COPPERS



Chief and artist, Kwaxitola, Willie Seaweed (1873–1967) holding his coppers, Blunden Harbour, 1955

Seaweed was a singer, storyteller, and great artist who kept the traditions of the potlatch alive through the years it was prohibited by law.

Photo: Wilson Duff, Royal BC Museum



Kwaxalanukwame', Odan, Chief Johnny Drabble, 1922

"And my uncle took me to the Parish Hall, where the Chiefs were gathered. Odan picked up a rattle and spoke, 'We have come to say goodbye to our life,' then he began to sing his sacred song. All of the Chiefs, standing in a circle around their regalia were weeping, as if someone had died." — James Charles King, at Alert Bay, 1977

Photo: William Halliday, Royal BC Museum, AA–00188



Waxawidi, ‘Namgis Chief William Wasden Jr. holding his coppers, c. 2007



Chief and artist Xi’xa’niyus, Bob Harris (c. 1870 – c.1930), with his wife, Tlakweł, Mary Harris (née Mountain, daughter of Chief Nage’), Alert Bay, 1913

Photo: Possibly Rev. Corker, Royal BC Museum PN2566