

ROBIN K. WRIGHT

March 2007

EDUCATION

University of Washington, Seattle

Ph.D. - April 1985, Division of Art History, School of Art

General Exam Fields: Northwest Coast Sculpture, Plains & Great Lakes Sculpture, 19th Century American Painting and Sculpture

Dissertation Title: "Nineteenth Century Haida Argillite Pipe Carvers: Stylistic Attributions"

M.A. - December 1977, Division of Art History, School of Art

Thesis Title: "Haida Argillite Pipes"

B.A. - June 1971, General Studies Department, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

Major: 20th Century Humanities, Art History Concentration

Senior Thesis Title: "Contemporary Northwest Coast Indian Art"

EMPLOYMENT

University of Washington, Seattle (Joint Appointment - 50% Art History & 50% Burke Museum)

2006-2011 Bill Holm Center Endowed Professor

2003-present Director, Bill Holm Center for the Study of Northwest Coast Art

2002-present Professor, Division of Art History, School of Art

Adjunct Professor, American Indian Studies Center

Faculty Associate, Canadian Studies

Faculty Associate, Museology

Curator of Native American Art, Burke Museum

Chair, Anthropology Division, Burke Museum, Sept. 1999 to present

1995-2002 Associate Professor, Division of Art History, School of Art

Faculty Associate, American Indian Studies Center

Faculty Associate, Canadian Studies

Faculty Associate, Museology

Curator of Native American Art, Burke Museum

Chair, Anthropology Division, Burke Museum, Sept. 1999-2002

1990-1995 Assistant Professor, Division of Art History, School of Art

Faculty Associate, Canadian Studies

Faculty Associate, American Indian Studies Center (Feb. 1994)

Curator of Native American Art, Burke Museum

1989-1990 Visiting Lecturer, Art History

Curator of Native American Art, Burke Museum

1986-1989 Acting Assistant Professor, American Indian Studies

Curator of Native American Art, Burke Museum

1985-1986 Acting Assistant Professor, Art History

Acting Curator of Northwest Coast Indian Art, Burke Museum

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2007 NEA Access to Artistic Excellence, Folk and Traditional Arts Grant for "In the Spirit of the Ancestors" (\$20,000) - PI

- 2006 NEH Exhibit Planning Grant (\$39,999) – PI
“Skidegate Haida House and Pole Models for the World’s Columbian Exposition”
- 2005 Quest for Truth Foundation (\$10,000) – Project Director
For the Burke Museum’s Northwest Coast Digital Imaging/Web Access project
- 2004 Quest for Truth Foundation (\$10,000) – Project Director
For the Burke Museum’s Northwest Coast Digital Imaging/Web Access project
- 2003 Canadian Embassy Senior Fellowship to research and prepare a manuscript on Skidegate Haida House Models made for the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 (\$12,600)
- 2003 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant that will match 1:4 funds raised for the Bill Holm Center for the Study of Northwest Coast Art Research Endowment (\$300,000) - PI
- 2003 National Endowment for the Arts, Heritage Program, grant to partially fund the commission of two contemporary house posts by Nathan and Stephen Jackson (\$25,000) - PI
- 2003 National Endowment for the Arts, Access Program, grant to create a totem pole web site (\$30,000) – PI
- 2003 Quest for Truth Foundation grant for Digital Imaging Project at the Burke Museum, January (\$20,000)
- 2002 Simpson Center for the Humanities, grant to fund a lecture series on Contemporary Issues in Northwest Coast Native Art, Winter Qtr. 2003 (\$7,330).
- 2002 King County Heritage Grant, for off-site storage funding for cantilevered storage racks for canoes, co-PI with Peter Lape, Curator of Archaeology (\$13,284).
- 2001 Royalty Research Fund, University of Washington (\$25,000) - PI
For research on Skidegate Haida House Models commissioned by James Deans
- 2001 Quest for Truth Foundation (\$20,000) – Project Director
For the Burke Museum’s Northwest Coast Digital Imaging/Web Access project
- 2001 Private Donations (\$11,000) – Project Director
For the Burke Museum’s “Entwined with Life: Native American Basketry” on-line web exhibit and Native American Basketry Interactive Collection Database project.
- 1998 Getty Publication Grant for the publication of *Northern Haida Master Carvers* (one of a series of four books funded on new approaches to Northwest Coast art – to the University of Washington Press).
- 1996 Canadian Studies Research Grant, International Council for Canadian Studies, Canadian Embassy (\$6,000) – Principal Investigator (PI)
For research related to a publication on 19th century Haida artists
- 1994 Royalty Research Fund, University of Washington (\$18,700) - PI
For research and preparation of book on Albert Edward and Charles Edenshaw
- 1994 Graduate School Research Fund, University of Washington (\$4,468) - PI
One Quarter RAship for Xenia Guertzenberg to work on Holm/Wright videodisk project
- 1993 Graduate School Research Fund, University of Washington (\$10,079) - PI
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Project - two quarter RAship for Barbara Iliff to complete the writing of her doctoral dissertation on Burke Museum's Emmons collection

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS(cont.)

