

In summary then, testimony advanced by Blackfoot informants suggest the employment at infrequent intervals of native mortuary practices which might have given rise to the strange configurations known as medicine wheels. Whether the few lithic markers found scattered in Montana and Alberta can actually be derived from such practices has yet to be determined. If such would prove to be the case, it would indicate that the medicine wheels in Montana are scarcely older than the beginning of the nineteenth century. Further, such an explanation, it should be pointed out, cannot be applied to these phenomena throughout their area of distribution, whatever that may prove to be, but only to those situated in what was formerly Blackfoot territory. Those located beyond this region must obviously be studied independently and in terms of the native cultures of their own areas.