

As Western Civilization advanced around the world in the 19th century, supplanting local indigenous peoples, some became aware that large parts of the native cultures were being displaced and lost forever in the tide of exploration from Europe. Among those who were beginning to see the destruction was the Berlin Museum für Völkerkunde. In order to try to save or recover as much native culture as possible, the Berlin museum employed, among others, Johan Adrian Jacobsen. A Norwegian ship's captain, Jacobsen turned out to fit the bill perfectly. He sailed several times to America, collecting numerous items of native material culture, contributing enormously to saving many of the cultural items we can now view and study. In a word, he is one of the leading collectors of vanishing native artifacts. Because he was not a member of the elite academic world, he has been largely ignored—unfortunate for a man who led such an interesting life.

#### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dr. Sigbjørn Rønbeck has taken upon himself the task of bringing to light the efforts of an otherwise much ignored explorer—Johan Adrian Jacobsen. Jacobsen, who has been little more than a footnote in studies dealing with the assimilation of native cultural material, played an important part in saving those materials. Dr. Rønbeck intends to rectify this omission in history and anthropology and is in a unique position to accomplish this task. He lives in the community of Tromsø, Norway, Jacobsen's home, where the doctor's work can begin. Once accomplished, his work will be a great addition to our knowledge of a man who saved much of the indigenous culture of North America's Northwest Coast.

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