

# Crests (general)

## Eagle Crests by Wallace (Lyan)

- code 1 xskik pots'ix of laxskik  
 name 2 stso:l differences in use between chief & lekak.  
 3 tado + naxnagom. otto  
 4 hatsa'it  
 5 xskemssom - used by only a few, including g. tw. lgt's  
 samgig'et (saxsa'axt etc)  
 "A chief who has a crest of whatever kind may lend  
 it to his brothers, but it has to be returned to the  
 owner"  
 6 ne'gamq'et - used only by g. spax l'ots & g. bands  
 chiefs, not lekakiget. (TP of legex)  
 7 heitkam stso:l TP sgagwet. lekak. don't stand it erect.  
 8 nagam q' e. g. stso:l (growed) used by some l'otak of  
 g. tw. lgt's.

TPs.

"The Haidas mix their crests on poles, but we never mix  
the crests. We represent only the crests of one's own  
tribe on posts. See p 84 The Apostles of Alaska."

Haidas  
mix crests

9. gwusmaksit garment of wearers - used by 3  
 phratris in different forms. ~~the~~ laxskik form is used  
 by gwunhu't only (and not all of them).  
 10. galkha'ots cormorant hat. Worn by chiefs legex,  
 sgagwet, and yo'sns. Certain lekakiget have myths  
 about it but are afraid to use it because the  
 chiefs use it.  
 11. q'iebak HF w. book sgagwet only.  
 14. xskigom l'ob stone eagle. Kept as crest by chiefs  
 legex and sg. sg. mdzi'us (not others).

Chiefs monopolize  
a crest

15. lagw. yo' b fire of dirt.  
 : mixes dirt and oolachen grease and burns it. Has

Fire as a crest



lage'x

exclusive crest, invented by him and done only once. If he died, sqaqwet could use it, but would have to give it back when someone took the name lege'x. Other chiefs have types of furs as crests too, but with different names.

- (16) ata'aks "early drinking" a custom used as a dzepk by all laxskik houses. When they see someone come into their house early in the morning and take a drink, they give him a gift.
- (17) nlu'xtom xskik eagle's nest. Used in several forms by several laxskik.
- (18) gata'xam xskik claws of eagle. dzepk used by all laxskik but only carved on spoons.
- (19) laqaxwe'sa - a qisp crest. Laxskik have it too but only refer to it in songs.



## Crests

### Uses:

T.P.	Totem pole	
H.P.	House posts (interior)	
C.P.	Corner posts	
H.C.	House carving, on roof or in front	
H.D.	Headdress (amalgite) or carved representation	
Hat	Basketry hat	
Robe	Painted on robe or other garment	
F.P.	Face painting	
TT	Tattoo	= Stone carvings
Coiff.	Hair style	- Clubs
Spoon	Ceremonial spoon	

### Forms

- House structure features
- da'ax
  - other (see sketch)
- painting on faces of da'ax
- Traces - see lexicon dirt fire
- Customs - first snow
- early drinking



