

Peaceful Boundaries



RAVEN
(SPAAL')

MAQUINNA
SUN MASK

DOUBLE-HEADED
SEA SERPENT

At one time on the West Coast of Vancouver Island the Nuu-chah-nulth and all the tribes were fighting and killing one another over fishing and hunting grounds. The elders became deeply concerned over the loss of our people and got together with their Chief to stop this needless killing. The Chief got all of his carvers together to carve Sea Serpent, Wolf, and Maquinna-mask feast bowls. Then he sent a messenger to all the tribes to gather together. He spoke to all tribes to stop the fighting and killing... and started negotiations governing boundaries. So it came to pass that all boundaries were marked and honoured by all tribes. My Dad enjoyed carving the Raven... (that is why) I felt inspired to carve the Raven for the top of this Totem (Norman John, Submission, 1988).©



1988 | Size: 13'1" (4.0 m)

Norman John

Norman was born in 1929 in Mowachaht, Nuu-chah-nulth Territory, on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. Norman learned to carve at the age of nine from his father, Jimmy John, who was a gifted carver. Rose Baines-Read (sister of Corky Baines and Jane Marston) was Coast Salish, born in 1948 on Peggy Island. She was an assistant carver to Norman for this pole. Both artists are now deceased.©



Courtesy of City of Totems book