

BOX OF KNOWLEDGE SERIES

SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE



UPCOMING

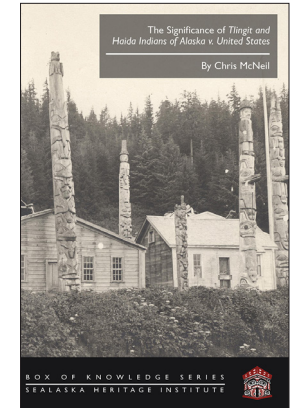
The Significance of *Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska v. United States*

By Chris McNeil

The Court of Claims case *Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska v. United States* (1959) was an important decision that affected both the Tlingit and Haida citizens and the trajectory of the final settlement of all Alaska Native land claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. The Tlingit and Haida judgment marked a pivot point between the concept of a cash-only settlement of Native land claims and a settlement that included returning aboriginal lands to Native people.

In part 1 of this two-part book, former Sealaska Corporation President Chris McNeil describes and analyzes the results of the case and then places it within the historical context of US aboriginal land claims settlements generally and, more specifically, as it relates to ANCSA, twelve years later. It also highlights other historical threads that run through the Tlingit and Haida case, including tribal self-determination, the impact of the disciplines in social science that can help shape public policy, and the definition of Alaska Native tribes.

Part 2 presents the full text of the opinion of the court and findings of fact for *Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska v. United States* (1959).

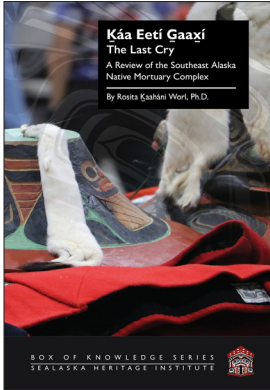


Paperback, 6x9
174 pages
August 2023

ABOUT

Sealaska Heritage Institute is a Native nonprofit founded in 1980 to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska. Its goals are to promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding through public services and events. Sealaska Heritage also conducts scientific and public policy research that promotes Alaska Native arts, cultures, history, and education statewide. The institute is governed by a Board of Trustees and guided by a Council of Traditional Scholars, a Native Artist Committee, and a Southeast Regional Language Committee.

SHI's Box of Knowledge Series consists of essays, reports, and books that the institute considers should be made available as a contribution to studies on Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures, history, and languages. They may be based on work carried out by researchers working in collaboration with SHI, contributions prepared by external experts, and work by staff. Publications in the Box of Knowledge Series are available through the Sealaska Heritage Store and SHI's website at www.sealaskaheritage.org.

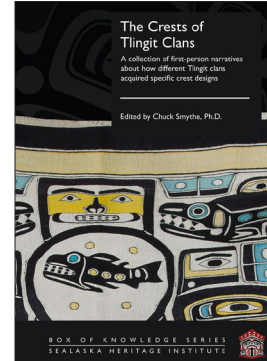


Paperback, 6x9
32 pages
December 2022

Káa Eetí Gaaxí - The Last Cry: A Review of the Southeast Alaska Native Mortuary Complex

By Rosita Kaaháni Worl, Ph.D.

The principle of dualism dominates Tlingit and Haida societies and is evident in the moiety system in which they are divided between Eagles and Ravens. The core cultural value of *Wooch Yáx* (social and spiritual balance) requires reciprocity between opposite moieties and clans. This reciprocity is clearly evident in the mortuary complex, with the opposite side performing various acts of ceremonial service for the grieving clan. In this paper, Sealaska Heritage President Dr. Rosita Kaaháni Worl provides a brief review of Tlingit memorial rites based on her own experiences and drawing on the work of other Southeast Alaska Native scholars.

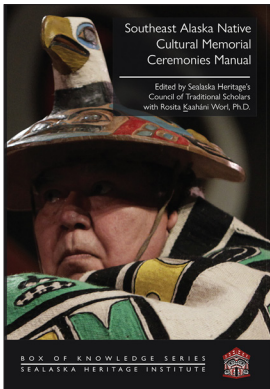


Paperback, 6x9
60 pages
December 2022

The Crests of Tlingit Clans

Edited by Chuck Smythe, Ph.D.

