

BLACKLINE MASTER 4-2

Comparing World Views: First Contact

Gillette Chipps, Nuu-chah-nulth, said:

I am going to tell you about when the first white man appeared in Nootka Sound. The Indians were dancing about when the first white man appeared in Nootka Sound. The Indians were dancing around the island—they called the schooner an island. They said there's an island because big trees on it. Big trees on it. They say Indian doctors go out there singing a song, find out, try to find out what it is. Rattling their rattles around the schooner, go around, all see a lot of white men standing aside, goes on the other side sees all kinds of white man, too. All different kind of faces. Pale face white man, they said it was the dog salmon and oh that's a spring salmon, I think they said was a Spanish, dark colour. Maybe it was the same men on the other side when they go around the other side the same person but different places. That is what I think myself. So anyway they seen lots of cohoes aboard this boat. Red-faced men, big nose, and so they said it was the coho. That was when the first white man appeared in Nootka Sound in the schooner.

Source: nu•tka—*Captain Cook and the Spanish Explorers on the Coast*, Sound Heritage Vol. VII, No. 1, Province of British Columbia, 1978.

Lt. James King, aboard the *HMS Resolution* wrote:

[A boat approached the fur traders with two men in it.] The figure & actions of one of these were truly frightful, he worked himself into the highest frenzy, uttering something between a howl and a song, holding a rattle in each hand, which at intervals he laid down, taking handfuls of red Ochre and birds' feathers & strewing them in the Sea; this was followed by a violent way of talking, seemingly with vast difficulty in uttering the Harshes and rudest words, at the same time pointing to the Shore; yet we did not attribute this incantation to threatening or any ill will toward us; on the contrary they seem'd quite pleas'd with us; in all the other boats someone or other act'd nearly the same way as this first man did.

Source: Lt. James King's journal, quoted in *Indian Life on the Northwest Coast of North America*, Erna Gunther, University of Chicago Press, 1972.