

Guide to the Owen Luck, Photographs of Alaska and Haida Gwaii, British Columbia

WA Photos Folio 151



by Matthew Daniel Mason

2019

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA Photos Folio 151

CREATOR: Luck, Owen Craig, 1947-

TITLE: Photographs of Alaska and Haida Gwaii, British Columbia

DATES: 2011-2012

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.84 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: Inscriptions in English.

SUMMARY: Photographs of Alaska and Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands), British Columbia, 2011-2012, printed as thirty-three black-and-white gelatin silver prints and five color inkjet prints that chiefly document Haida and Tlingit people, sites, and cultures.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.luckowenwpcf151>

Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Owen Luck on the Walter McClintock Memorial Fund, 2013.

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Preferred Citation

Owen Luck, Photographs of Alaska and Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Owen Luck (born 1947)

Owen Luck is an American photographer known for his photography of Native American and First Nation Canadian life and history.

Scope and Contents

Photographs of Alaska and Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands), British Columbia, 2011-2012, printed as thirty-three black-and-white gelatin silver prints and five color inkjet prints that chiefly document Haida and Tlingit people, sites, and cultures.

Images of Haida people and sites in 2011 include the installation of totem poles at Hydaburg, Alaska, and views of Ninstints, a historic Haida village site. Portraits of Haida include Crystal Robinson, Darin Swanson, Mary Swanson, Candace White, and Christian White.

Images of Tlingit people and sites include the installation of totem poles at Kalwock, Alaska, in 2011, and a celebration in Juneau, Alaska, in 2012. Identified Tlingit include members of dance groups including the Heinyaa Khwaan Dance Group led by Jonathan O. Rowan, Jr.

Several images document dance groups including Haida members of the Tluu Xaada Naay (Canoe Peoples House) Dance Group from Massett, British Columbia, and Tsimshian members of the Git-Hoan (People of the Salmon) Native Dance Group from Metlakatla, Alaska.

Signed, numbered, and dated by the photographer on versos of prints. Arranged by the photographer.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Black-and-White Photographs, 11 x 14 Inches (28 x 36 centimeters), 2011. II. Black-and-White Photographs, 16 x 20 Inches (41 x 51 centimeters), 2011. III. Black-and-White Photographs, 20 x 24 Inches (51 x 61 centimeters), 2011. IV. Color Inkjet Prints, 17 x 23 Inches (43 x 60 centimeters), 2011-2012.

Collection Contents

Series I: Black-and-White Photographs, 11 x 14 Inches (28 x 36 centimeters), 2011

Kagani Haida, Hydaburg, Alaska

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 1	<i>Generations Meet. The Totem Pole Raisings Take Place in Conjunction with Culture Camp where Haida Children Learn about their Culture and Art. The Poles are Carved by a few Haida Carvers.</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 2	<i>Children Get Carried to the Pole Park</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 3	<i>Women Carry a Totem Pole to the Park for Raising</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 4	<i>Totem Pole Going Up</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 5	<i>Higher ...</i>	2011

Tlingit, Klawock, Alaska

Context provided by Luck for the subseries: "Jon Rowan a respected Tlingit artist teaches, Tlingit children Tlingit Art, from kindergarten until they complete high school. [The year] 2011 marked the first time in eighty years that totem poles in the Totem Pole Park, weathered and worn, were replaced. Five heraldic monuments were stored away and replaced with five new replica poles carved by Jon Rowan and his apprentices, all students before graduating to go on to college.

In 2013 five more poles will be erected. Another eighty years will go by before this event is renewed."

b. 1 (Oversize), f. 6	<i>On a Rainy August Morning the Killer Whale Pole is the First Totem Pole to be Carried from Jon Rowan's Long House for a Rainy Three Miles to the Totem Pole Park in the Heart of Klawock</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 7	<i>The Killer Whale Pole Moves Along ...</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 8	<i>Aided by a Young Tlingit Warrior, Tlingit Men Haul a Second as it Makes its Way to the Park</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 9	<i>Straight into the Afternoon Sun of the Only Day it Did Not Rain. Tlingit Men Heft a Double Flicker Pole to its Raising Place</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 10	<i>It Takes the Effort of Many Hands to Lift the Pole</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 11	<i>A Tlingit Chieftain of the Flicker Clan Looks on as the Pole Celebrating his Clan is Made Fast</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 12	<i>A Tlingit Elder Greets the Photographer</i>	2011
b. 1 (Oversize), f. 13	<i>A Tlingit Family from Ketchikan, Alaska Poses</i>	2011

Tlingit, Klawock, Alaska (continued)

b.1 (Oversize), f. 14	<i>Members of Jon Rowan's Dance Group Wearing Tlingit War Regalia Carved by Jon Rowan Gather for a Photograph</i> Members of the Heinyaa Khwaan dance group.	2011
b.1 (Oversize), f. 15	<i>Nonnie Mary Swanson, Matriarch of the Haida People</i>	2011

Series II: Black-and-White Photographs, 16 x 20 Inches (41 x 51 centimeters), 2011

Black-and-white photographs are gelatin silver prints.

