

H A I D A.

THE LEAF-AND-FLOWER POLE OF THE HAIDAS OF YAN. Queen Charlotte Is.  
B. C.

Description

This pole about 25 feet high, contains the following figures:-  
1. The Eagle, at the top- 2. Two stems with leaves and flowers in low relief rising in curvilinear, about one third of the length of the whole pole: 3 two Grizzly Bears sitting erect, one above the other. Hollow back pole.

This pole belonged to Chief Gayaw, a member of the Stlinlanawa Clan of the Ravens, formerly of the Tiyan tribe, particularly the family of Gayaw journeyed several times by dug-out canoe to Victoria, and acquired wealth there (because of the sea-otter trade, Tiyan village being located in the best area for sea-otter hunting) These people greatly admired the garden flowers in the "Whiteman's" town, and when they came home, were the first to adopt them as a family emblem and have them carved on their totem pole.

This pole during World War 11 was cut down without permission by members of the Royal Canadian Air Force and removed to their station. Later on, the withdrawal of military forces from the Queen Charlotte Islands, this pole, together with another of Yan, was taken to Prince Rupert, and was about to be removed privately by a member of the Air Force when the Indian Agent at Prince Rupert objected, and had the poles removed to the grounds of the "Museum" of Northern B.C. Prince Rupert, where they stand to-day.

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