Crests are the most important symbols of the history and identity of Tlingit clans, acquired by ancestors in the ancient past and representing crucial encounters with animal persons and spiritual beings that determine the unique identity and character of clan members. This collection of first-person narratives about how different Tlingit clans acquired specific crest designs was prepared from transcripts of oral histories, interviews, videos, and speeches given by clan leaders and clan spokespersons representing the clans whose crests are described. The purpose of the publication is to provide images of clan crests for which duplication by non-clan members is a violation of Tlingit customary laws and practices.

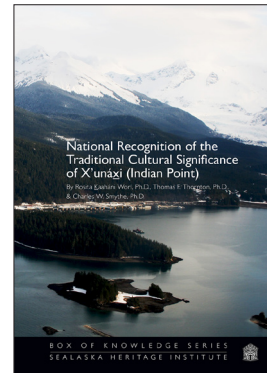


Paperback, 6x9
66 pages
December 2022

Southeast Alaska Native Cultural Memorial Ceremonies Manual

By Sealaska Heritage's Council of Traditional Scholars with Rosita Kaaháni Worl, Ph.D.

Through Tlingit and Haida memorial ceremonies the loss of a clan member is acknowledged and strength and healing are offered in reciprocal speeches. These ceremonies are the principal cultural and spiritual settings in which oratory occurs. This instructional manual was developed by Sealaska Heritage Institute's Council of Traditional Scholars and SHI President Dr. Rosita Kaaháni Worl to provide a guide for younger clan leaders and spokespersons. It includes an overview of traditional oratory and key components of traditional ceremonies.

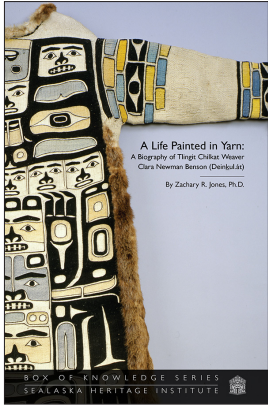


Paperback, 6x9
64 pages
July 2022

National Recognition of the Traditional Cultural Significance of X'unáxí (Indian Point)

By Rosita Kaaháni Worl, Ph.D., Thomas Thornton, Ph.D., and Chuck Smythe, Ph.D.

These three essays document the historic and decades-long battle to protect Juneau's Indian Point (X'unáxí), near Auke Bay, Alaska, considered to be a sacred site to Native people. The saga began in 1959 with a proposal to develop the site and culminated in 2016, when Sealaska Heritage prevailed in an effort to list it in the National Register of Historic Places, making it the first traditional cultural property in Southeast Alaska to be placed on the register.

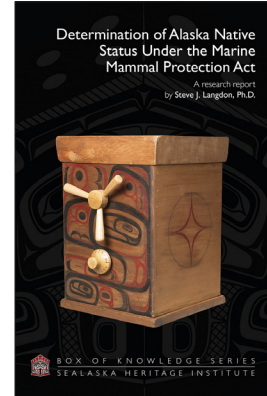


Paperback, 6x9
45 pages
May 2022

A Life Painted in Yarn: A Biography of Tlingit Chilkat Weaver Clara Newman Benson (Deinkul.át)

By Zachary R. Jones, Ph.D.

This essay by Zachary Jones, Ph.D., provides the first biography of Tlingit Chilkat weaver Clara Newman Benson (Deinkul.át) of Klukwan, Alaska, and attributes her artistic creations. Benson was a significant weaver of her day and prolific producer of Chilkat weavings that function as ceremonial objects within the Tlingit community. Establishing her place in Alaska's history and art history is one goal of the study, as well as adding content to the body of scholarship on historic Alaskan women.

