

Context:

18th-century history, west coast of Canada

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NOTE: *Adjust the accessed date as needed.*

Most of this paper was completed in April 2007 with the intention of publishing it in the journal *SHALE*. It was however never published at that time, and further research was done in September 2007, but practically none after that. It was prepared for publication here in November 2016, with very little added to the old manuscripts. It may therefore be out-of-date in some respects.

It is 3 of a series of 10 articles and is the final version, previously posted as Draft 1.2.

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Author:

Nick Doe, 1787 El Verano Drive, Gabriola, BC, Canada V0R 1X6

Phone: 250-247-7858

E-mail: nickdoe@island.net



Homfray Channel looking north with Prideaux Haven beyond the tidal bar connecting Eveleigh Island to the mainland, *bottom right*.

adapted from Bill Wolferstan, *Cruising Guide to British Columbia Vol.2, Desolation Sound and the Discovery Islands*, Whitecap Books

Flea Village — Spanish expedition accounts

by Nick Doe

[...continued from [File 562](#)]

The Spanish accounts are briefer. Galiano in his “exhaustive” exploration of the eastern shore of Homfray Channel on July 4 or 5 can scarcely have avoided seeing the village, but says only:

“No Indians were met during the whole excursion even though some traces of habitation remained on the beaches examined, including in some places frameworks of village [houses] and quantities of shell which it was known had heaped up after having contributed to [the Indian’s] sustenance.

“In the easternmost of the *Islas de Sarmiento* [Prideaux Haven] was found also a chest covered with grass. Examination disclosed inside it another containing [the body of] a child of about two years already decomposed, with his coat of sea otter fur. He had two necklaces of shells, three fishhooks, a cord, and various articles which apparently had been left him. If the Indians had done this with the intention that they should be useful to the departed, as is most probable, we could infer [they had] some idea of resurrection.¹”

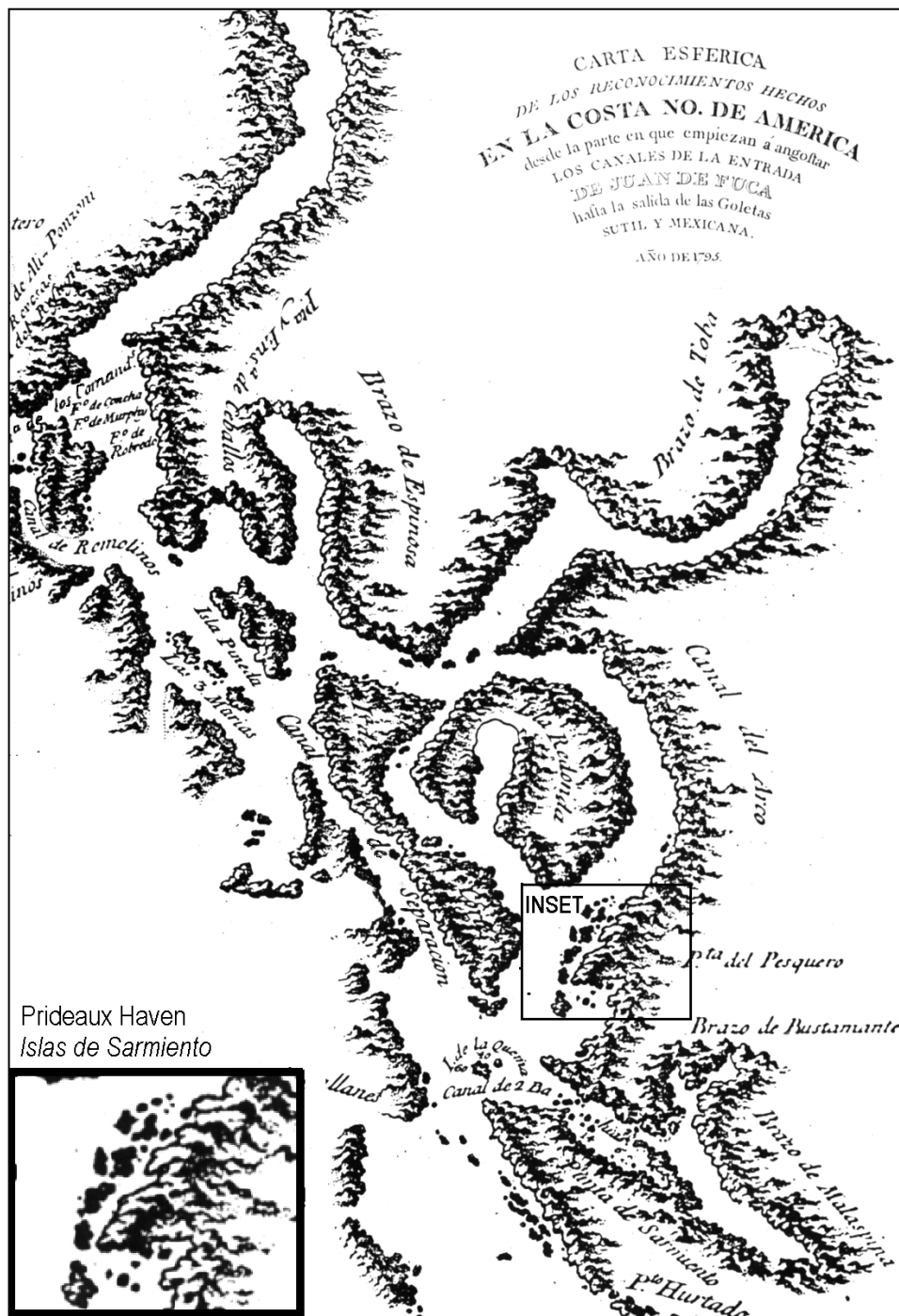
The only possible reference to Flea Village is one of the [several?] sites with “frameworks of houses”—a strong enough reference for maybe some popular history writers, but not really hard evidence that the Spanish really did see the village. There is however no doubt in my mind that they did based on the evidence of their charts.

