

The accompanying illustrations will enable a reader to judge for himself whether or no the Sproat Lake artist intended to give a representation of this marvellous beast. A group of three similarly marked in the Nanaimo also closely resemble it. The outline sketch is from a drawing by the late Judge Swan,

The dotted design is copied from an etching of a haletlik on the barb of a large whale harpoon in my own collection, having been used as a charm according to the superstition just recorded, and the last figure was copied by me from a design on a West Coast chief's hat at the Field Museum at Chicago, which could only be used by the members of a certain family. The upper two parts stand for the nose and mouth and were placed on the front of the hat. The lower part stood for the head, of which the eye and the hooked ear are the conspicuous features. In all of these figures it will be noticed that the ear is an essential part and in the highly conventionalized symbol last mentioned, it is as marked as in Haida drawings, the dorsal fin of the killer-whale, or the incisor teeth and scaly tail of the beaver.

Even if the above identification is correct, it is still a matter of doubt whether the carving was intended as a memorial, or whether it had something to do with the prolonged period of solitary probation through which candidates for admission into the secret societies had to pass, during which they sometimes had to illustrate, as well as they were able, the spirits with which they held communion, and which usually seem to have been those with which they had become acquainted by the tradition of their tribe.

The tools used were of the simplest description. The surface selected being usually of sandstone, it was not very difficult work to peck out any particular design with the aid of a pointed stone of harder material.

Before leaving the subject mention should be made of the pictographs found in all parts of the province, no-

tably at Nicola and Harrison Lakes. These are usually drawn with red ochre and details in black paint are sometimes added. An unusually fine specimen was reported to Captain Walbran a few years ago by the light-keeper at Pointer Island as existing on a vertical rock face on the north side of Port John, not far from Bella Bella. Captain Walbran visited the place soon after, and at his suggestion I also examined the paintings.

After climbing a very steep, narrow trail, which was artificially obstructed at intervals by rows of large, moss-grown boulders, we found an ancient burial place consisting of the naturally terraced cliff. Above the few human remains were a number of large figures painted in red. Some were thunder-birds, others were ravens and whales, while a larger part were of mythical beings. There was no standing room for a camera, so we were unable to do more than take a few sketches.

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