- 1992 Graduate School Research Fund, University of Washington (\$3,362) - PI

- One month's summer salary replacement to pursue research and writing on Haida art
- 1991/92 Ford Foundation Grants (\$85,213 and \$30,000) - Project Director
For the production of a computerized catalog and videodisc of the Holm/Wright slide collections of Northwest Coast Indian art
- 1991 Graduate School Research Fund, University of Washington (\$3,314) - PI
One month's summer salary replacement to pursue research and writing on Haida art
- 1989 Getty Publication Grant (\$20,000) - Principal Author and Editor
For the publication of *A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State* (to the University of Washington Press)
- 1987 Murdock Charitable Trust Grant (\$160,000) - Project Director
Directed a major project to computerize the Burke Museum's collection catalog and produce a public access videodisc system linked to this computerized database with multiple images of all of the Burke Museum's objects from the Pacific Northwest region
- 1987 National Endowment for the Humanities, Museum Documentation Grant (\$24,272) - PI
To re-catalog the Burke Museum's southern Northwest Coast collection
- 1986 Institute for Ethnic Studies in the U. S. Research Grant (\$2,201) - PI
To fund research on the changing roles of native Northwest Coast women as artists
- 1983 Samuel H. Kress Dissertation Research Grant (\$6,000)
- 1983 Lockwood Dissertation Fellowship (\$3,000)
Both to fund the computerization of research data and the final dissertation preparation.
- 1982 Samuel H. Kress Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,000)
To fund research on Haida art in the collections of the major European museums.
- 1981 Samuel H. Kress Dissertation Fellowship (\$3,000)
- 1981 Smithsonian Institution Short Term Research Grant (\$250)
- 1981 David Larson Pipe Scholarship (\$1,000)
All to fund research on Haida art in the collections of the major Canadian and U.S. museums
- 1980 Samuel H. Kress Dissertation Research Grant (\$1,000)
- 1980 David Larson Pipe Scholarship (\$1,000)
Both to fund research on Haida art in the collections of the museums of Southeast Alaska and British Columbia
- 1979 Smithsonian Institution Short Term Research Grant (\$250)
To fund research on Plains Indian catlinite pipes in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES, AWARDS, SERVICE

Offices

Past President, Native American Art Studies Association (Board Member): 2003-present

Elected President of the Native American Art Studies Association, two terms: 1999-2003

Elected to the Executive Board of Directors of the Native American Art Studies Association, two terms: 1989-1997

Awards

2006-2011 Bill Holm Center Endowed Professorship

2002 Washington State Book Award for *Northern Haida Master Carvers*

2001 First annual Western Museums Association Award for "Entwined with Life: Native American Basketry" for Exhibition Excellence for an exhibition that furthers the study and understanding of the American West, underwritten by the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University.

1992 Governor's Writers Award for *A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State*

1990 Exhibit Award for "A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State," Association of King County Historical Organizations

1989 Peace and Friendship Award for "A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State," Washington State Capitol Museum

Selected Exhibitions Curated:

2007 "In the Spirit of the Ancestors," Burke Museum, March 3-Sept. 3.

2006 "Northwest Coast Robes: Ceremony, Status, Artistry," Burke Museum, Feb. 4-May 30.

2005 Northwest Coast silkscreen print exhibit on Politics and Environment selected from the Simon Ottenberg collection, opened August 29, 2005 (co-curated with Simon Ottenberg and Jeanette Mills)

2004 "Northwest Coast Images: Personal & Humorous," silkscreen prints from the Simon Ottenberg Collection, Dec. 2004 through June 2005, co-curated with Simon Ottenberg and Jeanette Mills.

2002 "Out of the Silence: The Enduring Power of Totem Poles," Burke Museum, Oct. 2, 2002 through August 2003 (co-curated with George MacDonald).

2000 "Entwined With Life: Native American Basketry" Burke Museum, opening Oct. 25, 2000 through May 6, 2001 (co-curated with John Putnam and Rebecca Andrews).

1998 "Graphic Culture: Northwest Coast Prints from the Blackman-Hall Collection," November 18, 1998 through May 31, 1999.

