritimes.

Although Dr. Barbeau retired from the National Museum in 1948, he continued to publish papers and books and to involve himself in a large variety of academic pursuits, including lecturing at Ottawa University, the University of Montreal and Laval University.

He won the coveted *Prix David* literary award three times for works written in both French and English – first in 1925, again in 1929 and finally in 1945.

His interests extended into the world of art, and he was a friend of several of the Group of Seven. Dr. Barbeau himself was recognized as an authority of the paintings of Cornelius Kreighoff, about whom he published a book in 1948.

ARCHAIC CULTURES UNEARTHED

Fragments of an archaic culture came to light recently on Twillingate Island, Newfoundland, when a resident, digging in his garden, unearthed the point of a slate spear. When his shovel turned up another 34 items, he notified the Director of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa.

Museum archaeologist Don MacLeod hurried to the spot, and found that the "treasure site" was the

graveyard of an ancient Indian culture which he named Maritime Archaic. Now, three years later, several more fragments of evidence have been unearthed and Mr. MacLeod has outlined a probable sequence of cultures for the area. "We know," Mr. MacLeod explained, "that this same geographic area was occupied at different periods of time by at least three different cultures: in approximate terms, from 2500-500 B.C. by the Maritime Archaic, from 0-600 A.D. by the Dorset Eskimo and from 1000 A.D.