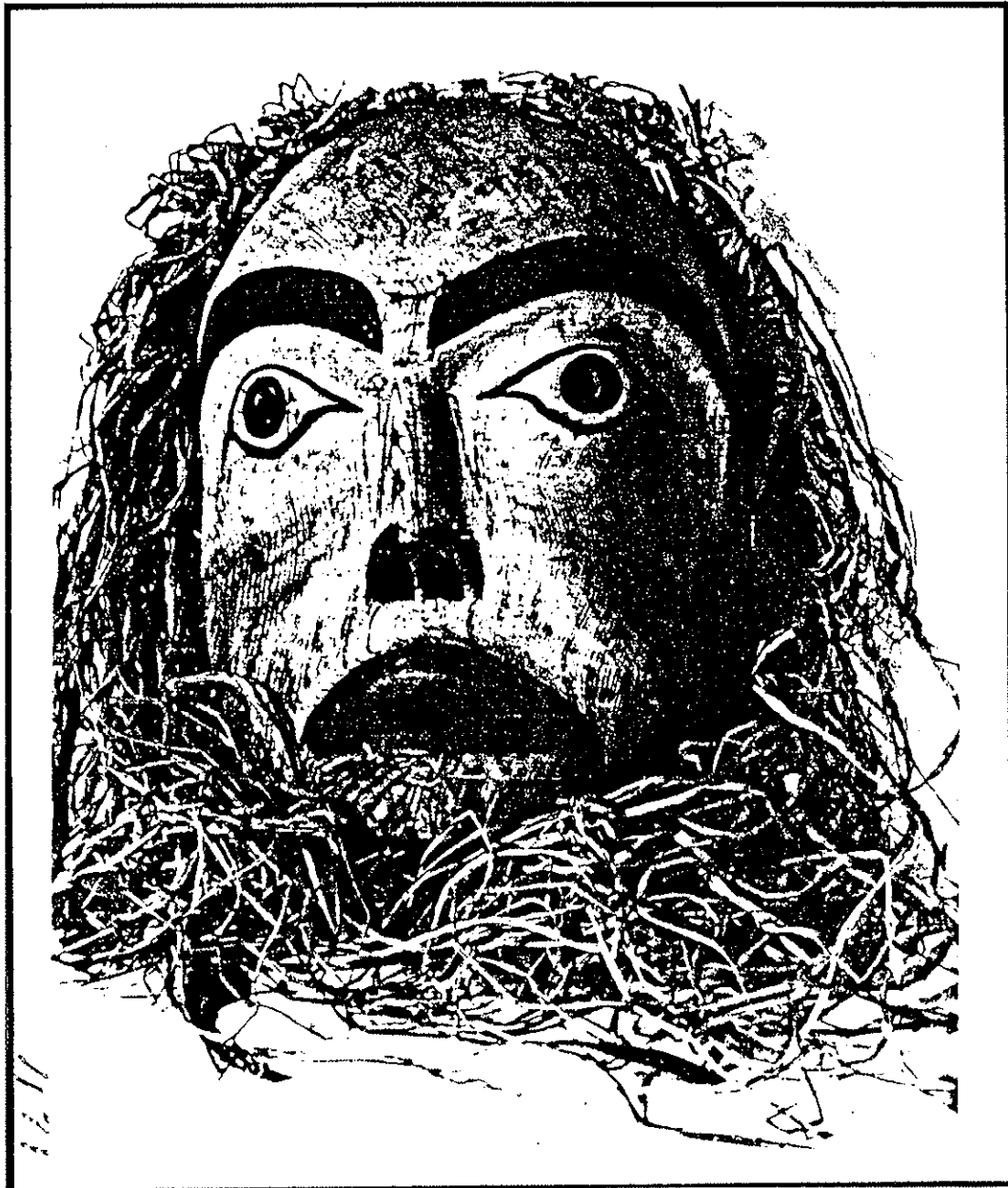


U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 1988

FROM THE CURATOR...

First of all, we wish all our members a very Happy New Year and hope that everyone had a good Christmas.

