

Our two Centers are pleased to announce that the US Department of Education has granted us status as a National Resource Center for Canada for the next four years. It is primarily through DOE Title VI funding support that we are able to deliver outreach flyers such as this so that educators can learn and teach about Canada. The Embassy of Canada has also awarded us with an annual outreach grant to pursue excellent programming for educators and the International Council for Canadian Studies awarded us with a 6-month intern, McGill University graduate Elise Chalmers, to assist our work. Her help was instrumental to this flyer and will eventually result in a third edition of our text *Canada: Northern Neighbor*. We've been busy all year preparing presentations, workshops and resource materials (including a newly re-designed website at www.k12studycanada.org) and appreciate all the support we've received to better serve you!

We hope to meet some of you at the National Council for

Social Studies' conference in Washington, D.C. Several sessions on Canada are offered, including our own! Be sure to also visit the exhibitor area—International Alley, in particular—for free resources on teaching Canada. All others are always welcome to contact us by email regarding classroom needs and interests.

Since some of you will attend the conference, this edition focuses on Haida artist Bill Reid's masterpiece, "The Spirit of Haida Gwaii". The sculpture of a black canoe with characters from Haida mythology paddling on a cement sea rests outside the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D.C. inspiring all who view it to learn more about those aboard. The Embassy of Canada is included as part of the Embassy Tour being offered by the International Activities Committee on Thursday, November 30 (9am-1pm) or can be viewed independently at 501 Pennsylvania Ave NW. For those not attending NCSS, we hope the content of this flyer catches the spirit of Reid's sculp-

ture and inspires you to teach K-12 students about Haida Gwaii, its people and art.

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BILL REID AND THE STORY OF HAIDA GWAII

No other contemporary Northwest Coast artist has received the critical acclaim accorded Canada's Bill Reid. Reid's celebration of the myth and traditions of his Haida ancestors through art and story-telling has been warmly welcomed by Canadians and appreciation for his pivotal role in the rebirth of northern art and culture is seen in the use of his masterwork sculpture, "The Spirit of Haida Gwaii", on Canada's twenty-dollar bill.

Haida Gwaii, "the people's islands," is the traditional homeland (since the end of the most recent ice age) of the Haida people--Reid's forbears on his mother's side. Known colonially as the Queen Charlotte Islands, Haida Gwaii is an archipelago of over 200 islands perched on the edge of Canada's Pacific continental shelf 100 miles off the shore of British Columbia. It is an environment abundant in natural resources—a remote area of old growth rainforest surrounded by fish-laden seas (and dubbed "Canada's Galapagos").

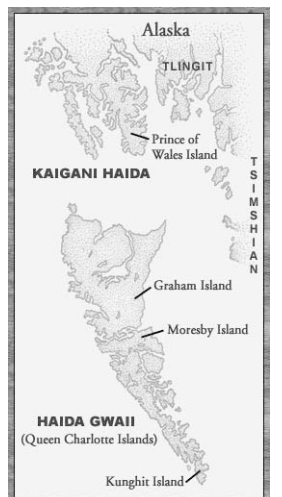
Haida economy was based on hunting and fishing but quickly

expanded to include harvesting shellfish. They established permanent beachfront settlements with large wooden plank houses and became skilled artisans of wood and metal as their designs gained renown through trade with other Northwest coast peoples. The Haida are now best known for their canoes and totem poles that tell stories through inclusion of mythical characters from Haida oral tradition. However, the effects of colonization decimated the Haida and their population was reduced by more than 95% by 1900 and continued exposure to Euro-Canadian influences afterwards brought Haida cultural traditions close to extinction. Recent court battles have kept logging giants like Weyerhaeuser from utilizing Crown land for timber without first consulting the Haida and significant action is being taken to ensure the Haida Nation's rights and title to the land.

Bill Reid's efforts as well as initiatives by the Haida, the Canadian government and art community has revived and at least ensured Haida cultural survival. Reid helped introduce the art traditions of the aboriginal peoples of the Northwest coast of North America to contemporary

audiences. He infused Haida tradition with modern ideas and forms of expression in famous works such as *The Raven and the First Men*, commissioned for the University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology and *The Spirit of the Haida Gwaii*, commissioned for the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Although Bill Reid has been the most prominent of Haida artists, the last 50 years have seen a growing number of others who are gaining international recognition and Haida Gwaii has firmly retained its place as a land of mystery and magic in the Canadian psyche.