There is in the Spanish records, in addition to Fernando Brambila’s adaptation of José

Cardero’s drawing “*el Fortificación de los Indios*” a second drawing, also originally by Cardero but adapted by Brambila. As the captions explain, this second drawing was probably made in Desolation Sound.² It illustrates some of the changes Brambila may have made to Cardero’s drawings, a theme picked up again in [FV-570](#).

¹ John Kendrick, *The Voyage of Sutil and Mexicana* 1792, p.145, Arthur H. Clark, Spokane 1991.

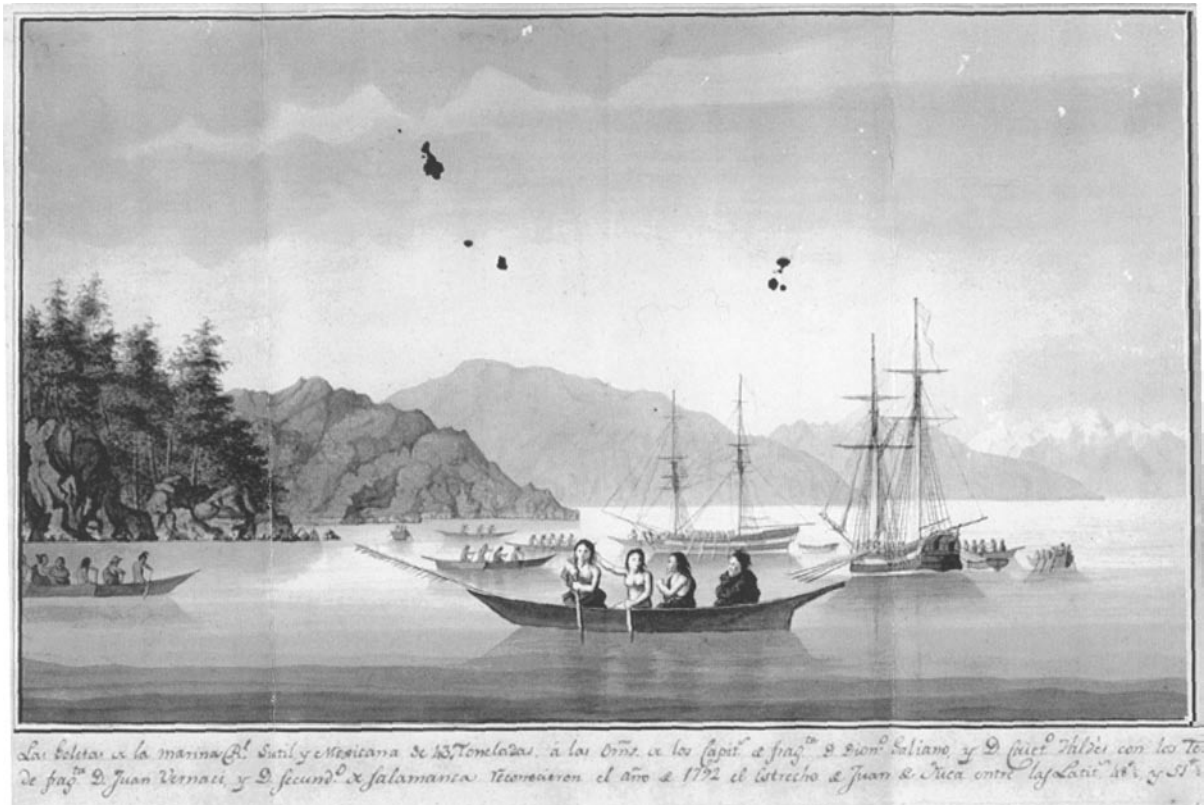
² *Relación del Viaje hecho por las Goletas Sutil y Mexicana en el año 1792 para reconocer el Estrecho de Juan de Fuca*, Madrid, 1802.



Prideaux Haven
Islas de Sarmiento

I wouldn't recommend it for navigational use; nevertheless, this Spanish chart dated 1795 shows Prideaux Haven and surrounding area (*my inset*) in detail. Galiano's notebook also records the locations of the various islands there. If Flea Village is where the British said it was, then the Spanish also visited it.

Galiano & Valdés, *Carta esferica...* [Wagner 832, No.1], 1795



Courtesy MUSEO NAVAL, Madrid

A drawing by Cardero 1792, modified by Brambila, at an unknown location but probably in Desolation Sound. The canoe in the foreground is being paddled backwards, a good indication that it was added later for artistic effect. The pole protruding from the stern (left end) of the canoe is a herring rake, and such a tool and its use is described in an entry in the *Relación del Viaje...*p.76, for July 6 when the vessels were still in the Desolation Sound area.

The photographs below are from a collection taken in Desolation Sound in 2003, years before I had ever seen Cardero's drawing shown above. The snowy peak on the right might be Mt. Denman.



[...continued in [File 564](#)]

Articles:

[FV-561 Introduction](#)

[FV-562 Vancouver expedition accounts](#)

[FV-563 Spanish expedition accounts](#)

[FV-564 Historical accounts](#)

[FV-565 Archaeological reports](#)

[FV-566 Initial remarks on Cardero's drawing](#)

[FV-567 Field trip #1, September 2003](#)

[FV-568 Field trip #2, September 2005](#)

[FV-569 Field trip #3, September 2007](#)

[FV-570 A second look at Cardero's drawing.](#)