



Illustration: Clutesi—the Whaler

GEORGE CLUTESI:
author, actor,
artist and
ethnographer

An Exhibition at the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery
University of Victoria
May 27 to July 8, 1990

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH: GEORGE CLUTESI 1905—1988

The role of the creative artist in any society is a far from easy one to assume. To express ideas, sentiments and convey images to the world in general is a difficult task. Imagine the position of an individual from a minority culture attempting to do the same thing to a world which if not hostile is at least indifferent. This was the situation of George Clutesi when he began his multi-faceted career in the arts. Miraculously he proceeded in what he set out to do and West Coast native artists who followed him were the inheritors of his hard won acclaim.

George Clutesi was born in 1905 near Port Alberni in British Columbia. His name Clutesi meant 'whale hunter' and he was a member of the Wolf Clan. Because of policies adopted by the government of the day the traditional customs and communal activities of the native peoples were slowly but steadily being eroded and the cultural life of the society almost vanished. Not everyone accepted this situation with equanimity and George Clutesi was one such person.

In his early twenties he began to paint and to write. His aim was to illustrate the broad spectrum of the native culture. His artistic career was influenced by Emily Carr whom he met in the 1930's. His work attracted attention almost from the beginning but he needed more than praise to provide a livelihood for himself and his family. He worked at various jobs—most of them relatively menial—such as labourer, fisherman and as a pile driver. All the time he did not lose sight of his other interests. Not only was he concerned for the visual and literary traditions of his people—he was to be a founding member of the Alberni Valley Art Group in 1942—but he wished to convey other aspects of native culture and as early as 1935 began to promote public performances of traditional dancing. His efforts had some local successes and the Alberni community applauded his efforts. Disaster struck in 1943 when he had a serious accident and he was severely limited in his artistic endeavours for nearly a decade.

George Clutesi was a determined person and he refused to allow his physical incapacity to deter him from his goals. He persevered, he encouraged other artists and finally in 1960 he gained recognition from a larger audience. He was invited to lecture at the Victoria Art Gallery and almost from this year he went from one success to another. His wife Margaret and his family supported his endeavours with love and affection; they, too, had come to share his dreams.

He gained acclaim as a speaker on native culture and he was to perform to wild applause with his native dance troupes performing in a variety of theatres in B.C. and Canada in the late 1960's. He painted an almost magical mural for the Canadian pavilion in Montreal in 1967. The mural was some forty by twenty seven feet showing a thunderbird with its talons in the back of a killer whale, there was also a second killer whale, a lightning snake and a wolf—the last a symbol of the west coast of Canada.

It was always his aim to ensure that the legends of his people be widely known. His first book *Son of Raven, Son of Deer* was published in the centennial year. The book was an instant success and many copies were sold to a delighted reading public. This book is to be found in libraries throughout the country and abroad. His second book *Potlatch* appeared two years later to be received with similar enthusiasm as was given to his initial major literary endeavour.

Although he had already received the centennial medal he was to be given The Order of Canada in 1973 and also named as a founding member of the Board of Heritage Canada the same year. In addition the City of Victoria named him an honorary citizen. Two years previously he had been given an LLD degree *honoris causa* by the University of Victoria.

George Clutesi also had another career, that of an actor. In 1975 he began to appear in a number of films and for the next decade there was almost a new role created for him every year. In addition he featured in a number of television productions. Indeed, he was active as a thespian until the year previous to his demise.

As an artist he had begun as a boy making simple sketches; he progressed to watercolour as a media and ultimately he painted in oils. He was extremely productive and has left behind him many fine examples of his works. These have been collected avidly; many hang in public galleries while others are the cherished and appreciated works in private collections.