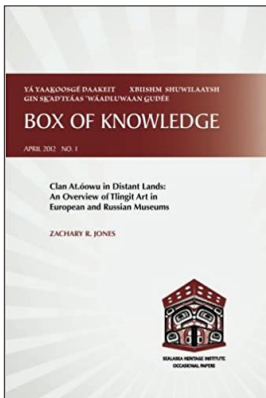


Paperback, 6x9
140 pages
October 2021

Determination of Alaska Native Status under the Marine Mammal Protection Act

By Steve Langdon, Ph.D.

Alaska Natives face many complex issues in the 21st century. Among the most difficult is establishing who is an Alaska Native because the term is defined differently for various purposes under federal legislation. Who is an Alaska Native, how does one know, and who decides is also critically important to establishing who is eligible to hunt marine mammals and create traditional handicrafts from marine mammal materials under the regulatory definitions of Alaska Native that have been adopted by federal agencies to implement the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This report addresses issues associated with these questions.

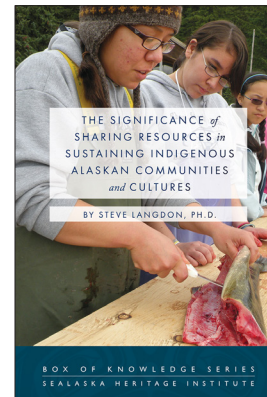


Paperback, 6x9
42 pages
April 2012

Clan At.óow in Distant Lands: An Overview of Tlingit Art in European and Russian Museums

By Zachary R. Jones, Ph.D.

Clan At.óow in Distant Lands provides an overview of Tlingit collections held by museums in Europe and Russia and breaks the ground in providing documentation on where these objects reside abroad. The paper includes a table showing museums that have Tlingit pieces and the approximate sizes of their collections. It also provides some details on the items plus a few photos, including an image of a very unusual war helmet depicting a woman wearing a labret.

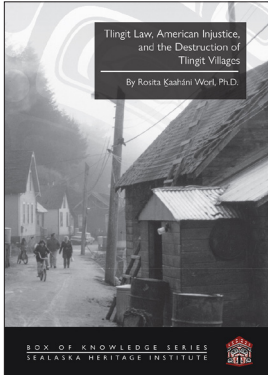


Paperback, 6x9
78 pages
July 2021

The Significance of Sharing Resources in Sustaining Indigenous Alaskan Communities and Cultures

By Steve Langdon, Ph.D.

Indigenous Alaskan societies have existed and flourished for more than 10,000 years, building sophisticated regional adaptations utilizing natural resources available to them. As a central value and practice characteristic of all Indigenous Alaskan societies, sharing subsistence resources was and is a foundation of Indigenous life and livelihood. This paper describes and discusses the position of sharing in Indigenous Alaskan societies and identifies its significance in sustaining communities and maintaining Native cultures.

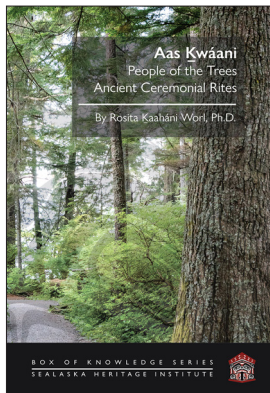


Paperback, 6x9
24 pages
December 2019

Tlingit Law, American Injustice, and the Destruction of Tlingit Villages

By Rosita Kaaháni Worl, Ph.D.

The Tlingit had a highly developed system of law, one based on a group orientation rather than the individualistic system in American law. The entire clan is responsible for any wrong-doing committed by any individual clan member. When laws were broken, and if conflicts were not resolved to restore peace, the consequence would be violence as clans protected their claims to property and demanded compensation for insults, injuries or worse. The bombardments of the Tlingit villages of Kake, Angoon, and Wrangell by the United States military resulted from such differences in legal systems.

