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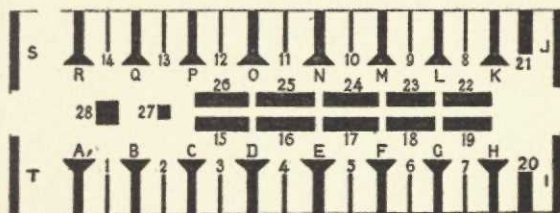
HALL 105.

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Ethnological Collections from the North  
Pacific Coast of America.



# HALL 105.



## ETHNOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS FROM THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST OF AMERICA.

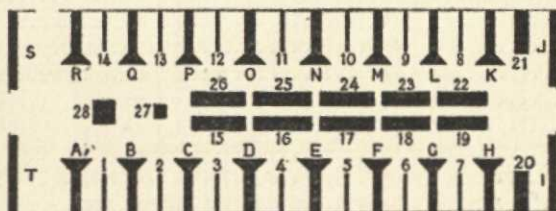
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MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF TRIBES.



PLAN OF HALL 105.

## HALL 105.

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THE collections in this hall consist of the Bishop Collection from northern British Columbia, which was donated to the Museum by Mr. Heber R. Bishop; the two Emmons Collections from Alaska, which were purchased in the years 1888 and 1894; the collections made by the Jesup North Pacific Expedition during the years 1897-1900; a portion of the Terry Collection; and a number of collections of minor importance.

### TRIBES OF THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST OF AMERICA.

In Cases A-E a general exhibit has been arranged, illustrating the fundamental traits of the culture of the North Pacific coast of America.

Case A contains a number of large boxes such as are used in the Indian houses of this region, a dancer representing a bear, and a group illustrating the method of supplying firewood. **Case A.**

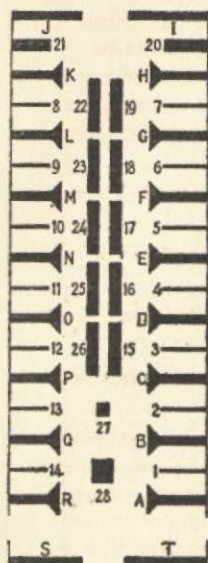
In their industries the people utilize to a great extent the red and yellow cedar. The wood of the former is used for making planks for building houses, for boxes, canoes, and large carved poles. **B 1.**

Blankets are made of the bark of the yellow cedar. Arrow-shafts, harpoon-shafts, and quivers are made of the same material. The bark of this tree serves for making aprons, mats, baskets, and ropes of different sizes. **1.**

The importance of the yellow and red cedar is illustrated in the group case in the centre of the hall. A woman is seen making a cedar-bark mat, rocking her infant, which is bedded in cedar-bark, the cradle being moved by means of **28.**



- Case** a cedar-bark rope attached to her toe. Another woman is shredding cedar-bark, to be used for making aprons. A man is taking red-hot stones out of the fire with tongs made of cedar-wood, and is about to place the stones in a cedar box. The Indians have no kettles or pots, but cook in boxes, heating the water by means of red-hot stones. A second man is engaged in painting a box. A young woman is drying fish over the fire.
- 27.** Houses are also built of cedar planks. They are large square structures, arranged in a row, with a level street in front.
- B 2.** Hard woods are used for making spoons, rattles, masks, and fish-clubs. Spruce-root serves for making beautiful basketry.
- B 3.** The people subsist principally upon fish, which is preserved for winter use ; but roots, berries, and hemlock-sap are also dried and eaten.
- 1.** Skins of animals are worn as clothing, and utilized for making bags and armor. Strong ropes are made of thong.
- B 4.** A great variety of animal material is used for various purposes. Porcupine-quills serve for making paint-brushes and for embroidery. Abalone shell is made into ear and nose ornaments, and used for inlaying wood-work. Sharks' teeth are used as ear-pendants, and feathers of birds and bristles of sea-lions also serve as ornaments. Large heavy implements and weapons are made of bone of the whale.
- B 6.** Owing to the importance of the cedar-tree in the manufactures of the Indians, their principal industry is wood-work. Formerly their tools were made of stone. They consist of mauls, wedges, axes, chisels, and adzes.
- Stone tools were made by battering hard stones with other still harder stones, and breaking off little flakes until the implement attained the desired shape. Other stones were cut by means of gritstones. The Indians did not practise the art of flaking arrow-heads or knives by means of pressure, as is done by most tribes.
- B 8.** Boxes are made of two pieces. A long plank is bent so as to form the sides of the box. The ends are sewed together, and the bottom is pegged or sewed on to the sides.
- B 7.** The Indians do much carving, for which purpose they use a great number of small tools. Large stones serve as pile-drivers.
- B 9.** The implements for making basketry are few and simple. Shell knives for cutting the roots or bark into strips are the principal ones. Baskets and mats are woven on simple frames. A large variety of basketry is found.
- B 10.** The making of horn spoons requires a set of very special tools, in which the bowl and the handle are moulded after having been steamed.