Late in December, we began planning for the ceremony to receive the returned Potlatch Collection treasures, which the Royal Ontario Museum finally sent to the British Columbia Provincial Museum. The Boards of Directors of the U'mista Cultural Society and the Nuyumbalees Society agreed on the date, Saturday, January 30th, as the time to gather in Mungo Martin's Big House in Victoria, to celebrate the u'mista of our treasures. We hope that as many of our Victoria members as possible will join us on that date. Please remember that the Big House only holds up to a maximum of 250 people, so plan to be there on time. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m.

The cover photograph for this issue of the newsletter is from the collection being returned by the Royal Ontario Museum. As with most of the objects taken in 1922, we can't be certain that the owner's name attached to this mask is accurate. However, the Boards of Directors of both the Nuyumbalees Society and our own have agreed that the 135 objects being returned are to be divided between our Centre and the Kwakiutl Museum based on these names.

One of our biggest challenges in this new year will be the return of the third and final part of the Potlatch Collection, which is still at the Museum of the American Indian/Heye Foundation in New York. Although only 33 objects were sold to George Heye by William Halliday in 1922, our initial contact with the Director and Trustees of the American Museum were not encouraging. Presently, the museum is dealing with other problems, such as the possibility that all its collections may be moved to Washington, D.C., to become part of the Smithsonian Institution's responsibility.

Since the last newsletter in September, the Centre has been busy with a number of events, which we will report here. For myself, I was involved in two working sessions with Andrea Laforet, ethnologist and Ian Gregory, designer, to develop a design plan for the Wakas House exhibit, which is to be part of the Grand Hall at the new Canadian Museum of Civilisation. The three of us have come up with a really good plan and it is very satisfying for me to be part of this work. Although the Wakas pole left Alert Bay many years ago, it seems right that, in the 1980's, we are still connected with it.

In October, I participated in a panel presented at the Film Industry Trade Forum, held in conjunction with the Vancouver Film Festival. Other panelists were Leonard George of the Chief Dan George Memorial Foundation, Burton Smokey Day, an independent video producer from the prairies,

Barry Barclay, a Maori director and Wi Kuki Kaa, a Maori actor who starred in "Ngati", a film directed by Barclay. The panel was moderated by Loretta Todd, a film instructor at Capilano College. It was an interesting session, deal- with with native filmmaking, well-attended with many ques- tions from the audience.

We welcomed Jane Maxwell, project officer for the Pri- mate's World Relief and Development Fund of the Anglican Church. In the past, the fund contributed \$10,000.00 to- ward the cost of the Kwakwala Teacher Training Project, so Jane's visit was a chance to show her activities at the Centre.

I also attended two Board meetings of the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in November and December, as well as two meetings of our own Board of Directors during that period.

Davina is recovering from her pre-Christmas rush at the Gift Shop. The most popular items were the new U'mista Sweatshirts and, as usual, silver jewelry. Even our out- of-town members took advantage of the 15% Christmas sale discount and every one was happy with their bargains.

Eva attended a tourism workshop in Vancouver and con- tinues with her North Island College courses, as does Sharon. Eva will be coordinating a Saturday afternoon pro- gram, sponsored by British Columbia Heritage Trust. She will be working with three Simon Fraser students, to devel- op special programs to be offered at the Centre. Sharon works with our membership files, attendance records and project reports.

The Salmonista Video Crew, reduced to 1½ people (Gerry Ambers=1, Denise Cranmer=½) continues with the Legends and Villages project. The latest tape completed is the 'Namqis one and the crew just keeps getting better all the time.

The next few months will be busy ones, as we prepare for the summer tour season, begin evening activities again and develop new programs. With the Board of Directors, we will attempt to finalize our Specific Claim, together with the Nuyumbalees Society. In March, we will welcome a student from the Art Administration program at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton. She will be with us for four months, as part of her training and we look forward to working with her. The initial contact with the College was the result of a presentation I made at the Vancouver Children's Festival last year. Students from the College are placed with "well- run arts organizations", according the chairman of the pro- gram. It's good to have U'mista recognized as belonging in that category.

