

Totem Poles

Dadens Bartlett June 23, 1791

SKETCH p. 36

"We went ashore where one of their winter houses stood. The entrance was cut out of a large tree and carved all the way up and down. The door was like a man's head and the passage into the house was between his teeth and was built before they knew the use of iron...."

Dadens Douglas 1789 June

"The great wooden amages of Tartane"

Dadens Ingraham July 10 1791

"I went in the boat accompanied by Cow to view 2 pillars which were situated in the front of a village about a quarter of a mile distant from our vessel [moored Hensley B] on the north shore, they were about 40 feet in height carved in a very curious manner indeed - representing Men, Toads, etc the whole of which I thought did great credit to the naturall genius of these people, in one of the Houses of this village the door was through the mouth of one of the before-mentioned Images, in another was a large square pit with seats all round

Dadens Marchand Aug 1791

"superb frontal in sculpture which distinguished the habitations" p. 269

General

Hoskins Aug 1791 at Masset: Natives live in scattered

<sup>wretched</sup> huts during summer "... but their best villages are neatly and regularly built the houses end with pitched roofs in front as a large post reaching above the roof neatly carved but with the most detested figures at the bottom as an oval or round hole which as either  
p233 the mouth or belly of some deformed object this serves for a door way..." (Hosken Anthony, Kedans, Masset, Dadens)

Kumata

1794

July Magee "Jefferson" (Roberts)  
 Captain, carpenter, and some of the crew  
 planed, smoothed, and erected a pole for  
 Cunneyah at his request. Later raised a  
 "toad" figure and set it on top, and attended  
 potlatch.

Bouvier calls the pole "a sepulture of a  
 daughter of Cunneyah's" (he read the journal)

In 1799 the journal of the "Eliza" described this pole:

"... the only thing I saw which had any idea  
 of proportion, was a Pillar by the side of Cunneyah's  
 house on top of which was a figure intended to  
 represent a bear; the figure and pillar were  
 both painted red with ochre the teeth, eyes,  
 nostrils, and the inside of the ears (which were  
 stuck forward) of the animal were made of  
 mother of pearl shell, ..."

In Cunneyah's village  
 of 8 houses.

Dadens

1799

at "Altatalee's village of Tatane", where there were  
 "the large number of two houses", there were  
 "two images that were at a short distance from  
 them which Altatalee told me were intended  
 to represent two Chiefs, that were his relatives  
 (or rather they were his ancestors for they  
 looked as if they were upwards of a hundred  
 years of age) ..."

(at Kumata, in addition to above): "at the right hand of the  
 village as you go to it were a number of wooden  
 structures raised I suppose over the bodies of their  
 dead chiefs ... some a solid square piece of timber  
 about 15 feet high on which were carved the figures  
 of men and children" J.

- 1795  
Skedans  
Bishop "Luby" June 20, 1795  
... islands called Lenna Huen on which their  
chief Comswa and his tribe have their habitations  
during the summer. ... on the Point there are some  
High Images, intended to represent Human figures  
there are several monuments erected with some  
degree of order and I understand this as the place  
where they bury their dead." p 88
- 1817  
Roquefeuil. Sept. 26 Nassat - is "particularly remark-  
able for the monstrous and colossal figures which  
decorate the houses of the principal inhabitants,  
and the wide gaping mouths of which serve as a  
door" p 81.
- 1829 Green  
Skidegate ... before the door of many of them  
[30-40 houses] stood a large mask carved in the  
form of the human countenance, of the dog, wolf,  
etc., neatly painted." p 84

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Argillite

1845 Dunn, speaking of 1839's. (Harris)

"A soft kind of stone is found, resembling slate, which the Indians make into pipes, ornamented with various figures cut upon them resembling men and animals" p 411

1829 Green "Their pipes, which they make of a kind of slate stone, are curiously wrought" p 86

1840 Scudder. "They fabricate most of the curiosities found on the coast in 1825"

1867 Brown. "elaborately ornamented pipes, flutes, statuettes, platters, et." p

Barbeau: Haida Myths p. 2 "This soft mineral, it has been recorded, was discovered by white men at the beginning of the nineteenth century." [What evidence?]

Refers to a pipe collected 1821-22 by J Halkett, in HBC museum in Winnipeg.

Earliest records 1821-22, 1824-30, 1836-38  
1819 (Kaufman)

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