For painting, brushes made of porcupine-quills are used. Simple outlines of forms, of which complicated designs are composed, are drawn by means of cedar-bark patterns. A number of mineral colors are made use of. Rope is made of cedar-bark, thongs, kelp, and sinew. Line for nets is made of nettle. Mountain-goat wool and cedar-bark are spun into long two-stranded threads, which are used for weaving beautiful blankets. Recently the Indians have learned the art of making silver spoons and silver bracelets out of coins.

**Case 2.**

The household furniture consists principally of boxes, baskets, wooden dishes, trays, stone dishes, and spoons.

**B 11 & 12.**

Skins are not used for garments as much as bark of the yellow cedar. The complete dress consists of apron, blanket, belt, and hat.

**C 1.**

The number of ornaments worn is considerable. In Alaska and northern British Columbia women wear lip-ornaments, which custom does not prevail farther to the south. Nose and ear ornaments are used all along the coast. The face is painted with elaborate designs. Bracelets made of bone, copper, brass, or iron, are much worn.

**C 2.**

On festive occasions they wear painted garments, such as aprons, shirts, blankets, and hats.

**C 3.**

The chief's dancing-costume is most elaborate, and consists of a woven blanket, a beautiful head-dress with ermine-tail, and a woven apron.

**C 4-10.**

The country is difficult to travel over, and travel and transportation are therefore almost entirely by canoe. Different types of canoe are used on different parts of the coast.

**C 11.**

When peeling off the bark of trees, the Indians have to climb to considerable heights, for which purpose they use a climbing-apparatus.

**C 11.**

The principal occupation of the people is fishing, hunting being of much less importance. Salmon are caught in traps and in large nets. Halibut are caught by means of hooks attached to long lines. The fish, before being hauled into the canoe, are killed with fish-clubs. Sea-otter and seal are killed by means of harpoons.

**C 12.**

**3.**

**Case C 13, D 1.** In olden times the Indians were very warlike. Their weapons consisted of heavy clubs and lances, daggers and slings. They used protective armor. The cuirass was made of slats of wood, rods, or elk-hide. A wooden helmet covered the head, and a visor covered the face. Greaves were used on the legs.

**3.** The trade and barter of these people were quite extensive. Shells from California, ivory from the Arctic, iron from Siberia, Chinese coins, and objects of Indian manufacture from the interior, were found among them at the time when they were first discovered. The standard of value is the blanket.

**D 2.** Musical instruments are few in number. The tambourine, a large box drum, which latter is struck with the fist, flutes, whistles of various kinds, and rattles are used to accompany songs.

**3, 4, D 3-E 4.** The decorative art of the Indians is characterized by the attempt to represent each object as symbolizing an animal, the animal form being dissected and distorted until it fits the form of the implement to be decorated. Sometimes large portions of the animal are omitted, so that some one part of its body is used as its symbol. The animals most frequently represented are the beaver, bear, killer-whale, whale, raven, and eagle. In Alaska, basketry is made which shows a variety of geometrical designs.