Now, for the other news.....

Gloria Cranmer Webster.

SALMONISTA

As part of the video tape on the 'Namgis, the video crew travelled to the old village site of U'dzo'las in October. The trip itself should have been videotaped, what with people falling in the river; one member, who shall remain nameless, getting lost (she insists she was not lost, but rather, was convinced that she had found the site, whereas, the rest of us knew that we had), and other misadventures. It was a long, tiring, but interesting day. We were wet, muddy, cold and hungry by the time we got back to Port McNeill.

U'dzo'las was abandoned by the 'Namgis decades ago, but the remains of houses are still evident. Our old people tell us that there were originally 20 houses there, with about four families occupying each one early in the winter, when it was time to smoke dog salmon. Each family smoked about 1,000 salmon, which gives some idea of the abundance of salmon in those days. Another feature of the village which can still be seen are the canoe runs on the beach, leading up to the houses.

Our thanks go to Bert Svanvik, who drove us to the bridge and hiked down the river with us. His patience with us during the trip is much appreciated.

The Salmonistas also videotaped two potlatches in the last three months, adding to their experience.

To some extent, the Salmonistas were also involved in the visit of a CBC television crew in October, at which time, Agnes Cranmer, Ethel and Alvin Alfred were interviewed for the program, The Best Years. We have a videotape copy of the program at the Centre, if any members missed it.

GOOD NEWS

Members know of the exhibit in the first Ramp Case in the Centre. Most of the artifacts were loaned to us by the British Columbia Provincial Museum in 1980. The loan has been extended by the Museum to 1990.

From the Secretary of State, we received a grant of \$7,500.00, with which to continue the "Legends and Villages" project.

From our Ainu friends, we received a letter, copied on the next page. Again, we thank everyone who helped to make our Ainu visitors so welcome in September.

Biratori-cho
Saru-gun, Hokkaido 055-
Japan

Curator Gloria C. Webster
U'mista Cultural Center
Alert Bay, B.C.
VON. IAO
Canada

October 31, 1987

Dear Gloria and everyone,

Two months have already passed since we left Alert Bay. You might be wondering where we have gone; soaring up in the sky like 'Raves' in Alert Bay or being curled up in the caves like 'Bears' in the Hidaka mountains. No, we are all in Hokkaido, working hard in the offices or on the farms for harvest or doing business in and out of town. Whatever the reason fo this belated letter is, we must apologize to you for not writing much sooner.

Thank you very much for your heartwarming welcome and hospitality that we had during our stay in Alert Bay. Back in Japan, everytime we look at the pictures we took there, warm feelings and fun memories fill our hearts; such a wonderful welcome party at the Big House, touching films at the cultural center, exciting but a little disappointing salmon fishing, comfortable homestay, and that fun farewell party at Gloria's house.

After leaving Alert Bay, we enjoyed our trip to the Banff National Park where the Canadian Rockies were magnificent and the lakes were beautiful. Most of all, however, it was you, the people in Alert Bay, who made our trip such an unforgettable one. Now we are so happy to have good friends who have a lot in common with us in terms of history and present situations.

Did you have the first frost in your place? We have had the snow up on the mountain peaks but not yet around our houses. We have to start preparing for this coming winter; adding some more winter clothes, preserving vegetables, and wintering plants in our gardens.

Please give our best regards and appreciation to our friends who came to see us at the Big House. We hope to see you again.

Sincerely yours,

高山修 (Osamu Takayama)	長野芝義 (Mitsuyoshi Nagano)	菅野茂 (Shigeru Kayano)
貝沢幸司 (KOJI KAIZAWA)	広岡堅右 (KENJI HIROOKA)	川村兼一 (Kenichi Kawamura)
松原俊幸 (Toshimuki Matsubara)	貝沢留美子 (Rumiko kaizawa)	貝沢美和子 (Miwako kaizawa)
山崎京子 (Kyoko Yamazaki)	平村卜平 (TOKI HIRAMURA)	前川豊伸 (Toyonobu Maekawa)
吉田翠 (Midori Yoshida)		米田喬喜 (Hideki Yoneda)