In 1988 George Clutesi died—he was 83 years old. He had come a long way from the world of his childhood. The voice was silenced, no further dances would take place, the actor's role was ended. However, the dream of bringing his people's culture and history to the world at large had been a triumph. He was to be the mentor and guide for future young artists of all types and more especially he popularized the brilliant west coast Indian arts. When George Clutesi delivered the convocation address at the University of Victoria in 1971 he made the following remarks which perhaps most aptly summarized his life and work:

"I have had a full life . . . Throughout my long years of living I made myself useful to my fellow man, nonetheless I liken myself to . . . a dead tree whose sap left its trunk long since. The winds will soon crash its great hulk to the ground; there it will lay 'til time will return its wood to the earth. So will the winds of time topple me, so will my frame return to Mother Earth. I am ready. I welcome its approach. I have fulfilled the task the Maker required of me."

Prof. S. W. Jackman

BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME:

- 1905 Born into Wolf Clan on the Opit Seshaht Reservation near Port Alberni, B.C.
- 1929 Began writing the legends of his people—started working with watercolours
- 1937 Married Margaret Lauder
- 1943 Working as a pile driver had serious accident—7-1/2 years before he could work again.
- 1961 Received Canada Council grant—native dancing
- 1966 Performed at Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver with his native dance troupe
- 1967 Awarded Centennial Medal
- 1967 Painted a mural at Expo for the Canadian Pavilion
- 1967 His book "Son of Raven, Son of Deer" was published
- 1969 Second book "Potlatch" was published
- 1971 Received doctorate from University of Victoria—gave Convocation Address
- 1973 Honorary Citizen of Victoria
Received order of Canada by Queen Elizabeth II
- 1974—
- 1987 Career in films
- 1988 Died

CATALOGUE:

Clutesi—The Whaler

ink and watercolour on paper

n.d. signed

29.5 × 18.9 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Note: Clutesi translates as "the whaler"; signature included in design

Thunderbird and Lightning Snake

watercolour and pencil on paper

1930 signed

43.5 × 28.0 cm

Collection of Ketha Adams

Thunderbird and Lightning Snake

watercolour and tempera on paper

1944 signed

89.5 × 58.2 cm

Collection of Robert Aller

Ulh-muh-gooh—The Wild Man of the Woods

watercolour on paper

1943 signed

Collection of the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology (A7350)

Ref.: See **Ulh-muh-gooh**, collection of Edward and Kim Clutesi, and **Ulh-muh-gooh**, collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Coming of the Wolves in the Winter Ceremony—

Tloo-quah-nah

watercolour on paper

1944 signed

28.0 × 43.2 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology (A7353)

Ref.: See **Coming of the Wolves in the Winter Ceremony**, collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

The Bear Dance

watercolour on paper

1944 signed

43.4 × 29.3 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology (A7351)

Wolf and Killer Whale

ink on paper

1953 signed

48.5 × 37.0 cm

Collection of Robert Aller

Rain Dance Frogs

ink and watercolour on paper

1959 signed

19.7 × 38.0 cm

Collection of Robert Aller

Ref.: Exhibited 1944.

See **Frog**, collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Feast Dish ink and watercolour on paper

1959 signed

23.7 × 44.4 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Note: illustration for the cover of *Pidlach*

Hunters and Hair Seal

oil on canvas

1959 signed

57.5 × 50.2 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Pookmiss

watercolour on paper

44.0 × 28.0 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology (A7352)

Ref.: G. Clutesi "Pookmiss," *Beaver*, Spring 1962

Pookmiss

oil on canvas

1959 signed

57.5 × 44.2 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: G. Clutesi "Pookmiss," *Beaver*, Spring 1962

Painted on an unused canvas that had belonged to

Emily Carr. Emily Carr bequeathed her unused

canvas, brushes and oils to George Clutesi

Untitled—Old Stone Hammers

ink and watercolour on paper

1964 signed

21.2 × 33.0 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Sculpin

ink and watercolour on paper

1961

29.0 × 39.5 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Note: "The Sculpin is a lovely fish. The West Coast Indians never ate it, but the legendary 'Pookmiss' had a curse put on him for not obeying the laws of his God. He was forced to roam the woods eternally lost. His only food was the Sculpin which he found in pools left by the receding tides. Now the Sculpin has a place in the legends of the West Coast Indians." Clutesi, Seshahi Tribe, Alberni, B.C.