A full description of these cases is given in the Bulletin of the Museum, Vol. IX, No. X, which may be consulted in the Library or had at the door.

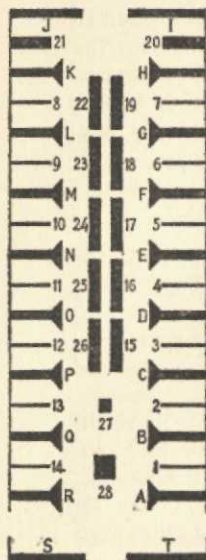
**E 6 & 7.** All the tribes of this region are divided into groups of families which have animals for their crests. These crest-animals are worn as masks on festive occasions, they are carved on posts standing in front of the houses, and they are used to decorate implements of daily use.

**E 8 & 9.** Festivals are celebrated on all occasions that are of importance to the individual or to the family group. The greater the number of festivals that a person has given, the higher is his rank. The number of such festivals is indicated by the more or less elaborate ornaments worn by the host. The forms of the ornaments differ in different families.

## TRIBES OF SOUTHERN ALASKA.

**5-7, E 10-H 12.** The industries, household utensils, and clothing of the Alaskan Indians are exhibited in the same order as the specimens illustrating the general culture of the North Pacific coast: basketry (Case E 10 and 11); weaving (Cases 5, 6); boxes (Cases E 12, F 1 and 2, and Case 7); spoons and tools (Case F 3); fish-clubs, armor, and dress (Case F 4); stone implements (Cases G 9-12 and H 1-4).





According to the ideas of the Alaskan Indians, sickness may be cured with the help of spirits, who are at the command of certain medicine-men. When trying to cure a sick person, the medicine-man uses masks representing the spirit which helps him. These embrace a variety of forms. Many are personifications of animals, while others represent fabulous beings or old men and women. These representations are worn not only on faces, but also in the form of small masks, which are attached to head-bands.

Case  
F 6-13,  
G 1 & 2.

It is believed that certain parts of the bodies of animals, particularly their tongues, are of great power in assisting the medicine-man. Such tongues are wrapped up in bundles and carried on the person of the medicine-man. He also wears peculiar necklaces and head-rings made of cedar-bark. The voices of the spirits are imitated by means of whistles.

G 4.

G 5.

Graves are decorated with carvings, some of which represent spirits, while others represent the crest of the family to which the deceased belonged, or spirits which are intended to keep away evil influences from the grave and from the survivors.

G 6 & 7.

In all ceremonies, particularly in those performed by medicine-men, rattles are much used. Many of these represent birds carrying curious figures on their backs; while others, of round shape and perforated, represent sun or moon.

G 9-12.

In trying to cure sick people, or in endeavoring to ward off evil influences from the tribe, the medicine-men make use of dancing-wands. These represent the weapons used in warfare, and are intended to drive away evil spirits.

H 1-4.

When preparing for his work, the medicine-man often sleeps on a carved pillow, which it is believed will help him in obtaining a vision, by means of which he will effect the cure.

H 6.

The pipes of the Alaskan Indians are elaborately decorated, most of them representing animals or combinations of animals.

20.

All their utensils are elaborately decorated with animal designs.

21.

## TRIBES OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The industries, household utensils, and clothing of the Indians of northern British Columbia are exhibited in the same order as the specimens illustrating

I & J.

**Case I & J.** the general culture of the North Pacific coast : household utensils (Case J 7 and 6) ; basketry, fish-hooks, stone-work (Case J 6 and adjoining sections) ; carvings in slate (Case J 4) ; ceremonial whistles (Case J 2 and 1) ; rattles and masks used at festivals of family groups and in religious ceremonials (Case I). Remarkable head-dresses set with sea-lion bristles (Case I 2) are used by chiefs on festive occasions, while others (Case I 3) belong to sacred ceremonials.

## BELLA COOLA TRIBE.

**8, K & L.** The Bella Coola inhabit the head of a deep inlet in the central part of the coast of British Columbia, and their culture is considerably affected by that of the inland tribes, with whom they have always traded.