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members and thank them for their support:

Randy Pecarski	Elizabeth Kennedy
Elvi Whittaker	Sandy Jacobson
Colleen Rudy	Cedwyn & Peggy Phillips
Sharon Mountain	D.E. Walpole
Carole Perreault	J. Houlston
Jan Parcigneau	Henry Hawthorn
Noal Swanson	Sandy Moir
Linda Gilarksi	Sandy Brotchie
Ann Cubbitt	Margaret (Cookie) Hunt
Lorraine Cook	Jack Dowhy
Colin Skinner	Willie & Karen Cook
Werner Koch	Liz Thompson

Special thanks go to the Nimpkish Band Council, our first corporate/band member, under the amendment to our constitution. We hope that other band councils will follow the example of the Nimpkish and support us in the same way.

We also thank the following people for continuing to support the Centre by renewing their membership in the Society:

Thomas East	Laverne Schildt
Peggy Svanvik	Pauline Waterfall
Arlene Stadnyk	Tony Hunt
Rod Sherrell	Jenifer Butterfield
Lou Crabe	Malia Southard
Betty Prangnell	C.M. Tervo
Kevin Neary	David H. Goroy
Diane Bell	Marie Mauze
Jim & Ann Borrowman	Bill & Donna McKay
Jenny Thurber	Simon Fraser University
Gordon and Patricia Neave	Peter Kuttner
Margaret Taylor	Stan & Barbara Hunt
Lynn Wiltse	Gloria Snively
Dee Dee Alfred	Evelyn Dick
Charles & Elda Macaulay	Vera Newman
Stephen Ruttan	Greg Shoop
David Neel	Emma Svanvik
Stella Beans	Lorraine Hunt
Shelly Cook	Harry Prevost
Gina Wadhams	Jeff & Ann Wright
Bobby Joseph	Patsy Cook
Maureen Wright	Christina Cook
Vicki Taylor	Eva Cook
Gerri Ambers	Yvonne Gesinghaus
Pat & Pauline Alfred	Lawrence Isaac

NOTE: We would appreciate members checking the expiry dates on their membership cards. With the increase in postal rates, we'd like to cut down on the number of renewal notices we send. Gilakas'la

On September 30th, a group of singers and dancers performed at the annual conference of Cultural Education Centres Directors, hosted by the Duncan Cultural Centre. Organized by Davina Hunt, the U'mista dancers were well-received by the conference delegates and met native people from across Canada, who share our concerns about cultural survival.

In October, Davina organized a dinner to welcome T̄isalagi-lakw School staff. U'mista staff and members provided a delicious meal for the school staff.

Later, in December, U'mista hosted a lunch for Simon Fraser students. It was an opportunity for us to congratulate the hard-working future teachers and to encourage them to continue their studies.

AN ERROR IN JUDGEMENT

This long-awaited book by Dara Culhane Speck finally arrived from the publishers and on December 12th, the U'mista Cultural Society and the Native Women's Alliance co-hosted a reception for Dara. A few people spoke, congratulating Dara for her courage and determination to tell the story of health care services in Alert Bay. Although invitations had been sent to all St. George's Hospital Society directors, it was disappointing that only one member attended. However, we were pleased with the attendance of about 40 people, many of whom bought autographed copies of Dara's book.

FILM SERIES AND OTHER EVENING ACTIVITIES

The first evening of the series will be Tuesday, January 19th, at 7:00 p.m., at which time, Salmonista Video productions will be screened. The plan is to hold these film nights every other Tuesday and Gerry Ambers has ordered a number of good, recent films about and by native people to show our members.

Davina will be at the Centre on Tuesday evenings for those who are interested in making button blankets. The Gift Shop has a good supply of pearl buttons in different sizes, to help you get started.

Singing classes will also resume soon, although we have not yet determined an evening convenient for all those interested.

That just about covers it for this issue. Our New Year's Resolution is to try to get a newsletter out regularly, every 3 months. Wish us luck!

Halakas'la