Untitled—Helm of Whaling Canoe

• **Kingfisher Design**

ink and watercolour on paper

1966 signed

38.0 × 24.0 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: See **Kingfisher**, collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Kingfisher

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

29.2 × 17.7 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: See **Untitled—Helm of Whaling Canoe—Kingfisher Design**, collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Logo Design—George Clutesi

Scholarship Fund N.I.E.A.S.

lithograph on paper

c.1970 signed

25.2 × 20.2 cm

Collection of Edward and Kim Clutesi

The Raven—Logo for the Raven Society

ink on paper

1968 signed

27.8 × 24.0 cm

Collection of Edward and Kim Clutesi

Note: signature creates bird's leg and foot.

Untitled—Storage Bowl with Cod Design

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

34.3 × 26.7 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Wolf

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

25.3 × 38.1 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: See *Son of Raven, Son of Deer*, p. 24. Study for Dance Screen

Wolf and Whale

ink on paper

1971 signed

44.5 × 29.5 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Rain Dance Frog

ink on paper

1971 signed

36.0 × 25.0 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Killer Whale Dorsal Fin and Crescent Moon

ink on paper

1971 signed

37.0 × 27.1 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Woman Dancer

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

27.8 × 20.6 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: Exhibited: Alberni Valley Museum, 1980. Also described as "Woman Head Dress Dancer."

Self Portrait with wife

Margaret and Daughter

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

20.8 × 30.2 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: Exhibited: Alberni Valley Museum, April 1980. Also described as singing figures with profiles.

Paddle Dance

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

21.7 × 29.7 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: Exhibited: Alberni Valley Museum, April 1980. Also described as "Women Paddle Dancers."

Whale Hunters

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

33.2 × 24.3 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: Exhibited: Alberni Valley Museum, April 1980.

Whale Hunters (aerial view)

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

34.5 × 22.8 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: Exhibited: Alberni Valley Museum, April 1980.

Ulh-muh-gooh—The Wild

Man of the Woods

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

33.5 × 24.2 cm

Collection of Edward and Kim Clutesi

Ref.: See **Ulh-muh-gooh** collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell, and **Ulh-muh-gooh** collection of UBCMA (A7350).

Loon

ink on paper

1986 signed

20.4 × 28.2 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Note: one of the last two paintings completed prior to Clutesi's death

Shaman's Rattle—Raven Design

ink and watercolour on paper

1986 signed

29.2 × 21.4 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Note: signature included in image. One of the last two paintings completed prior to Clutesi's death.

Whaling Expedition with Thunderbird

watercolour on paper

c.1940's signed

28.1 x 44.0 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia
Museum of Anthropology (A7348)**Study for Mural for Expo '67****Indian Pavilion**

ink and watercolour on paper

1967 unsigned

28.9 x 44.5 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.526)Note: (from top left) lightning snake, eagle, wolf,
dolphin, whale and seabird.**Thunderbird**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

27.90 x 32.7 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.529)

Note: study for Dance Screen

**Wolf, Killer Whale, Heitit, Whale
and Thunderbird**

ink and watercolour on paper

c.1971 signed

20.3 x 29.2 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.528)

Note: Study for Dance Screen

Warrior Dance

watercolour on paper

c.1940 signed

27.4 x 42.7 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia
Museum of Anthropology (A7349)**Hinkeets Dance—The Head Dress Dance**

watercolour on paper

1944 signed

43.4 x 24.3 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia
Museum of Anthropology (A6430)Ref.: See "Hinkeets Dance," Collection of Dr. and
Mrs. Norell and "Hinkeets Dance" collection of
George and Corinne Clutesi.**Whale**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