**L 8.** They preserve their provisions in coarse baskets made of cedar-bark, and in boxes made of bark or wood.

**L 6-4.** They also use birch-bark baskets, the art of making which was learned from tribes living in the interior. Their household utensils and most of their tools are similar to those of other coast tribes.

**Celling, centre of hall.** Very large nets are used in catching olachen, a small fat fish, of which they catch considerable quantities in early spring. The fish are tried out in canoes or in large boxes. For this work they require various implements for lifting and handling the hot stones and for skimming off the oil.

**L 7.**

**L 6.** A peculiar form of pile-driver is found in this region.

**L 4.** The Bella Coola use snow-shoes much more extensively than other coast tribes.

**K 1-4.** This tribe is also divided into family groups, each of which have animal crests. They believe in a number of deities living in the centre of the sky. Some of these represent sun and moon.

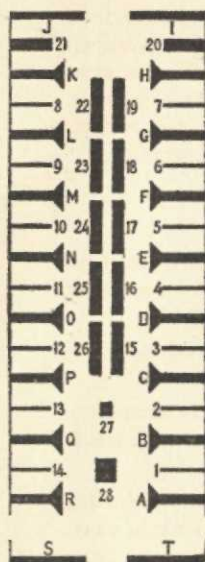
**K 7.** Ten deities guard the sunrise.

**K 9.** Four brothers are believed to live with the gods, and to carry out their commands.

**K 10 & 11.** A number of deities guard other natural phenomena, such as the blooming of flowers, the daily and annual course of the sun, and thunder-storms.

A full description of these cases is given in the *Memoirs of the Museum*, Vol. II, Part II, which may be consulted in the Library or had at the door.

**K 12.** Some of the deities in heaven initiate man into certain religious ceremonies, one of which consists in ceremonial cannibalism. Beings which are believed to possess the cannibal during his trance are shown in the form of masks.



A number of deities of lesser importance make their appearance in the religious ceremonial. All of these play an important part in the mythology of the tribe.

**Case**  
**L 1 & 2.**

## TRIBES OF VANCOUVER ISLAND.

The principal tribes of Vancouver Island are the Kwakiutl and the Nootka. The household furniture, tools and hunting implements of the former are exhibited in Case N 12-6. At their feasts they use large dishes carved in the form of animals.

**N 12-6.**

A variety of objects are used as standards of value. Old lids of boxes, dentalium shells, copper and brass bracelets, serve this purpose. Records are kept by means of tally-sticks.

**N 5.**

This tribe also is divided into family groups, which are believed to be descended from animals. At their festivals they wear masks representing their mythical ancestors. Since the number of family groups in this tribe is very large, there exists a great variety of forms of masks. In

**N 4-  
M 10.**

some cases we find double masks, the outer representing the ancestor in animal form, the inner the ancestor in human form. The religious ceremonies of the tribe are performed in winter. These consist largely of mimic representations of myths, the most important of which is that of the Cannibal.

A mask representing the spirit of the Cannibal Society is used in many ceremonies.

**M 8.**

There is a great variety of masks representing supernatural beings. In many of the ceremonials, badges made of cedar-bark are worn.

**M 7-1,  
L 12-9.**

Some of these badges are characteristic of the Cannibal Society, others of the Ghost Society and Grisly Bear Society.

**11, 12,  
& L 9.**

On rocks and boulders on Vancouver Island numerous carvings are found which were made by the Indians. Most of these are family crests or commemorate important events.

**9.**

The household utensils and hunting implements of the Nootka resemble those of the northern tribes. They are, however, much simpler in form, showing less attempt at decoration. These people make a peculiar fine basketry, which consists of cedar-bark covered with a fine grass dyed in various colors.

**13, 14,  
O 12-10.**



**Case** The Nootka are whale-hunters. While the northern tribes use only the  
**O 9.** blubber of stranded whales, the Nootka pursue them in their canoes, and kill them with large harpoons.

