

Plates 38, 39 & 40 belong to this paper

THE HOUSES OF THE KWAKIUTL INDIANS,* BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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No. 130414 of the Catalogue of the Ethnological Collections of the U. S. National Museum is a model of a house from Fort Rupert, British Columbia (Fig. 1). Though the model is very rough it is of considerable interest, as it shows the carved posts which are characteristic of these houses and as the figures in it represent one of the winter dances in which masked men make their appearance.

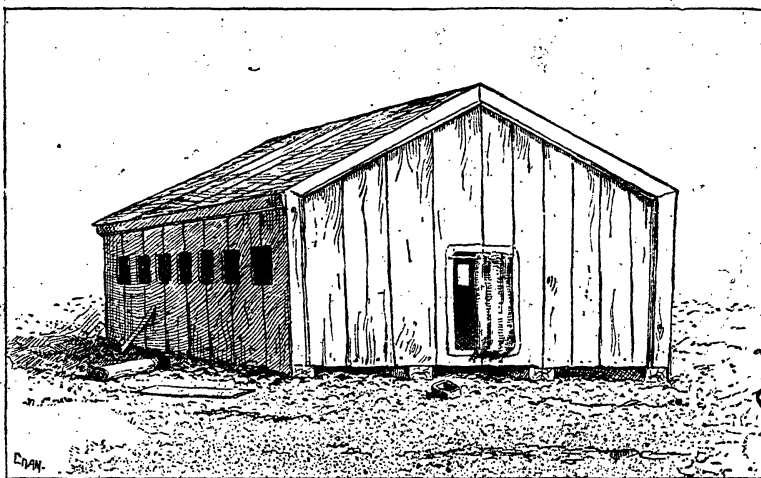


FIG. 1. Model of a Kwakiutl house, Fort Rupert, B. C. 130414.

In the following pages I shall describe the plan of the Indian house and the meaning of the posts according to observations made in British Columbia, 1886-'87. The model is a plain wooden house with a gable roof, one side of which is moveable on hinges, thus allowing the student to look into the interior. The door is covered with a curtain, and windows admit the light. The pieces of wood forming the walls of the house are nailed to a frame. This arrangement does not correspond to the real arrangement of the Indian house, as will be seen by the follow-

* In the present paper the alphabet of the Bureau of Ethnology has been adopted. The vowels are pronounced as in Italian, the consonants as in English, with the following exceptions and additions:

ē = e in power.

c = sh in shoe.

q = ch in German bach.

ȳ = ch in German ich.

Ʒ = guttural k, almost kr.

ç = th in thin.

tl = an explosive sound produced by laying the back of the tongue against the palate and pressing forth the air on both sides of the tongue.