(Sources: Bank of Canada and Canadian Museum of Civilization websites)



THE SPIRIT OF HAIDA GWAII —by Bill Reid (excerpted from his poem interpretation of his marterwork)

Here we are at last, a long way from Haida Gwaii, not too sure where we are or where we're going, still squabbling and vying for position in the boat, but somehow managing to appear to be heading in some direction; at least the paddles are together, and the man in the middle seems to have some vision of what is to come. As for the rest, they are superficially more or less what they always were—symbols of another time when the Haidas, all ten thousand of them, knew they were the greatest of all nations.

The Bear,... eyes firmly and forever fixed on the past, tries to believe that things are still as they were. The **Bear Mother**, being human, is looking over his shoulder into the future, concerned more with her children than with

her legend....Next, doughtily paddling away, hardworking if not very imaginative, the compulsory Canadian content [**Beaver**], big teeth and scaly tail, perfectly designed for cutting down trees and damming rivers.

And here she is... [**Dogfish Woman**,] the most desirable and fascinating woman from myth-time....Dogfish Woman stands aloof from the rest, the enormous concentration of her thoughts smoldering smoke dreams behind her inward-looking eyes.

Tucked away in the stern of the boat, still ruled by the same obsession to stay concealed in the night shadows and lightless caves and other pockets of darkness, in which she spends her immortality,[is] the **Mouse Woman**....

No human, beast or monster has yet seen her in the flesh, so she may or may not look like this. Not so the **Raven**. There is no doubt what he looks like in this myth-image: exactly the same as he does in his multiple existences as the familiar carrion bird of the northern latitude of the earth. Of course he is the steersman. So, although the boat appears to be heading in a purposeful direction, it can arrive anywhere the Raven's whim dictates.

A culture will be remembered for its warriors, artists, heroes and heroines of all callings, but in

order to survive it needs survivors. And here is our professional survivor, the **Ancient Reluctant Conscript**, present if seldom noticed in all the turbulent histories of men on earth....

The **Wolf** of the Haidas was a completely imaginary creature, perhaps existing over there on the mainland, but never seen on Haida Gwaii. Nevertheless, he was an important figure in the crest hierarchy. Troublesome, volatile, ferociously playful, he can usually be found with his sharp fangs embedded in someone's anatomy. Here he is vigorously chewing on the **Eagle's** wing while that proud, imperial, somewhat pompous bird retaliates by attacking the Bear's paws.

That accounts for everybody except the **Frog** who sits partially in and partially out of the boat and above the gunwales: the ever-present intermediary between two of the worlds of the Haidas, the land the sea.

So there is certainly no lack of activity in our little boat, but is there any purpose? Is the tall figure who may or may not be the Spirit of Haida Gwaii leading us, for we are all in the same boat, to a sheltered beach beyond the rim of the world as he seems to be, or is he lost in a dream of his own dreamings? The boat moves on, forever anchored in the same place.



"The pièce de résistance of Bill Reid's work is surely **The Spirit of Haida Gwaii**, commissioned by the firm of R. J. Reynolds for the new Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. This massive sculpture, which took more than three years to execute and resulted in a price tag of \$1.8 million, was unveiled in 1992." — George F. MacDonald, *Haida Monumental Art*, Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1983. (Photo from www.pserie.psu.edu)

IN THE CLASSROOM: Share stories from Haida myth or ask students to learn more about these popular characters: Raven, Eagle, Bear, Bear Mother, Mouse Woman, Dogfish Woman, Beaver, Frog and Wolf.



Upcoming Presentations and Displays on Canada

Professional Development Workshop for Educators

Canadian Geography in a Global Context: Canada in the World, the Circumpolar North & the Klondike Gold Rush

Thursday, September 28, 2006 (4-8pm)
BP Energy Center, Birch Room, Anchorage, AK (in conjunction with the ACSUS-in-Alaska conference)

National Council for Geographic Education Annual Meeting

Notable Session: *Picture Canada—Learning About Canada's Physical Regions Through Pictures*
October 5-8, 2006
(D. Rees, K-12 STUDY CANADA Teacher-Associate) Lake Tahoe, NV

K-12 STUDY CANADA Display at the WSCSS In-Service Conference

Social Studies: Reading & Writing with a Purpose
Saturday, October 14 (8am-4pm)
Edmonds Woodway High School, Edmonds, WA