**O 8.** The style of hat worn by this tribe differs somewhat from the hats worn farther to the north.

**O 7-1.** The religious ceremonials of the Nootka seem to be borrowed from those of their northern neighbors, but the masks and ornaments used in their dances are much less artistic than those of the tribes of northern British Columbia. Most of their masks are not hollowed out, but bent out of boards. A comparison of the ancient masks and the more modern types shows a considerable degeneration of their art.

**13.** Painted curtains, drums, and ornaments of cedar-bark, are used in their ceremonials.

## TRIBES OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

**P 1-4** The peculiar characteristics of the culture of the North Pacific coast appear much less marked among the tribes of Washington. Their carvings recall the northern art, but they are much coarser.

**P 1 & 2.** The medicine-man performs his incantations with the help of images representing his guardian spirit. These are carried in the hand like wands, and not used as masks, as is the case among the tribes of Alaska. The pile-drivers used by these Indians have handles, while those of the north are round. Spoons and dishes made of the horn of the big-horn sheep are used. Most of these are obtained by trade from the tribes of the interior.

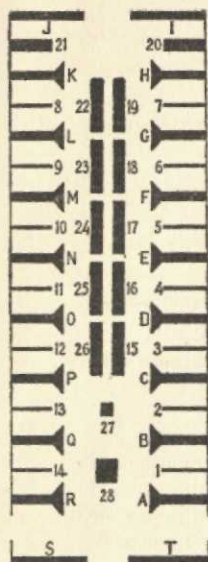
**P 3 & 4.** The forms and designs of basketry used on the coast of Washington are much more varied than those found in British Columbia. While in the northern regions matting is principally made of cedar-bark, here we find it made of rushes.

## TRIBES OF THE INTERIOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

**P 6-** The culture of the tribes of the interior of British Columbia resembles that  
**R 12.** of the coast tribes only slightly. It is much more like the culture of the tribes of the Western plateaus of North America.

**R 6-8.** Skin is used here very extensively. Formerly the garments of both men and women were made of deer-skin, which was prepared by the women. At the present time the people wear white man's clothing.





In the western parts of this country coiled basketry is made, which is decorated with color designs representing animals, mountains, lightning, arrow-heads.

Case  
R 1-3,  
R 10-12.

A full description of the collections of basketry is given in the Memoirs of the Museum, Vol. II, Part V, which may be consulted in the Library or had at the door.

Baskets made of birch-bark are also used.

Q 11.

Pieces of buffalo-skin were obtained by trade from the tribes east of the mountains, and worked into garments.

Q 10.

Mats were formerly made of rushes and sagebrush-bark. Head-dresses were made of skins and feathers.

Q 9.

Q 6.

The implements of warfare were spears, stone axes, wooden clubs, and bows and arrows. The body was protected by armor made of rods or of wooden slabs.

Q 3.

Infants are carried in cradles, most of which are made of basketry or birch-bark.

Q 1 & 2.

The ceremonials of these people are very simple, and no masks, such as are used on the coast, are found.

Q 4.

A full description of this culture is given in the Memoirs of the Museum, Vol. II, Part IV, which may be consulted in the Library or had at the door.

### MISCELLANEOUS TRIBES.

A number of large objects from the coast and the interior of British Columbia have been placed here. A number of tent-poles from Alaska show the designs characteristic of certain family groups. A large plank, wedges and maul, illustrate the method of splitting cedars. There are also a number of large spears and harpoons, nets, and traps used in fishing.

S.

A series of canoes from northern Alaska illustrates the different types used by Eskimo and Indian.

T.

### PREHISTORIC TRIBES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The prehistoric culture of the North Pacific coast is illustrated by a series of objects found in excavations. The specimens prove that in early times the culture was similar to that of the present Indians inhabiting this region.

**Case** A small collection illustrates the materials used by the prehistoric people.  
**26,** For securing food, lance-points, arrow-points, knives, harpoons, sap-scrappers,  
**EAST SIDE.** and digging-sticks were used.

