**Voices of the Pacific Northwest—Artifact 1.1**

First Contacts, by Father Tomás de la Peña, 1774

“Journal of Fray Tomas de la Peña” in *The California Coast: A Bilingual Edition of Documents from the Sutro Collection,* edited and translated by Donald C. Cutter and George Griffin Butler (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1969), p. 121-23, 157-61.

On the 8th [of August, 1774], the wind came from the east, light and variable, and the course was north. . . . At about eleven o'clock we caught sight of land. . . . The land which we saw bore northeast, about six leagues away [a league is three miles]; it was rather high and covered with forest. In the southeast there was a point stretching out to the sea. All morning the ship made three miles an hour. At midday the navigating officers took an observation. Don Esteban told me that our position was 49° 05´. [The expedition was therefore probably near Barkley Sound or Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island.] About four o'clock three canoes came out to us; in one were four men, three in another, and two in the third. [These people were almost certainly Nuu-chah-nulth. Several different groups of Nuu-chah-nulth and their relatives lived on the west coast of Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula.] They remained at some distance from the ship, crying out and making gestures that we should go away. After some time, we having made signs to them that they should draw near without fear, they did so, and we gave them to understand that we were in search of water; but they could not have been very satisfied with our signs, and went back to land. In going back they met with two other canoes which were coming out to the ship; but, after communication had between them, they turned back towards the land. At six [o'clock], having arrived within about a league of land, . . . the ship came to anchor, so that on the following day we might go ashore and take possession of the land in the name of the King Our Lord. At the time of anchoring the wind had died away completely. About eight o'clock at night three canoes, with fifteen pagans in them came to us; but they remained at a distance from the ship, their occupants crying out in a mournful tone of voice. We called to them, and they drew near. Shortly afterward they said goodbye, but, until after eleven o'clock, they remained at a distance of about a musket-shot from the ship, talking among themselves and sometimes crying out. The canoes of these pagans are not so large as those we saw at Point Santa Margarita in latitude 55° [where they met the Haida Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands]. The largest are about eight yards in length, with a long prow, hollowed out, and their sterns are blunter. The paddles are very handsome and are painted and are shaped like a shovel with a point about a quarter of a yard long at the end. These canoes appear to be of a single piece; though not all of them, for we saw some of the pieces bound together. All are very well made.