

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO ANTHROPOLOGY,  
VOL. I. COOS TEXTS**

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**LEO J. FRACHTENBERG**

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
ANTHROPOLOGY

Edited by FRANZ BOAS

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VOLUME I.

COOS TEXTS

BY

*Frachtenberg*  
LEO J. FRACHTENBERG



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## INTRODUCTION.

THE texts contained in the present volume represent two different collections. The first nineteen myths were collected by me in the summer of 1909, under the auspices of the Bureau of American Ethnology. My sole informant was Jim Buchanan, a Coos Indian, living in Acme, Lane County, Oregon. He is at the present time the only member of the Coos tribe who still remembers and can relate coherently some of the myths and traditions of the by-gone generations. The texts numbered 20-32 were collected by Mr. Harry Hull St. Clair, 2d, in the summer of 1903. His informants, I understand, were Jim Buchanan and Tom Hollis, the latter of whom lives at present on the Siletz Reservation, in the State of Oregon.

Owing to the fact that a few texts obtained from Jim Buchanan were not as vivid in his memory as some of the other traditions, they will be found lacking in continuity of narration and in clearness of description. Some of these texts are abundant in obscure passages. We are in certain cases especially in doubt as to the performer of an action or to the identity of the speaker. While it might have been comparatively easy to restore to these passages their original definiteness, I thought it advisable (mainly from linguistic considerations) to let them stand as they were narrated, leaving the interpretation of the intended meaning to the good judgment of the reader.

As might have been expected, Mr. St. Clair's system of writing down the Indian texts is quite different from



the one adopted by me. I did not, however, on the whole, encounter any difficulties in transcribing his phonetic system in accordance with my own. Only in a few cases were the discrepancies so great as to necessitate a distinct treatment. These cases either cover words and phrases not familiar to me through my own texts, or they represent expressions which, in my judgment, may have been misheard, and consequently mis-spelled, by Mr. St. Clair. All such passages are printed in this work in *Italics*, and are accompanied in most cases by footnotes, in which I endeavor to show the original expression that may have been intended by the narrator. Section numbers referred to in the footnotes are those in my grammar of the Coos language, in "Handbook of American Indian Languages" (Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 40, Part 2).

HARTLEY HALL,  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,  
JUNE, 1910.

## ALPHABET.

- a* . . . . . Like *a* in German *Mann*.  
*e* . . . . . Like *e* in *helmet*.  
*i* . . . . . Like *i* in *it*.  
*o* . . . . . Like *o* in German *Mord*.  
*u* . . . . . Like *u* in German *Furcht*.  
*ā* . . . . . Like *a* in *car*.  
*ē* . . . . . Like *ea* in *great*.  
*ī* . . . . . Like *ee* in *team*.  
*ō* . . . . . Like *o* in *rose*.  
*ū* . . . . . Like *oo* in *too*.  
*æ* . . . . . Long *e* with an *i*-tinge.  
*ø* . . . . . Long *o* with a *u*-tinge.  
*ɪ, ʉ* . . . . . Vowels of very short quantities.  
*ä* . . . . . As in German *wählen*.  
*a<sup>h</sup>, e<sup>h</sup>, i<sup>h</sup>, E* . . . . . Superior vowels indicated only by the position of the mouth.  
*ɛ* . . . . . Obscure vowel.  
*æ<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Like *i* in *island*.  
*au<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Like *ou* in *mouth*.  
*e<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Diphthong *e+u*.  
*q* . . . . . Velar *k*.  
*q<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Same as preceding, with very great stress of explosion.  
*ɣ* . . . . . Velar spirant produced way back in the palate, which often sounds like weak *r*.  
*x* . . . . . Like *ch* in German *Bach*.  
*g, k* . . . . . As in English, sonants and surds difficult to distinguish.  
*k<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Like *k*, with very great stress of explosion.  
*g<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Palatized *g*.  
*k<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Palatized *k*.  
*k<sup>h</sup>!* . . . . . Palatized explosive *k*.  
*x<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Palatized *ch*.  
*d, t* . . . . . As in English, surds and sonants difficult to distinguish.  
*t<sup>h</sup>* . . . . . Like *t*, with very great stress of explosion.  
*t<sup>h</sup>!* . . . . . Aspirated *t*.  
*s* . . . . . As in English.  
*ʃ* . . . . . Like *sh* in English *she*.  
*dʒ* . . . . . Like *j* in English *judge*.  
*ʒ* . . . . . As in English *sits*.  
*tʃ* . . . . . Like *ch* in English *church*.

- tsl, tcl* . . . Same as preceding, but with very great stress of explosion.  
*b, p* . . . . . As in English, surds and sonants difficult to distinguish.  
*pʰ* . . . . . Like *p*, with very great stress of explosion.  
*l, m, n* . . . . . As in English.  
 $\overset{\circ}{n}$  . . . . . Vocalized *n*.  
 $\bar{l}, \bar{m}, \bar{n}$  . . . . . Very long.  
*l̥* . . . . . Spirant lateral.  
*l̄* . . . . . Sonant lateral pronounced very much like *dl*.  
*l̥* . . . . . Surd lateral pronounced very much like *tl*.  
*lʰ* . . . . . Same as preceding, with very great stress of explosion.  
*ʔ* . . . . . Glottal catch.  
*x* . . . . . Velar aspiration.  
*xʰ* . . . . . Palatal aspiration.  
*h, y, w* . . . . . As in English.  
*ˈ* . . . . . Stress accent.  
 $\sim$  . . . . . Accent with an interrogative intonation.