

Read

The Wolf and the Raven - Totem poles of
Southeastern Alaska

by Viola F. Garfield and Lenna A. Forrest
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(Own copy - purchased on Alaska trip)

Preface - U. S. Forest Service recognized need to
collect and Preserve the Totem poles found
throughout S & Alaska if the art was not to
be preserved at all.

1938 funds were made available thru CCC
to employ native carvers and collect the poles.
Permission to move poles difficult - nestled in houses
not in individual lots - natives however were
very cooperative.

The poles in Saxman Totem Park, 3 miles
from Ketchikan were restored by ~~the~~ natives,
some descended from Oregonian.

This group included Carving from Cape Fox Village,
Tongass village, Village Island and Bennock Island.
Two new poles were designed & carved for
Totem village at mud Bay (the ones missing).

A model village planned. War interrupted.
Poles in Klaskan Totem Park brought from the
deserted town of Tuxetan and vicinity. Some of
men who worked on restoration project were b.
in the old town & all had ancestors who
lived there.

Totem pole carving cannot be appreciated
or understood without a knowledge of
legends & history behind them.

These were collected by Charles Brown head carver for the Totem pole restoration who consulted with other Indians when his own memory was insufficient many Tlingit people were involved in the collecting of the Totem pole stories.

These were organized & edited by Dr. Wale F. Garfield, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. Wash at Seattle.

Regional Forester of Alaska, S. Frank Heenzelman app't Lynn H. Farver to supervise Totem pole restoration.

The Forest Service arranged to select the Totem poles for the park & supplied photographs of the Totem poles.

The Introduction tells the story of the project & a history of the villages & the Totem poles, also a history of the way they were carved & the different types of Totem poles, also how to identify motifs & their meanings.

Such as: an oval design (the most pleasing shape) may represent joints of the body. used on wings they symbolize the power of flight. In the eye, the vital force or life principle. Since carvers were limited by the size of his pole or Totem, he tried to get as much on as possible. He really only had a narrow curved surface to work with. Generally only half the circumference of the tree was carved, the back being left straight & plain.