25.4 x 33.0 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.527)Note: "God sent the whale to feed and clothe the
West Coast Indian people. Its meat and oils formed
a great part of his diet; its bones were used to make
his tools and war implements; its entrails made his
waterproof garments, while its sinews and gut were
used to make his stout lanyard for his harpoon. The
whale indeed played an important part in the life of
the Coast Indian." Clutesi, Seshat Tribe, Alberni,
B.C.**Sea Serpent Head Dress**

watercolour on paper

1971 signed

35.6 x 28.0 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.531)**Son of Eagle**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

25.3 x 38.2 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: See *Son of Raven, Son of Deer*, p.44**Self portrait with wife, Margaret**

watercolour on paper

1969 signed

39.4 x 26.4 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.530)Ref.: See *Self Portrait with wife Margaret and
Daughter*, collection of George and Corinne Clutesi.**Self Portrait with wife Margaret
on Drum**

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

28.5 x 21.8 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Whale Potlatch Dish

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

24.2 x 34.3 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: see *Son of Raven, Son of Deer* p.124. Filling the
Whale Potlatch Dish in preparation for the Feast.
The Seal Skin is filled with seal oil traditionally
considered an incredible delicacy by native people
on the West Coast.**Hinkeets Dance—The Head****Dress Dance**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

28.0 x 43.2 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: see *Hinkeets Dance*, UBCMA (A6430) and*Hinkeets Dance*, collection of George and Corinne
Clutesi**Uth-muh-goooh—The Wild Man
of the Woods**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

29.3 x 8.0 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: see *Uth-muh-goooh*, collection of Edward and
Kim Clutesi and *Uth-muh-goooh*, collection of the
UBCMA (UBCMA A7350)**Coming of the Wolves—Tloo-quah-nah**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

28.0 x 43.0 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: part of initiation ceremony during Tloo-quah-
nah. See *Coming of the Wolves—Tloo-quah-nah*,
collection of the UBCMA (A7353)**Untitled—Dug out Canoe with Cedar Bow**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

38.1 x 25.3 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

**Hinkeets Dance—The Head Dress
Dance**

ink and watercolour on paper

1980 signed

30.5 x 24.2 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Ref.: see *Hinkeets Dance*, collection of Dr. and Mrs.
M. Norell**Ah-tush-mit—Son of Deer**

ink and watercolour

1976 signed

24.4 x 21.8 cm

Collection of Mark Recalma

Ref.: See *Ah-tush-mit, Son of Deer*, collection of
Edward and Kim Clutesi. Gift to Mark Recalma on
the occasion of the birth of his first son.**Ah-tush-mit, Son of Deer**

ink on paper

1985 unsigned

26.8 x 20.5 cm

Collection of Edward and Kim Clutesi.

Ref.: based on illustration from *Son of Raven, Son of
Deer* for a class of school children. See *Ah-tush-
mit*, collection of Mark Recalma**Ko-ishin-mit, Son of Raven**

ink on paper

1985 unsigned

26.7 x 20.3 cm

Collection of Edward and Kim Clutesi.

Ref.: based on illustration from *Son of Raven, Son of
Deer* for a class of school children.**Untitled—Killer whales**

ink on paper

1971 signed

29.5 x 44.5 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: See the books *Son of Raven, Son of Deer* and *The
Potlatch*. "To the Indian the Killer Whale was the
Lord of the Sea; because of this he never molested it,
but let it roam the inlets at will." Clutesi, Seshat
Tribe, Alberni, B.C.**Loon**

ink on paper

1971 signed

24.5 x 37.0 cm

Collection of Dr. and Mrs. M. Norell

Ref.: see *Loon*, collection of George and Corinne
Clutesi**Mask of Plenty**

oil on canvas

1959 signed

48.5 x 38.4 cm

Collection of the University of British Columbia
Museum of Anthropology (A7347)Ref.: see *Mask of Plenty*, collection of Robert Aller
and *Mask of Plenty*, collection of the B.C.
Provincial Archives and Records Service**Paddles**

ink and watercolour on paper

1971 signed

43.2 x 25.4 Collection of Arnold P. Recalma

Mask of Plenty

ink and watercolour on paper

c.1950's signed

30.0 x 24.0 cm

Collection of Robert Aller

Ref.: see *Mask of Plenty*, collection of the UBCMA
(A7347) and *Mask of Plenty*, collection of the
B.C. Archives and Records Service.**Mask of Plenty**

watercolour on card

1944 signed

44.8 x 29.9 cm

Collection of British Columbia Archives and Records
Service (pdp.1009)Ref.: see *Mask of Plenty*, collection of the UBCMA
(A7347) and *Mask of Plenty*, collection of Robert
Aller.