gi spawudwa'da crests

Mrs Budoward, 1915

- |  |   |     |                                  |   |                      |       |
|--|---|-----|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------|
|  | * | 1.  | mədi'ək                          | <sup>gruffly</sup> belongs to all regardless of class       |                      |       |
|  | * | 2.  | ne'ək + <sup>Kuluwaku</sup>      | "   |                      |       |
|  | * | 3.  | q'əm k                           | <sup>moon</sup> stars                                       | Royal only           |       |
|  | * | 4.  | biyə'ist                         | rainbow   | Royal                |       |
|  |   |     |                                  | Anything of the heavens is regarded by gi'sp as their crest |                      |       |
|  |   |     |                                  | "In our house we use red as a mourning colour because       |                      |       |
|  |   |     |                                  | when the sky is red in the morning at sunrise, it is a      |                      |       |
|  |   |     |                                  | sign of bad weather"  |                      |       |
|  | * | 5.  | bi' + t'sək                      | red sky of the morning                                      | Noble only           |       |
|  |   | 6.  | Clouds (yə'ən), or 'm'i'ək       | (black shower clouds)                                       | Royal                |       |
|  |   | 7.  | All things referring to the sea: |   |                      |       |
|  |   |     | m'x                              | kelpa, belong to everybody                                  |                      |       |
|  |   | 8.  | p'a'tsa                          | seaweeds  | "                    |       |
|  |   | 9.  | masxe'lop                        | "woman's breasts" (a plant called breasts                   |                      |       |
|  |   |     |                                  | of the rock) everybody.                                     |                      |       |
|  |   | 10. | g.anəm k                         | t'səm'a'was   | irony, thought of as |       |
|  |   |     |                                  | protruding from the back of some animal.                    | Royal.               |       |
|  |   | 11. | mədi'əgam                        | t'səm'a'ks  | sea grizzly bear     | Royal |
|  |   | 12. | hat'sa'it                        | devil fish  |                      |       |
|  |   | 13. | t'salks                          | "water spouts in sand" [clam holes?]                        | Royal                |       |
|  |   | 14. | hε'st                            | fireweed  |                      |       |

Mourning  
colour  
red

Some we consider more important than others [marked \*]

"Anything belonging to me may be marked with my crests; a box, dish, bracelet or anything. Also poles.



# Crests

General on crests, from account of ni-stkamik's crests  
by Swanson, Tate (Kyen), 1915.

: madi-k , a pt<sup>ex</sup> and a dzεpk.

Account of how whole animal is impersonated when  
chief builds a house, or when copper is broken when  
he dies. One of lakakiget has hereditary task of  
using it for royal chief in this way. (Used by  
all royal Inuit. chiefs)?

Lakakiget cannot use it in this way.

: next

: galk ma'te°, mes obaxs, K'axac, hakutak (all  
worn together).

Not worn by young people of the house at their  
cət si'hε (standing, or taking higher rank, or  
becoming a chief). All the royal chiefs wore it  
at some time on their shamb, but now they would  
wear the t wε' l s ε g a m ' n e x t or gε' i d a m m a d i k .

Only the Inuit people have a story for it,  
but all q'ispaw may use it (I may have misinterpreted  
this).

: g a i d a m g ε ' l . ε hat of grizzly paws. There was an  
argument between Swanson on Tate on whether or  
not all q'isp may use it. Tate finally agreed that  
any q'isp lsk. could use it at a feast, and it  
was a dzεpk.

: g a i d a m m a d i k same, but seems to carry higher rank.

: t k w w ε ' k s ε g a m ' n e x t - headdress decorated with  
abalone - they call it t k w w ε ' k s ε g a m on account  
of the pearls and used by chiefs only.

: l a n a m g a i t with 10 discs (on top of grizzly head)  
10 disc lanemgart us used only by tsibase and ni's  
tkumik. Lakakiget of all phratris use  
lanemgarts, but only with 4 or 5 discs.

abalone

discs of  
lanemgart

On ni-sqamdzrs : x s k i ' k is their p t ε x and dzεpk.



grizzly bear crest  
of laxkibu.

Maxwell, 1915

From narr. Tradition of Tshlenharokh.

mædiak is listed as a general crest of the laxkibu.

"grizzly bear of the mountains"

"This crest was not general among the gispawudwads. The grizzly bear of the hills was not used by them excepting 4 houses - tsibasa (gitxeta) 3. niʔshaiwaxs (gitsʔas) 3. 'alim laxa (ginaxangik) 4. niʔsnawa (of giludzan) "and only these royal houses have been given the privilege to use this by consent of the laxkibu people.

The tkwɛlkskam mædiak is the sole crest of tsibasa and no one else. The rest of the gispawudwads use the mædigam dzaum aks "the grizzly of the sea" and the grizzly of the hills was used by all the laxkibu people in general.