

Reads

The Wolf and the Raven - Totem poles of
Southeastern Alaska

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

Breface - U. S. Forest Service recognized need to collect and preserve the totem poles found throughout SE 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 - nested in lineage not in individuals - native however were very cooperative.

The poles in Saxman Totem Park, 3 miles from Ketchikan were restored by Ketchikan natives, some descended from original carvers.

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

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

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

These were collected by Charles Braan
head carver for the totem pole restoration
who consulted with other Indians
when his own memory was insufficient.
Many Hingit people were involved in the
collecting of the totem pole stories.

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

Regional Director of Alaska, F. Frank
Heenzman app't Lynn A. Forrest to
supervise totem pole restoration.

The Forest Service arranged to sit back
the totem poles for the park & supplied
photographs of the totem poles.

The introduction tells the story of
the project & the 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
the 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 & plane