

THE SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND THE SECRET SOCIETIES OF THE KWAKIUTL INDIANS.

By FRANZ BOAS.

PREFACE.

The following paper describes and illustrates the collections of the U. S. National Museum referring to the social organization and secret societies of the Indians of the coast of British Columbia. It is based on studies made by the author during a series of years. The great body of facts presented here were observed and recorded by Mr. George Hunt, of Fort Rupert, British Columbia, who takes deep interest in everything pertaining to the ethnology of the Kwakiutl Indians and to whom I am under great obligations. I am indebted to him also for explanations of ceremonials witnessed by myself, but the purport of which was difficult to understand, and for finding the Indians who were able to give explanations on certain points.

My thanks are due to Mr. C. O. Hastings, of Victoria, British Columbia, who took a series of photographs, reproductions of which will be found in this report. A series of phonographic records of songs belonging to the ceremonials were transcribed by Mr. John C. Fillmore and myself. I also had opportunity to verify many of the phonographic records by letting the Indians repeat the songs two years after the records had been taken.

I have also to thank Prof. A. Bastian, director of the Royal Ethnographical Museum at Berlin, Sir Augustus W. Franks, keeper of the ethnographical department of the British Museum, Mr. Franz Heger, director of the ethnographical department of the Imperial Royal Museum of Natural History at Vienna, and Prof. F. W. Putnam, curator of the department of anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History at New York, for permission to use specimens contained in the collections of these museums for illustrating the present report.