



Sculptured stone slab
dug out of the earth in 1919 Kispay
Steeena River BC

very old & unique in
design

WBl

STONE IS CREST OF INDIAN TRIBE

Victorian Solves History of Carving Unearthed at Kispiox

Prince Rupert, Oct. 7.—W. Beynon, of Victoria has been investigating the native carved stone that was discovered recently at Kispiox. It was dug up by some workmen who were making a road and thrown to one side with the rest of the dirt and rock. A native woman who was passing saw it and told her people about it.

Mr. Beynon says that there is nothing prehistoric about the stone. It is the crest of the Gitsen tribe of Indians and on one of the totems at Kispiox is found the same emblem.

It was rather a difficult matter looking up the history of the stone. Mr. Beynon visited the district and took no apparent interest in the new find. He went to the older people and talked to them about their early history and traditions and got them to sing their dirge songs in which the traditions of the tribes are recounted. In some of these dirge songs the two stones are mentioned, the crest, the history of which he was investigating and the big stone on which the slaves were sacrificed.

Mr. Beynon says that the stone will be the excuse for a good many celebrations during the coming winter and the village possessing it will come in for a good many presents, and much honor. That is the chief reason why they refuse to part with it. It was brought to its present site when the Indians migrated years ago and is probably several hundred years old.



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT AGENT'S OFFICE

Smithers, B. C., Sept. 16, 1919.

F. Kermodé Esq.,
Director,
Provincial Museum,
Victoria, B. C.

Provincial Museum
VICTORIA, B. C.

Rec'd SEP 22 1919

Ans'd

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 23rd. ult. regarding the Stone-slab being unearthed recently near the Kispiox Village I now beg to inform you that, up to last week the stone was in the possession of an Indian by the name of Billy Williams of Kispiox, since when, I am informed, a Mr. Beynon of Port Simpson was in Hazelton in the interests of two museums in New York and Philadelphia.

Mr. Beynon stated in haste to my informant as he was leaving Hazelton that he had made "good connections" and would write to my informant "the full account of the stone and its history."

My informant has supplied me with a Film of the stone for which he is asking the sum of \$2.00, and he also tells me that he has a good wax impression of a part of this stone. The stone, it was stated, was found on the Government wagon road about 1½ miles from Kispiox Village in a Northerly direction, but I have been unable to learn whether it was found on the Kispiox Indian Reserve.

I would be glad to be informed if you desire to purchase the Film that I now have in my possession.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

Supervisor

Government Agent.

SHH/AJ.

28A-19

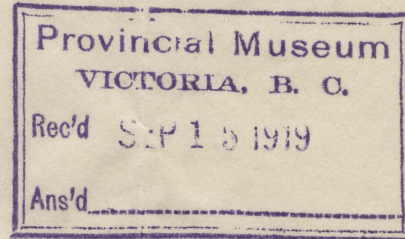


THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

GOVERNMENT AGENT'S OFFICE

Smithers, B. C., Sept. 8, 1919.

F. Kermodé Esq.,
Director,
Provincial Museum,
Victoria, B. C.



Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 23rd. ult. re a stone slab being unearthed recently near Kispiox Village, I regret to say at the present time I am not in possession of any authentic information, but will endeavour to procure same, which will be passed on to you upon receipt.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to see the stone in question. I am informed one of the Indians in the Kispiox Village, a distance of nine miles from Hazelton took possession of it and claims it as a tribal relic.

I will also endeavour to procure photos of this curio.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

Stephens

SHH/AJ.

Government Agent.

284-19

Ominera Hotel

JOHN UREN, MANAGER

HAZELTON, B. C.

Aug 16 / 20.

Dear Frank -

I saw the Indian here yesterday who owns that stone. He told me that someone had offered him \$200 and will be here in a month or so to take it up, but that he would take 160 quick sale. If you can possibly manage it, I would buy, for it is unique in every respect, and is the only one I have seen anything like it. If you wish to correspond, write Billy Williams, (Indian) Kispiaq near ~~the~~ Hazelton. Give him particular instructions re packing and shipping etc. if you busy.

Sincerely

Walter B Anderson

313-20