Ah-tush-mit, Son of Deer's

Canoe—Drum

oil on deerskin

1986 unsigned

d: 43.2 cm

Collection of Mrs. George Clutesi

Split Eagle and Two Sea Serpents

• (a) Drum

• (b) Drum beater

(a) oil on deerskin

(b) wood with leather

1966 signed

d: 46.0 cm

Collection of Kim Clutesi

Note: drum used in "Dreamspeaker" and "I heard an Owl Call My Name." Gift to Kim Clutesi at her naming ceremony.

Self Portrait—drum

oil on deerskin

1986 signed

d: 49.2 cm

Collection of Mrs. George Clutesi

Note: dance screen has a wolf and a whale representing Clutesi's clan and profession. Clutesi is the drummer and singer.

Son of Eagle and Whale

• (a) Drum

• (b) Drum Beater

(a) oil on deerskin

(b) oil on wood with leather

1986 unsigned

d: 50.2 cm

Collection of Mrs. George Clutesi

Whaling Scene—Drum

oil on deerskin

1986 signed

d: 47 cm

Collection of Mrs. George Clutesi

Pash-hook, Squirrel—Drum

oil on deerskin

c.1960—1970 unsigned

d: 32.5 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Four Killer Whales—Drum

oil on deerskin

c.1960's signed

d: 47 cm

Collection of George and Corinne Clutesi

Note: personal drum of George Clutesi

LIST OF FILMS:

"Dreamspeaker," CBC, Vancouver, 1977.

"So Sings the Wolf," The Devonian Group, 1976.

"The Gift," Beachcombers series, CBC British Columbia, 1988.

"I Heard the Owl Call my Name," Tomorrow Entertainment, 1973.

"The Legend of Walks Far Woman," EMI Television Productions, 1982, (filmed in 1979).

"George Clutesi" (news report on his death), February 28, 1988, CTV.

"Gentle Sinners," CBC Television, 1985. "Running Brave," Englander Productions, 1983.

"Make Your People Proud," UVic Television Production, 1984.

"Kelly," Famous Players Film Corporation, 1981.

"Danger Bay," CBC, 1987.

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"Dr. George Clutesi—with 'West Coast' canoe." *Alberni Valley Times*, April 28, 1980.

"Official symbol for Ma-Nulth-Art month." *Alberni Valley Times*, April 11, 1980.

"Dr. George Clutesi talked with children." *Alberni Valley Times*, April 11, 1980.

"Clutesi on Tour." *Alberni Valley Times*, November 18, 1977.

"Historical Society treated to special." *Alberni Valley Times*, April 18, 1977.

"Historians Lost Orator." *Alberni Valley Times*, March 14, 1977.

"A tale of two Artists." *Alberni Valley Times*, March 11, 1977.

"Acting is a new career for Clutesi." *Alberni Valley Times*, January 21, 1977.

"Local Man Stars on T.V. Sunday." *Alberni Valley Times*, January 19, 1977.

"Lions get Clutesi donation." *Alberni Valley Times*, November 25, 1976.

Hazel, Kathryn. "Brushing away racism." *Maclean's Magazine*, February, 1975.

"George Clutesi at 70—almost. He's still breaking the rules." *Alberni Valley Times*, December 16, 1974.

"Dr. George Clutesi is having a small one-man show of Indian Graphic Paintings in the Pine Room Echo Centre." *Alberni Valley Times*, December 11, 1974.

