

10--Sioux Indian Paintings

Plate XV

Painting on elk-skin by the Shoshone Katsikodi. The painting is one of several executed in the early years of the twentieth century, now in the hands of private collectors and of the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles. Several have been ascribed to Charles, son of Chief Washakie, since they were presented by this Indian to his friends. The subject in each case appears to be a buffalo hunt, encompassing a central panel containing elements from the Shoshone Sun Dance (cf. Plate XX). In character and execution they stand quite by themselves in Indian art. (Collection of H. B. Alexander).

Very colorful and graphic.

Plate XVI

Enlargement of detail from Plate XV, representing the chase. Approximately size of the original.

Plate XVII

Enlargement of detail from Plate XV, representing butchering. Approximately size of the original.

Plate XVIII

Enlargement of detail from Plate XV, representing running bison. Approximately size of the original.

Plate XIX

Shoshone dance participated in only by the men. Brilliant attire, with full ornament is sought by each participant, and the dance is the occasion of much gift-giving. The wolf is a warrior symbol for many of the tribes of the Great Plains, and it is probable that this dance was originally an appeal to the wolf spirit as tutelary of those who would follow the trail in war. Today it is primarily a social occasion. Painting on muslin by Charles Washakie, son of Chief Washakie. (Collection of C. A. Carter, Los Angeles, to whom it was presented by the artist).

Plate XX

The Shoshone Sun Dance, which has taken on a certain degree of Christian symbolism. The principle symbol of the Sun Dance, present in all forms of it, for it varies among the tribes of the Great Plains, is the central pole, or forked tree. A buffalo skin or effigy, a sheaf of sage, and colored streamers emblematic of sun and sky are