

September

The Figures And Their Meaning. 1872

On Harold Totem Post or Gouping ^{L.S.}

Right Side of Door Coming In

The lowest figure, on this Column, is a ^{standing} Cinnammon Bear. The next above is a woman. Then an eagle, and lastly another bear. The house, inside of which this Column stood belonged to the Chief Skidegat of Skidegats town Queen Charlottes Island British Columbia who died a number of years ago. The carvings

The lowest a Cinnammon Bear, was the Crest of the Chief's wife. Amongst the Haida, every man and woman had their crest, which crest was either, bird, beast, fish, the sun, moon and the Thunder bird. The wife's crest, was placed on the base of the Column, and sometimes on top. If on bottom her husband's, was on top, and vice versa. Each Column generally had a story. The Story.

On this Column, runs thus. Very very long ago all the bears, had no claws. And then as now, was very fond of fresh salmon. Having no claws, they had great difficulty in catching them. If he managed to place his hand on one, it invariably got away; because he was unable to hold it. One day a hungry bear came to a stream. nice Salmon. After trying in vain several hours

to catch one, went out on the bank of the stream, saying.
After a while, looking heavier word, he said, 'O thou,
great and good Al-kilat-las. Thou knowest God, have
pity on me. Is there no thing on earth which may be
given me, where by I may hold these fish? If there is.
O give it to me in pity.'

An eagle sitting near by on a tree, watching him
in his trouble, and who having over heard his plaints,
took pity on him. flew down beside him, saying, I
will help you. With that, he pulled off one of his talons,
and stuck it on one of the beavers paws where it quickly
stuck, and became part of the beavers body. Now said the
eagle, go and fill your belly. Which he readily did.

Not only did the claw stick fast, but others began to grow,
until, every paw had a number. Never since has the
beaver lacked a supply of salmon, in their season.

The woman is a woman, who was found in the woods
by the beaver and became his wife.

With her as is shown by the bear above, originated the
bear family or breed.

Such is the story, as it has passed down, from sire to
son, through unknown generations

James Dennis

of Garrying D. Totem Post, First Skidegate 2. b. Hld.
This was the Inside Garrying of a house, in the village of
Skidegate Queen Charlotte Islands.

This house was the residence of the Skidegate who in 1880
was chief of the tribe of Hlaidas known by the name of Skidegate

This Chief was the sixth in succession to the first Skidegate
known as The Great, whose name ~~was~~ in 1830 was given by
the whalers to the village of Illits-Cats-geeta on the above
islands. This Skidegate, in virtue of his descent from the
one known as The Great, was entitled to all ornaments of the
Coat of arms or crest chosen by his illustrious forbear.
and also to the clan and clan crest of this chief. The figures.
The principle figures on this Totem Post are as follows

The lowest is the Thunder bird. The ^{2^d} is a man. The ^{3^d} is
a raven. In former days all the Indians on the coast of
Northwestern America, believed that thunder and lightning
was produced by an immense bird who lived amongst the
mountains and who often flew standard, in order to kill
black fish, of which, as food, it was very fond, The dark
cloud robes its body, the flapping of its wings, was the noise,
the lightning was a bolt thrown out of its beak, to kill
the fish. As Thunder its name was Clonya, as a bird its
name was Scansum, Both Skidegate and his wife were
connected with this clan. His crest was the eagle, hers
was the raven, as is shown by the carvers on the post.

F. G. September 1892

Model of Hidery Chief

This model is a Chief in full dancing dress, as they used to have amongst all the Northern tribes in British Columbia and Alaska. First he has on his head the Hidery Chilca, with sea lion whiskers enclosing eagle down. The little image in front is a young bear represented in a sitting position, along side is eight pieces of abalone shells. Down its back are forty carmine skins. Around his shoulders and down to his knees. The figure is a cloak or blanket, the figures on it is the abdilla or King of the fin-back whales, he had, as a mark of dignity five fins on its back, these are shown on each side. The figures behind and on front are one and the same, only the one behind shows the face, while the one in front, shows both face and claws. This is the Hidewa a sort of crab or lobster, said to have lived in the sea on the West Coast of Queen Charlotte Islands in by gone ages. In his right hand he holds a rattle in shape of a man's head. Around his shoulders is the Scamash willie sash. The red and white on the dots and the red and white fringes, indicate a very high social standing connected with the bear and his back whale. The wood from which it is carved is yellow cedar *Cupressus nootkatensis*. Yours respectfully

James Dean

Names and Significations of the Haidi Paintings and
Carvings in this Museum.

This Totem post No. 2 on the one on the left going inside
stood inside of an old house at Skidegate. It belonged
to and was built by a Skidegate who lived about 1860
to and was built by a Skidegate who lived about 1860
When making this post, so anxious was he to have a good
one that he sent to Masset for Charly Edensaw, then
the best carver on this coast. Of course it cost a large
sum to make it. The most of the carvings show him to
be a decendant of Skidegate. The Great ^{The Figures}
fig The lowest, is the Thunder bird above a mans head.
The lowest is the Thunder bird above a mans head,
and whale. The next is a man with a hat and Tadem?
or Skeel of two degrees. On top is a figure which looks
just like a bear. The two little figures on each side, appear
like a bear. The two little figures on each side appear
to be old Skidegates cats. If so they are two brothers
sons of a former Skidegate. The eldest first became chief,
then when he died the brother, whose name was Nasta-
-Canna became Skidegate. The head below is the chief.
The bird and whale is his crest. The Tadem Skeel shows
this. When this house was built, he was a chief of two degrees
under The bear on top is doubtless his wife's crest. She it was
bird who brought the bear crest to Skidegate, she was a daughter
of Chief Skidance of the tribe of that name. In
long these figures I have explained them all as correctly as
book is possible for me to do. If I have made any mistakes I
shall be glad to be corrected. James Deans Native

The Man and Raven

The man is a man and it may mean Skedigat himself.
The raven is his wife, while at same time it represents, the
Hadian god Ne-kilst-las, to whom the raven is sacred.

It also represents the following story.

Long ago on an island, some where in the Pacific Ocean,
all the men were either killed in war or died from
sickness, leaving women only on the whole island.

From these lone women, a long and doleful cry for
husbands went up to God Ne-kilst-las, who after
donning his coat of raven feathers, picked up a man and
flew with him over to the island, where he left him to the
women.