**25,** Food was prepared by crushing and grinding it with pestles in mortars or  
**EAST SIDE.** on hand-mills. Stone knives served for cutting meat, which was boiled by means of heated stones. The habitations were underground houses similar to those of the present Indians. Among the tools used by the men we find a number of beautiful axes and chisels of hard green stone, which were cut out by means of gritstones. Stone knives, stone drills, and whetstones are also found.

**25,** Women used stone and bone scrapers for preparing skins, and awls and  
**WEST SIDE.** needles for sewing. Most of the stone implements were chipped with flakers. Weapons used in war consisted of bone daggers, and clubs made of bone of the whale, of elk-antler, or of copper.

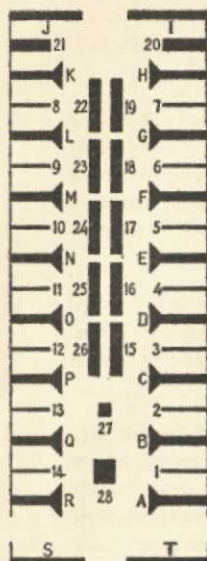
**26,** Fragments of white, red, and yellow paint were found. A variety of pendants  
**WEST SIDE.** made of copper, mica, shell, teeth, and claws, seem to have been similar to the ornaments used in recent times. Tubular pipes similar to those found in California occur. The games of the prehistoric people resembled those played by the present Indians. The art displayed in carvings and etchings is also similar in all details to the present art. With the exception of a few bone-carvings, it is much inferior to the art of the coast tribes.

A full description of the collections in Cases 25 and 26 is given in the Memoirs of the Museum, Vol. II, Parts III and VI, which may be consulted in the Library or had at the door.

**24-22.** On the coast of British Columbia are found a great number of shell-heaps, which consist of the refuse thrown away by the prehistoric people. The shell-heaps on Fraser River illustrate a culture which seems to have been similar to that of the present coast Indians. We find a great number of fishing implements, many of which are beautifully formed. Stone chisels hafted in antler are characteristic of this region. Chipped stone implements, which are very frequent in the interior, are rare here.

**23,** In the southern part of Vancouver Island are found stone cairns, the burials  
**EAST SIDE.** of the prehistoric inhabitants of this country.

**22,** The shell-heaps farther to the north contain very little material illustrative  
**WEST SIDE.** of the culture of the people, although many stone implements used in fishing and in other pursuits are found scattered over the surface.



## PREHISTORIC TRIBES OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON.

Shell-heaps of a similar character are found in Puget Sound. These also yield little material that throws light upon the culture of the people.

**Case 19,**  
WEST SIDE.

Archæological specimens from Columbia River resemble in many respects those found in the interior of British Columbia. A great number of more or less elaborate carvings are found.

**19-18.**

The forms of pestles and grinders vary considerably in different localities.

**19,**  
EAST SIDE.

Stones carved to represent faces are characteristic of this region. Tubular pipes, such as are found in the interior of British Columbia, are also seen here.

**18,**  
WEST SIDE.

In this area and farther to the south great numbers of beautifully chipped arrow-points and large obsidian knives are found.

**18,**  
EAST SIDE.

## PREHISTORIC TRIBES OF CALIFORNIA.

Archæological objects from California differ in many particulars from those farther north.

**17-15.**

Chipped stone knife-points, fastened by means of bitumen into wooden handles which are still preserved, are found in California.

**17,**  
WEST SIDE.

Chipped spear, knife, and arrow points are sometimes very beautifully formed.

**17,**  
EAST SIDE.

The tubular pipe reaches a high stage of development in southern California, where steatite, a suitable material for such objects, is found. Sea-shells are made into various ornaments.

**16,**  
WEST SIDE.

Steatite is also carved into rings, possibly used for club-heads, and into forms resembling animals, such as the whale.

**16,**  
EAST SIDE.

Bone of the whale and of other animals was made into various implements.

**15,**  
WEST SIDE.

Implements of this kind were sometimes covered with bitumen, in which shell beads were inlaid.

**15,**  
EAST SIDE.



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