Old Masset, Haida Gwaii

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 16	<i>Luck's Adoptive Haida Family. From left to right: Crystal Robinson (Mother), Darin Swanson (Uncle), Mary Swanson (Nonnie/Grandmother)</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 17	<i>Mary Swanson, Matriarch of the Yahgu Jaanaas/Laanaas Clan, and Haida People</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 18	<i>Darin Swanson, Chief Ginaawaan of Dadens, of the Yahgu Jaanaas/Laanaas Clan</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 19	<i>Candace and Christian White in Christian's "Tluu Xaada Naay" Long House</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 20	<i>Display of Christian White's Art</i>	2011

S'gung Gwaii, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site

S'gung Gwaii, also known as S'Gang Gwaay Llanagaay ("Red Cod Island") or by its English name Ninstints, is a Haida village site and part of the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site on Haida Gwaii on the North Coast of British Columbia, Canada. The site became a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site in 1981.

Context provided by Luck for the subseries with a quote by Michael M. Ames, Director of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia in the foreword to George F. MacDonald, *Ninstints, Haida World Heritage Site, Museum Note No. 12* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983), iii: "The Kunghit Haida of Ninstints are no more -- they did not survive the onslaught of Western civilization. Their village, now only ruins, has been declared a World Heritage Site in memory of the cultivated society that once flourished there. But Ninstints is more than a celebrated relic; it provides as well a lesson in history and morals."

b. 2 (Oversize), f. 21	<i>Sailing Along the Gwaii Haanas Coast on the Way to S'gung Gwaii</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 22	<i>House Pit</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 23	<i>Detail Totem Pole</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 24	<i>Pole Detail</i>	2011
b. 2 (Oversize), f. 25	<i>Pole Detail in Foreground</i>	2011

Series III: Black-and-White Photographs, 20 x 24 Inches (51 x 61 centimeters), 2011

S'gung Gwaii, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO) World Heritage Site

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 26	<i>Beginning Down Footpath</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 27	<i>Looking Back Up the Trail</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 28	<i>House Pit Looking Back at the Trail</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 29	<i>Farther Along</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 30	<i>Looking Back</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 31	<i>From the Beach</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 32	<i>Three More Magnificent Mortuary Poles</i>	2011
b. 3 (Oversize), f. 33	<i>Life Goes On</i>	2011

Series IV: Color Inkjet Prints, 17 x 23 Inches (43 x 60 centimeters), 2011–2012

Klawock, Alaska

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 34 *The Tlingit and Their Guests Gather in the Totem Pole Park* 2011

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 35 *Jon Rowan Leads his Dancers into the Hall for the First of Three Nights of Feasting, Singing, and Dancing, as the Tlingit of Klawock, Alaska, Celebrate the Renewal of Their Culture with the Raising of Five New Poles* 2011

Celebration, Juneau, Alaska

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 36 *Killer Whale Dancer of the Git-Hoan (People of the Salmon) Native Dance Group from Metlakatla, Alaska* 2012

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 37 *The Haida "Tluu Xaada Naay" dancers* 2012

Old Masset, Haida Gwaii

b. 3 (Oversize), f. 38 *Christian White Carving an Argillite Raven Head* 2011

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Haida Indians -- Pictorial works
Indians of North America -- Pictorial works
Tlingit Indians -- Pictorial works
Totem poles -- Alaska -- Hydaburg -- Pictorial works
Totem poles -- Alaska -- Klawock -- Pictorial works
Totem poles -- British Columbia -- Ninstints
Site -- Pictorial works
Tsimshian Indians -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Inkjet prints
Photographic prints
Photographic prints
Photographs

Geographic Names

Alaska -- Pictorial works
British Columbia -- Pictorial works
Haida Gwaii (B.C.) -- Pictorial works
Hydaburg (Alaska) -- Pictorial works
Klawock (Alaska) -- Pictorial works
Ninstints Site (B.C.) -- Pictorial works

Names

Luck, Owen Craig, 1947-
Robinson, Crystal -- Portraits
Rowan, Jonathan O., Jr. -- Portraits
Swanson, Darin -- Portraits
Swanson, Mary -- Portraits
White, Candace -- Portraits
White, Christian, 1962- -- Portraits.