

301-2-5 Jan 19

Kitkuan Social Organization

Required Reading: Doucker Ch. 3, 6.

Recommended: Duff - Kitwancool.

Move on to Social Organization

Great variety in BC.  
Can't summarize all  
BC tribes.

I am going to  
make it as  
real as possible by  
I want you to ask questions

Specific examples: Kitkuan  
Kitwancool  
One particular "house".

We will keep in mind 3 principles of Soc. Org - the way social groups  
are formed and social life is regulated

A. Groups based on co-residence "tribes"  
share geog. area. "local groups"  
weak on NWC

B. Groups based on kinship "lineage"  
extension of kinship bonds "patrilineal"  
strong on NWC.

C. Social rank

among Kitksan

A. largest local (political) groups are tribes - 7 tribes  
eg. Kitwanooc.

B. largest kin groups cut across the tribes & phratries.

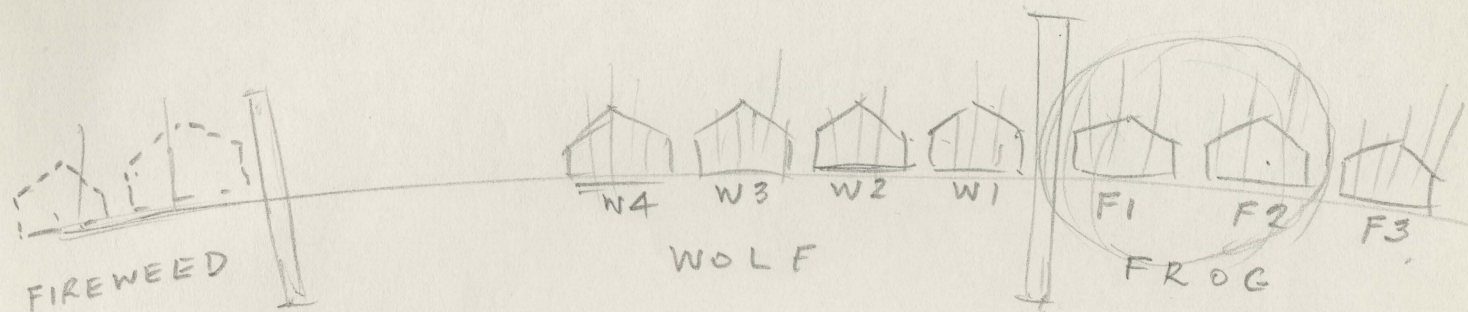
- Recognized as kin not only families of actual blood relat<sup>n</sup> but also those presumed to be related because similar histories & crests. like 3 super-families
- |                        |                    |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <u>Frog</u> (Raven) | Laksail<br>Ganhada | in all 7 tribes |
| 2. <u>Wolf</u>         | Lakgiboo           | in 6.           |
| 3. <u>Fireweed</u>     | Gisgabast          | in 3 or 4       |
| 4. <u>Eagle</u>        | Lakskeek           | only Kitwanga.  |

Felt related : regulated marriage (exogamous)  
: helped at potlatches.

3/ Kitwanoool: (as of 1910)

1. Units making up the tribe were the "Houses"

House of 2 (3) phratris



House - eg F2

- named from chief wilps/lohon (Lohon chief)  
house of Lohon

- politically independent - own territories

- names, dances, history, songs  
the functioning units

but aware of relationship to others

Lineage: eg F2 & F1.

- formerly a single house (similar names, customs, etc)

Phratry: All Frogs (all Wolves)

2. Ranking within tribe

a. Phratris were ranked

1. Wolf
2. Frog
3. Fireweed.

b. Houses were ranked

- as seen in village layout of houses

- as seen in potlatch seats

4

Seating:  
in house

WOLF						FROG					
6	5	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

- center seats highest  
 x successors sit in front.

Order of rank W1, F1, W2, F2, W3, F3 etc.

at potlatches, order and amount of gifts in this order.

### 3 "Chieftainship" -

social rank was not the same as political power

No tribal chief [Tsimshian did have tribal chiefs]

[Kitwanoool "President"]

Each house chief controlled his own house

(Tribe an uneasy aggregation of 'houses')

### 4 "Social Class"

Slaves - (a few) a caste, outside social system  
 Captives or purchased  
 hereditary  
 regarded as property, wealth

Had words for  
nobility

lakakiget (headmen)

not classes

Commoners  
 (freemen)

wa'ain (never  
 heal)

7/  
b. Each house had stock of names

Each person might have a series of names - baby  
- boy or girl  
- adult  
- chief.  
for boys } 62 collected by  
girls } Barham from  
men } F2.  
women }

Childrens names - belong to mother's family, but also cross-phratric  
(become adult names) identify phratry of father

- loxon "in eating salmon" (about 1900)

boys become  
chiefs name

lo | x | c' | n | am | tsam | ran | lo' | t | xski'k  
in | a | salmon | in | set | Eagle  
identify father's phratry

Eagle eating salmon in his nest

- ni-gamks 'on sunshine' (on the fin of blackfish)  
sunshine glinting on fin of blackfish.  
(on wings of eagle) etc

- wataxkibu "great wolf"  
(like a " " is the spring of bear)

Mens names : naxox or spirit names.

"Above Sky" - dog of the sky headdress, performer barked

"Deaf" - figure with fan like ears operated by strings  
goes around "listening" to people.

"Begging" - mask - begged, then gave gifts worth twice the amount.

Conceited women

Man of the Hills

Man with bucket face

Had all sorts of Masks  
Figures  
Props

(in museums)