

large boxes at the top of totem or crest poles, and others were buried thinly under ground, a rude shed being built over the grave, in which were placed articles belonging to the departed.

The word "potlatch" means a gift. The word, as used in British Columbia, means the act of giving away property, usually in honor of the dead. When this was the case, the person giving the property away would assume the name and titles of the departed. Sometimes a man is anxious to be made a chief, and for years he accumulates property, consisting of trade blankets, boxes of pilot-bread, bales of cotton, mats of rice, furs, etc. A time is appointed for the distribution of the property. Messengers are sent to the various villages lying around, to give invitations to the gathering. The people, young and old, assemble at the appointed time. At first a feast is given. Spokesmen of the chief, after the meal, state the reasons for calling the people together, tell of the deeds of valor, the rank, the greatness of him in whose honor the potlatch is given. The