1997 "Pacific Voices," long-term ethnology exhibit opening November 1997 (one of 5 co-curators)

1995 Salmon Art from the Pacific Region, a selection of Burke Museum objects to supplement "Reaching Home: Pacific Salmon, Pacific People," July 12, 1995 through Feb. 4, 1996

1994 "Northwest Coast Journey: Northwest Coast Native Art and Artifacts," opened April through 1996

1993 "Yup'ik Art," a selection of Yup'ik objects from the Burke Museum's collection in conjunction with the photography exhibit "Always Getting Ready: Yup'ik Eskimo Subsistence in Southwest Alaska," March 24-May 19 (co-curated with Barbara Iliff)

1993 "Northern Northwest Coast" case, opened March (co-curated with Barbara Iliff)

- 1992 "Canoes of the Northwest Coast," opened May 20 (co-curated with Bill Holm)
- 1992 "Indians of the Plains, Plateau, and Northwest Coast: Paintings by Bill Holm," March 19 through August 2 (co-curated with Bill Holm)
- 1992 "Southern Northwest Coast" case, opened February (co-curated with Barbara Iliff)
- 1991 "Central Northwest Coast" case, opened November
- 1991 "Native Alaskan Art from the Burke Museum and Other Local Collections," to accompany the Alaska State Library traveling exhibit "Images from the Inside Passage," March 15, 1991 through March 15, 1992
- 1989 "Contemporary Coast Salish Prints," November 1989 through August 1990
- 1989 "A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State," April 1 through October 1 (The official Washington State Centennial Exhibition, \$1,200,000 budget)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

- in prep *Skidegate House Models and Poles Made for the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893*. (working title)
- in prep *In the Spirit of the Ancestors: Contemporary Northwest Coast Native Art at the Burke Museum*. (working title)
- 2001 *Northern Haida Master Carvers*. Seattle: University of Washington Press; 400 pp.
- 1991 *A Time of Gathering: Native Heritage in Washington State*. Seattle: Burke Museum and University of Washington Press (principal author and editor); 280 pp.

Book Chapters

- in prep "Chapter 57: Northwest Coast Painting and Engraving," in Christian Feest (ed), *Handbook of North American Indians Vol. 16, Technology and Visual Arts*, Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Institution.
- in prep "Chapter 71.3: Stone Sculpture: Northwest Coast," in Christian Feest (ed), *Handbook of North American Indians Vol. 16, Technology and Visual Arts*, Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Institution.
- 2003 "The Traveling Exhibition of Captain Samuel Hadlock, Jr.: Eskimos in Europe 1822-1826," in *Beyond God's Pocket: A Collection of Materials About the Travels of Captain Samuel Hadlock, Jr., Cranberry Isles Skipper and Pioneer Yankee Showman in Europe and the Eskimos Who Accompanied Him, 1820-1826*, Islesford, Maine: Islesford Historical Society Occasional Paper No. 12, June 2003, reprinted from Christian F. Feest (ed), *Indians and Europe: An Interdisciplinary Collection of Essays*: 215-233. Aachen: Edition Herodot, Rader-Verlag.
- 2002 "The Cunningham Collection of Haida Argillite at the Art Gallery of Ontario," in Lynda Jessup and Shannon Bagg (eds), *Aboriginal Representation in the Gallery*, Mercury Series, Canadian Ethnology Service, paper 135. Hull, Quebec: Canadian Museum of Civilization: 163-174.
- 2001 "19th Century Haida Argillite Carvings: Documents of Cultural Encounter" in *Art and the Native American: Perceptions, Reality, and Influences*. Papers in Art History from The Pennsylvania State University, Volume X, University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University; 2001: 224-245.
- 1997 "The Changer Who Has Changed: The Depiction of Raven in Haida Creation Myths," in Yosuke Kuramochi and Anna-Britta Hellbom (eds), *Ideologia, Cosmovision y Etnicidad a Traves del Pensamiento Indigena en las Americas*, 48° Congreso Internacional de

- Americanistas, Suecia, 1994, (Proceedings of the 48th International Congress of Americanists, Stockholm & Uppsala, Sweden, July, 1994): 169-181.
- 1996 "The Northwest Coast Collection," in Nelson H. H. Graburn, Molly Lee and Jean-Loup Roussetot (eds), *Catalogue Raisonné of the Alaska Commercial Company Collection, Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum of Anthropology*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press: 46-51 and 445-496.
- 1995 "*Hlga S7agaa*:: Haida Argillite," in Steve Brown (ed) *The Spirit Within: Northwest Coast Native Art from the John H. Hauberg Collection*. New York and Seattle: Rizzoli and Seattle Art Museum: 131-141.
- 1989 "Western Washington Native Art: A Collection History," in José Luis Peset (ed), *Culturas de la Costa Noroeste de America*: 163-171. Madrid: Estatal Quinto Centenario.

Book Chapters (cont.)

