



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to Drawings of Fort Simpson, British  
Columbia and Tsimshian subjects, possibly  
by James G. Swan, circa 1880-1883

National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20746  
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1300  
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883  
naa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Drawings of Fort Simpson, British Columbia and Tsimshian subjects, possibly by James G. Swan
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1880 - 1883
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS76608
<b>Creator:</b>	Swan, James G., 1818-1900
<b>Extent:</b>	9 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Container:</b>	75085 / 76603 / 76607 / 76608, Folder 4; 75085 / 76603 / 76607 / 76608, Folder 4

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The drawings were found in the USNM collections. No accession number has been located. They were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1968.

### Preferred Citation

Drawings of Fort Simpson, British Columbia and Tsimshian subjects, possibly by James G. Swan (MS 76608), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Conditions Governing Use

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 nine (9) drawings of Fort Simpson (also known as Port Simpson and Lax-Kw'alaams) and Tsimshian subjects. The drawings have been attributed to James G. Swan on basis of the handwritten captions and subject matter. Swan was at Fort Simpson in 1883.

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

MS 76608

OPPS NEG 45,604-c--f

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## Variant Title

View of Fort Simpson (British Columbia), and Indians

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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:

Tsimshian

Cultures:

Tsimshian

Types of Materials:

Drawings  
Works of art

Places:

British Columbia  
North America

## Container Listing

Man and woman inside pole and frame structure with fish and a basket hanging from the ceiling; axe in log nearby

1 Drawings (visual works) (10.25 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Man and Woman in Costume Inside Pole and Frame Structure With Fish and Basket Hanging from Ceiling; Axe in Log Nearby Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542200

OPPS NEG 45604C

Woman standing on the shore and carrying an infant on her back; a dugout canoe on the water

1 Drawings (visual works) (9.75 x 7.75 inches)

[Image\(s\): Woman in Costume and Carrying Infant on Back on Shore; Dugout Canoe on Water Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542301

OPPS NEG 45604F

Profile portrait of a young woman

1 Item (9.75 x 7.75 inches)

[Image\(s\): Portrait \(Profile\) of Young Woman Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542302

On verso of "Woman standing on the shore and carrying an infant on her back; a dugout canoe on the water."

Group near pole, possibly aboard a ship

1 Drawings (visual works) (7.75 x 5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Group in Costume Near Pole \(Possibly Aboard Ship\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542400

Three men paddling a dugout canoe

1 Drawings (visual works) (8.5 x 5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Three Men in Costume Paddling Dugout Canoe on Water Near Mountainous Coastline; Carved and Painted Box Nearby Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542500

OPPS NEG 45604D

Man in a sailboat near mountainous coastline

1 Drawings (visual works) (5.5 x 8.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): "Chympsean Boat" Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542600

OPPS NEG 45604E

Captioned: "Chympsean Boat."

View of Fort Simpson

1 Drawings (visual works) (8.25 x 5 inches)

[Image\(s\): "Fort Simpson, Br Col" Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542700  
OPPS NEG 45604D  
Captioned: "Fort Simpson, Br. Col."

Totem pole

1 Drawings (visual works) (5.25 x 8.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): Totem Pole with Human Figure, Bird and Animal Effigies \(Side View\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542801

Captioned: "F. Simpson Image Post."

Appears to be a sketch of "Carved post in sections," collected by James G. Swan and held by the Department of Anthropology object collections, Catalog No. E23550-0.

Portrait of a man wearing a nose ring and neck ornament

1 Drawings (visual works) (5.25 x 8 inches)

[Image\(s\): Portrait \(Front\) of Man? Wearing Nose Ring and in Costume With Neck Ornament Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542802