

## “A Cannibal Dance at the Leipzig Zoological Garden” (1885)

### Abstract

---

The full caption of this original drawing by Fritz Waibler reads “The Bella Coola Indians from America’s Northwest Coast in the Zoological Garden at Leipzig: A Cannibal Dance.” It shows members of the Bella Coola tribe (also called Nuxalk) who had been recruited in a part of today’s province of British Columbia and toured Germany as part of a *Völkerschau*. This scene depicts them performing a dance that, according to the caption, was part of a cannibalistic ritual.

### Source

---



Die Bella-Coola-Indianer von der Nordwestküste Amerikas im Zoologischen Garten zu Leipzig: Ein Kannibalentanz. Originalzeichnung von Fritz Waibler.

Source: *Illustrirte Zeitung* (Leipzig), Bd. 85, 2. Halbjahr, Nr. 2207 (17. October 1885), p. 387. Reprinted in Eric Ames, *Carl Hagenbeck’s Empire of Entertainments*. Seattle, London: University of Washington Press, 2008, p. 107.

Recommended Citation: “A Cannibal Dance at the Leipzig Zoological Garden” (1885), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/forging-an-empire-bismarckian-germany-1866-1890/ghdi:image-5115>> [March 22, 2025].