- 1987 "Haida Argillite Carvings in the Sheldon Jackson Museum," in Peter L. Corey (ed), *Faces, Voices and Dreams: A Celebration of the Centennial of the Sheldon Jackson Museum*: 176-199. Juneau: Division of Alaska State Museums and the Friends of the Alaska State Museum.
- 1987 "The Traveling Exhibition of Captain Samuel Hadlock, Jr.: Eskimos in Europe 1822-1826," in Christian F. Feest (ed), *Indians and Europe: An Interdisciplinary Collection of Essays*: 215-233. Aachen: Edition Herodot, Rader-Verlag.
- 1983 "Anonymous Attributions: A Tribute to a Mid-19th Century Haida Argillite Pipe Carver, The Master of the Long Fingers," in Bill Holm, *Box of Daylight: Northwest Coast Indian Art*: 139-142. Seattle: Seattle Art Museum and University of Washington Press.
- 1980 "Lead Inlaid Catlinite Pipes," in Gene Ball and George P. Horse Capture (eds), *Plains Indian Design Symbology and Decoration*: 77-83. Cody, Wyoming: Buffalo Bill Historical Center.

Journal Articles

- 1998 "Two Haida Artists from Yan: Will John Gwaytuhl and Simeon Stilthda Please Step Apart?" *American Indian Art Magazine*, 23 (3) Summer: 42-57, 106-107.*
- 1994 "Sharing Heritage: The Emergence of Mutual Responsibilities in Curatorial Work," (co-authored with James D. Nason) in "The New Curator," *Museum News*, 73 (3) May/June: 40-43, 57-64.
- 1992 "Kadashan's Staff: The Work of a Mid-19th Century Haida Argillite Carver in Another Medium," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 17 (4) Autumn: 48-55.*
- 1989 "The Collection of Native Art in Washington: New Georgia through Statehood," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 14 (3) Summer: 62-74.*
- 1988 "The Burke Museum: Northwest Coast Collection," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 13 (2) Spring: 32-37.*
- 1986 "The Depiction of Women in Nineteenth Century Haida Argillite Carving," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 11 (4) Autumn: 36-45.*
- 1982 "Haida Argillite - Carved for Sale," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 8 (1) Winter: 48-55.*
- 1980 "Haida Argillite Pipes - The Influence of Clay Pipes," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 5 (4) Autumn: 42-47, 88.*
- 1979 "Haida Argillite Ship Pipes," *American Indian Art Magazine*, 5 (1) Winter: 40-47.*

*peer-reviewed articles

Multimedia Publications

- in prep “The Enduring Power of Totem Poles,” an interactive web site linked to the museum’s totem pole database. (to launch spring 2006)
- 2002 “Entwined with Life: Native American Basketry,” an interactive web site presenting the Burke exhibit “Entwined with Life” in electronic form, linked with the museum’s basketry database. Available at <http://www.burkemuseum.org/baskets>
- 2000 “Totem Poles: Heraldic Columns of the Northwest Coast,” in *Ameritech Digital Library*, University of Washington and Library of Congress. Available at <http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/wright/index.html>.

Multimedia Publications (cont.)

- 1996 *Pacific Northwest Native American Art in Museums and Private Collections: the Bill Holm and Robin K. Wright Slide Collections* (limited edition videodisk, ca. 25,000 images from 200 museum and private collections of NWC and Plateau Indian art, on-line computerized catalog, ca. 25,000 records and printed catalog, ca. 25,000 records and pp. 600). Seattle: Burke Museum.
- 1989 *Pacific Northwest Regional Collection*. (limited edition videodisk, ca. 40,000 images; on-line computerized catalog, ca. 14,000 records). Seattle: Burke Museum.

Dictionary Entries

- 1998 "Edenshaw, Charles" *Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. XIV, 1911-1920*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press: 329-332.
- 1998 "Edenshaw, Charles (Da•a-x- iigang)" *Guide to Native North American Artists*. Detroit: St. James Press: 167-168.
- 1996 "Northwest Coast Carving and Sculpture," *The Dictionary of Art*. London: Macmillan Publishers, Ltd., vol. 22: 576-581.
- 1996 "Northwest Coast Painting," *The Dictionary of Art*. London: Macmillan Publishers, Ltd., vol. 22: 587-589.
- 1996 "Bill Holm," *The Dictionary of Art*. London: Macmillan Publishers, Ltd., vol. 14: 688-689.

Other Professional Publications

- 2000-03 Editor, *Native American Art Studies Association Newsletter*, 13 (1-4), 14 (1-4).
- 1992 "Bill Holm Receives NAASA Honor Award," *Native American Art Studies Association Newsletter*, 8 (2):2-5.
- 1990 *A Time of Gathering – An Intertribal Welcome: Statements from 36 Washington Tribes*, with Roberta Haines (editors). Seattle: Burke Museum.
- 1985 "Bill Holm—A New Phase," *Pacific Currents: Newsletter of the Burke Museum* 1 (3) Fall: 4-5.