"True-life character—he's instantly at home." *Alberni Valley Times*, October 10, 1973.

"It's a matter of pride." *Alberni Valley Times*, July 4, 1973.

"One more honour for local author." *Alberni Valley Times*, April 5, 1973.

"Clutesi Haven Marina: triumph over disaster." *Alberni Valley Times*, March 3, 1973.

"Marina named Clutesi." *Alberni Valley Times*, February 14, 1973.

"Language Learners in a class at She Shant." *Alberni Valley Times*, February 13, 1973.

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"Clutesi, Artist Honoured." *Alberni Valley Times*, April 8, 1970.

"Clutesi Works in Ottawa Display." *Alberni Valley Times*, March 9, 1970.

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 "Expo-Indian Pavilion offered to City of Montreal." *Alberni Valley Times*, December 4, 1967.
 "Clutesi Book for princes." *Alberni Valley Times*, November 1, 1967.
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 "Expo 67—Clutesi Mural." *Twin Valley Times*, August 2, 1967.
 "Author honoured in Home Town." *Twin Valley Times*, June 14, 1967.
 "Clutesi Stories ready for public." *Twin Valley Times*, June 7, 1967.
 "Alberni Dancers at Queen E." *Twin Valley Times*, November 16, 1966.
 "Clutesi Returns Wednesday." *Twin Valley Times*, December 20, 1965.
 "Indian Life of Long Ago Described by Clutesi." *Twin Valley Times*, November 3, 1965.
 "George Clutesi Exhibition of Paintings." *Twin Valley Times*, February 26, 1964.
 "Clutesi—Baird and Beaver, All in Library." *Alberni Valley Courier*, May 9, 1962.
 "Citizenship Council Appoint Committee to Assist George Clutesi." *West Coast Advocate*, February 8, 1962.
 "Valley Citizenship Council Congratulate George Clutesi." *West Coast Advocate*, February 1, 1962.
 "First B.C. Indian Killed in Action." *West Coast Advocate*, September 21, 1944.
 "George C. Clutesi." *West Coast Advocate*, June 22, 1944.
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 "Native Dancers Thrill Spectators." *West Coast Advocate*, February 28, 1935.



THE SCULPIN

The sculpin is a lowly fish. The West Coast Indians never ate it, but the legendary "Pook-miss" had a curse put on him for not obeying the laws of his God. He was forced to roam the woods eternally lost. His only food was the sculpin which he found in the pools left by the receding tides.

Now the sculpin has a place in the legends of the West Coast Indians.

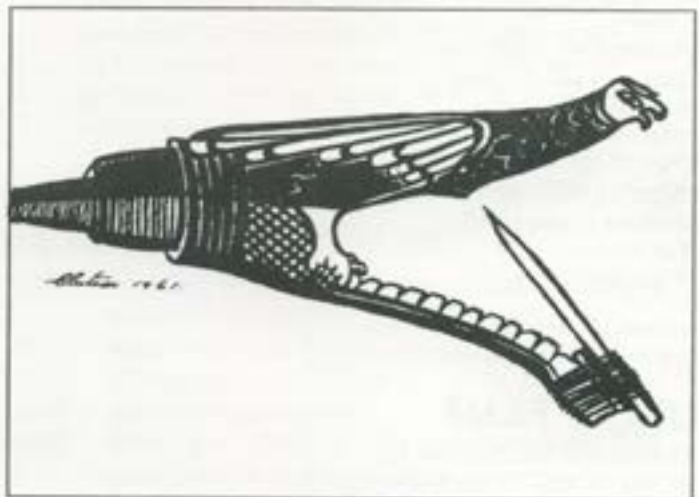
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"CHI-MOHN" THE FISH-HOOK

The fish-hook to the Nootka Indian was extremely important, because fish formed a great part of his diet. Indeed, he embellished it with colourful designs and ornate figures, it became a decorative and romantic piece of equipment. This is a halibut hook with the figure of the eagle carved to its contours.

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