

A Book Review—

Magnificent Book

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Artifacts of the Northwest Coast Indians. Hilary Stewart,
Hancock House Publishers, 3215 Island View Road, Saanichton,
B. C. Canada. 1973 \$12.95 (Juneau).

What can you say after you say its magnificent! Here is one of the most unusual productions to come out in recent years, combining the skills of archaeology, ethnology, illustration and anthropology.

In its 169 pages, with over 1000 illustrations, the reader can gain not only an insight into the tools used in prehistoric times along the Northwest Coast, but also a glimpse at the highly-specialized and intricate cultures of these peoples.

~~Chapter One explains "digs", e. real scientific archaeological~~

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Magnificent Book . . .

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studies, and from there on it proceeds to give marvelous illustrations of all the tools and artifacts these people produced. There are hundreds of books out on totem poles and carvings, but hardly a one which shows the tools and techniques by which they were formed.

Some people are only interested in the aesthetic value of the finished product in art. Others wish to know how and why they came to be and how they were fashioned. For the latter group, this is the book you've been looking-for!

I would highly recommend this book for any level in the schools, for those interested in archaeology, and most of all for anyone who loves informative and well-illustrated works. Over the years, I have studied under some of the great scholars of the Northwest Coast such as Erna Gunther and Philip Drucker. I wish that I had owned this book at that time — my education could have been vastly improved.

The book also provides a challenge to other archaeologists and illustrators here in Alaska. I know that we have several people here in our State who can do equally beautiful work in illustrations — and equally good writers and archaeologists.

I look forward to the day when — as a teacher — I can look at my shelf and see texts like this for all of Alaska. "Artifacts" is the first and finest so far — may we have many more!