NCSS Embassy Tour

Thursday, November 30, 2006 (9am-1pm)
(\$35 event tickets must be purchased in advance)
The International Activities Committee is sponsoring a bus tour that includes consular briefings on international relations and free resources for teachers. Stops include the Embassies of Canada, South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

National Council for the Social Studies 86th Annual Conference

Promise & Practice
December 1-3, 2006
Friday, December 1 sessions on Canada: (1) Poetic License Required: Teaching Canada with Poetry and Prose* (T. Storer & N. Fabbri); (2) Patriots and Loyalists: Who Were the Good Americans? (D. June & R. Writer); and (3) Teaching About Canada SIG Meeting in Room 148 (2:15-3:15pm). Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Professional Development Workshop for Educators

STUDY CANADA Summer Institute: Experience B.C. from the 5 Themes of Geography to the 2010 Olympics
June 24-29, 2007

Registration is already open for teachers to earn either 40 clock hours or 3 university undergraduate quarter credits. \$530 (WA State) or \$560 (out-of-state) includes tuition, housing, breakfasts & RT transportation Vancouver-Whistler. Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre and Delta Vancouver Suites, Vancouver, B.C.; Crystal Lodge, Whistler, B.C. <http://k12studycanada.org/scsi.shtml>

Canada in the Classroom: K-12 Resources

WEBSITES

Canadian Museum of Civilization – An excellent biography of Bill Reid (1920-1998) with supplementary info. www.civilization.ca/aborig/reid/reid02e.html

The Haida: Children of Eagle and Raven – Information by Dr. George McDonald is an excellent Internet resource. www.civilization.ca/aborig/haida/haindex.html

The Kids' Site of Canadian Settlement: Haida (Grades 4-6) - This educational site explores the history, daily life and culture of the Haida. www.collectionscanada.ca/settlement/kids/021013-2061-e.html

Canadian Broadcast Corporation - CBC Archives explores the career of Bill Reid through 2-10 minute film clips. http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-68-1273/arts_entertainment/bill_reid/

National Film Board of Canada – View a 2-minute profile on Bill Reid and his work or a clip of him creating a carved pole from a bare cedar trunk: www.nfb.ca/trouverunfilm/fichefilm.php?id=17982&lg=en&exp=&v=h or www.onf.ca/enclasse/doclens/visau/index.php?mode=theme&theme=30660&language=english&PHPSESSID=1b4dace91a5884b05a21fe4289998619

Haida Gwaii. Where is it? What is It?
www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Haida/nojava/english/c+o/textframe.html

BOOKS AND VIDEOS

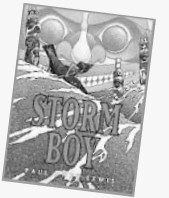
CBC Life and Times Series - Raven in the Sun: The Life and Times of Bill Reid - This award-winning documentary follows Bill Reid's quest for identity and mission to revive his rich ancestral past. It originally aired in 2003 and can be ordered via the distributor, Peace Arch Television at <http://www.theeyes.ca/doculist.htm>



An Idea of Canada (video) – Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and her husband embark on a summer journey to Canada's seacoasts in Nunavut, Newfoundland, Labrador and Haida Gwaii. Meeting with Native and non-Native Canadians, the couple participates in their cultures and listens to concerns. (NFB of Canada 143C9103118 - \$39.95)



Storm Boy and Frog Girl by Paul Owen Lewis - The illustrations depicting the rugged Northwest coast and the native Haida, Tlingit, and other peoples in these two books are outstanding. Both stories offer precise historical detail and use Northwest coast motifs. They read like poetry and deepen the reader's understanding of and appreciation for First Nations traditions.



Haida Quest by Mary Razzell (ages 10-12) This juvenile novel tells the story of Lucy who is forced to move to the Sunshine Coast of BC to live with a grandmother she's never met. Although she finds her new surroundings difficult, she learns to love British Columbia, her grandmother and her new native culture. ISBN: 1550172492



Island of the Ghost Bear by B.J. Johnson (ages 10-14) Young readers will be awakened to both the wonder of Nature and the hard facts of Man's power to upset its balance in this adventure story. There is a continual sense of magic as the central characters encounter orcas, seals, a perceptive raven and the rare bear of the title. ISBN: 1591098963



The Raven Steals the Light by William Reid and Robert Bringhurst (all ages) The renowned artist retells ten traditional Haida stories, including those of the noble, tragic Bear; the intrepid fisherman-hunter Nanasigmit and, above all, the amoral but always fascinating Raven. ISBN: 0295975245



K-12 STUDY CANADA

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