

non-totemic, purely decorative aspect of NWc art
is difficult to state clearly
Boas (1927, p 108)

"In the art of the North Pacific coast a definite totemic meaning is given to conventional figures. There is no general agreement as to their significance, but to many forms is assigned a meaning according to the totemic affiliation of the owner for whom it thus attains a value based on its meaning."

as example, a Chilkat blanket: Emmons says central field is whale diving, lateral fields ravens sitting. Swanton says it represents a wolf with young.

p109. It seems likely that wherever varied interpretations of the same form, or of closely allied forms occur within the same social unit, conditions of this kind prevail.

(see discussion following this)

(design elements have definite names that are always applied, no matter in what combination they occur)

Then why didn't he get names of elements? (exc. symbols)

The mind is imbued with the idea of animal representation (proppert)
"READING IN" P 124