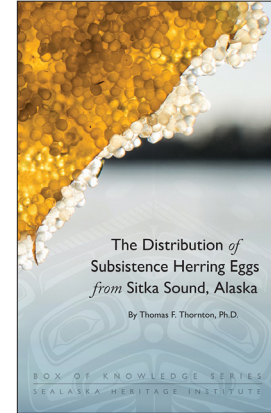


Paperback, 6x9
28 pages
July 2019

Aas Kwáani - People of the Trees: Ancient Ceremonial Rites

By Rosita Kaaháni Worl, Ph.D.

Over the course of at least 10,000 years of continuous occupation of Southeast Alaska, the Tlingit People developed close relationships with the environment, and accepted that everything has a spirit. They, along with the Haida and Tsimshian, developed practices and ceremonies recognizing the spiritual relationship they have with the land, including the Tree People. Tree ceremonies continue to be practiced today to ensure the sustainability of the forests and provide benefits for future generations.

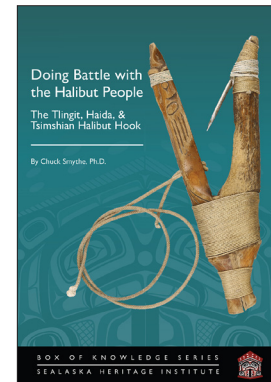


Paperback, 6.69x9.61
276 pages
November 2019

The Distribution of Subsistence Herring Eggs from Sitka Sound, Alaska

By Thomas Thornton, Ph.D.

This book recommends major changes to the way the State of Alaska manages the sac roe herring fishery in Sitka Sound and predicts dire outcomes for the ancient subsistence herring roe fishery located there, which supports people across the state and Pacific Northwest, if things do not change. The book also touts the enormous, wide-ranging social and ecological benefits of Pacific herring from Sitka Sound and the unique Alaskan subsistence economy and ecosystem services that depend on their production and distribution.



Paperback, 6.69x9.61
128 pages
December 2018

Doing Battle with the Halibut People: The Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Halibut Hook

By Chuck Smythe, Ph.D.

The Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian of Southeast Alaska devised an exceptional device, the *náxw*, *xagw táawaay*, or *nuu*, with which they caught halibut. *Doing Battle with the Halibut People* provides key information about the design, manufacture, and use of these wooden hooks and integrates the sacred dimensions of the halibut tradition. The cultural and ecological knowledge in the book came mainly from a number of expert Tlingit fishermen and traditional scholars, who generously shared the knowledge received from their fathers and grandfathers, as well as learned through their own experiences.

CONTRIBUTORS

ROSITA WORL, Ph.D., is Tlingit, Ch'áak' (Eagle) moiety of the Shangukeidí (Thunderbird) clan from the Kawdliyaayi Hít (House Lowered From the Sun) in Klukwan. Her Tlingit names are Yeidiklasókw and Kaaháni. Kaaháni has a Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University and a B.A. from Alaska Methodist University. She also holds an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. She serves as the president of Sealaska Heritage Institute.

CHUCK SMYTHE, Ph.D., is senior ethnologist and the former director of the Culture and History Department at Sealaska Heritage Institute. He was a senior anthropologist for the National Park Service and an anthropologist for the Smithsonian Institution. In prior years, he administered and conducted applied research in ethnohistory, ethnography and socioeconomics in Alaska Native communities.

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CHRIS MCNEIL is Tlingit and a member of the Nisga'a Nation. He is Eagle of the Dak'l'aweidí (Killerwhale) House and his Tlingit name is Shaakakóoni. He is the owner of Native Strategy Group and former president and CEO of Sealaska Corporation.

THOMAS F. THORNTON, Ph.D., is professor of environment and society and director of the Alaska Coastal Rainforest Center at the University of Alaska Southeast. His research interests include Indigenous and local knowledge systems and human environmental interactions, the political ecology of sustainable development and resource stewardship in complex social-ecological systems, and human adaptation to environmental change in the North Pacific, especially Southeast Alaska.

CONTACT

Publications in the Box of Knowledge Series are available through the Sealaska Heritage Store in Juneau, Alaska, and online at sealaskaheritage.org, as well as through Amazon.

To contact the Store, email thestore@sealaska.com.

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