

"NAñki'islas made all of the world, but not the people dwelling in it. He was always playing tricks upon the people, who often tried, but in vain, to catch him, as he was constantly changing his form.

"When he had finished making things, he finally turned himself into tca'maos, or water-stick, and usually lived in fresh water, though sometimes in the sea, especially haunting the Skeena River.

"He had ten different powers (or forms?), usually showing himself as a snag-stick, sometimes as a canoe, sometimes as a vessel like a schooner. If suitably spoken to by people, he allowed them to see the lower end of the drifting snag-stick, and this is therefore known to be in the form of a large frog covered with seaweed."

Fig. 14 shows two of these grave-box stands of a form still more common, i. e., in the shape of killer-whales. I do not know whether boxes were placed on each, or whether they rested on both at the same time.

The dead bodies of shamans, unlike those of other people, were generally deposited away from a town, on some conspicuous point along the shore. Their grave-boxes were raised upon four posts, the two front ones of which were

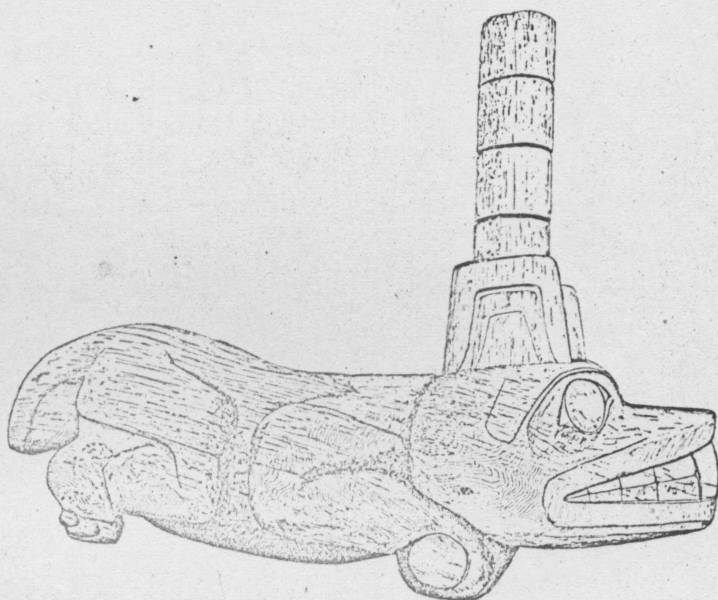


Fig. 13 (5687). Carved Support for Grave-Box, representing a Beaver.

usually carved. Fig. 15 shows a model of a Haida grave-house. Here the shaman lies on his back, his hair tied in a topknot, and his head resting on

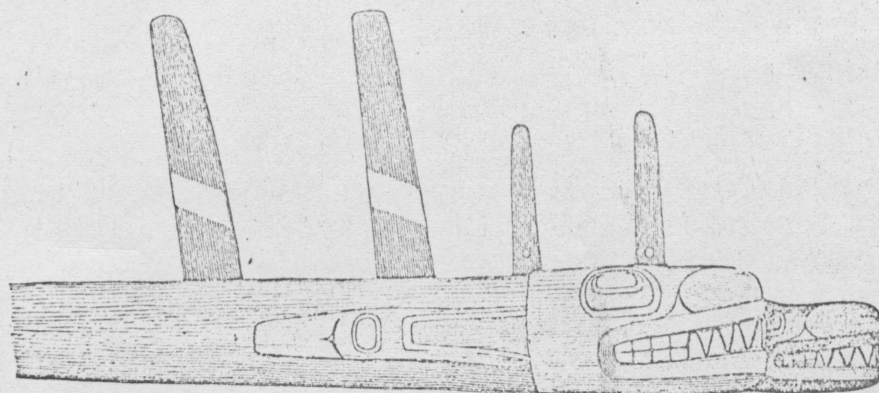


Fig. 14. Carved Support for Grave-Box, representing Killer-Whales.
(From a photograph.)

a wooden pillow. The sticks in his hands are probably his batons, and the carved figures on the posts are perhaps intended for his protecting spirits. The Haida graves I myself have seen had similar carvings on the front posts,

although differing in details. The bodies appear, however, to have been set up higher, with the knees drawn close to the body. At any rate, the distance between the carved posts was very much less, so that the measurement from front to rear was greater proportionately.



Fig. 15 (735). Model representing a Shaman's Grave-House.

I have introduced the next set of figures, (Plates IX-XII) to show the proper proportions of the various poles and posts, and to give an idea of the general appearance presented by Haida towns and houses in the olden days. The first of these shows Skidegate village when all the old houses were standing. House-poles, mortuary columns, single grave-posts, and a double grave-post may be seen. At the time when the photograph was taken that is reproduced in Plate x, many of the old houses had been abandoned, and some of European style had taken their places. The poles, however, show very much more clearly, and among them may be found many similar to those already described.

Plate XI, Fig. 1, gives an idea of the framework of an old house. It