



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the James G. Swan drawings of a Tlingit house and salmon carving, 1874-1878

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	James G. Swan drawings of a Tlingit house and salmon carving
<b>Date:</b>	1874 March-1878 June
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS129776
<b>Creator:</b>	Swan, James G., 1818-1900
<b>Extent:</b>	2 Drawings (visual works)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The drawings were found in the USNM collections. No accession number has been located.

### Related Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds additional drawings by James G. Swan in MS 3987 and MS 76608.

### Preferred Citation

James G. Swan drawings of a Tlingit house and salmon carving, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

James Gilchrist Swan (1818–1900) was an American writer, artist, collector of Native American artifacts, and political advisor who is known for his study of indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Born in Massachusetts, he spent most of his adult life in the Washington Territory. His prolific writing documented both pioneer society and indigenous cultures. The Smithsonian Institution hired Swan to collect Pacific Northwest Coast artifacts for the 1876 world's fair in Philadelphia, the 1884 fair in London, and the 1893 exposition in Chicago. Swan died in Port Townsend in 1900.

## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of two (2) drawings by James Gilcrest Swan.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

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## Local Numbers

NAA MS 129776

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Tlingit

Cultures:

Tlingit

Types of Materials:

Watercolors  
Works of art

Places:

Alaska  
North America

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## Container Listing

- Box 129776, Folder 1      Model of plank house with painted entrance way, 1874 March  
1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil ; 11 x 7.5 inches)  
[Image\(s\): Model of Plank House with Painted Entrance Way Painting](#)  
[Image\(s\): Model of Plank House with Painted Entrance Way Painting](#)  
Notes:                      Captioned: "Form of House of the Indians of Sitka Alaska. Copied  
from a model made by a Sitka Indian, drawn and painted by James  
G. Swan. Port Townsend, W.T. March 1874."  
NAA INV 08500500  
OPPS NEG 45604A  
Published in Niblack, A.P. (1890). "The Coast Indians of Southern  
Alaska and Northern British Columbia." *Annual Report of the Board  
of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution*. 306, Plate 35, Fig. 175.
- Box 129776, Folder 2      Dog salmon, 1878 June 1  
1 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor and pencil; 10 x 7 inches)  
[Image\(s\): Carving:Wood:Paint:Dog Salmon with Effigy Figure Of Indian Inside:from  
Sitka, Alaska:Made by Indian from the Interior \(Drawn and Painted from the Original  
by James G. Swan\) Painting](#)  
Notes:                      NAA INV 08541800  
OPPS NEG 45604B  
OPPS NEG 38768A  
Captioned: "Wooden Fish with carved figure of an Indian inside, from  
Sitka, made by an Indian from the interior. The fish is the Dog Salmon,  
"Salmon Canis". Drawn and painted from the original. Port Townsend,  
W.T. June 1st 1878. by J G Swan."