

John Wallace, 1940-1942
Sa'wan and the First Halibut Hook
Western Red Cedar, 84.19.001

John Wallace carved this kootéeyaa (totem pole) in the early 1940's, in Hydaburg, Alaska while he was one of the lead carvers on the Alaska Civilian Conservation Corps' "Totem Pole Restoration" project. The kootéeyaa was inspired by the story of a Lingít *ixt'* (shaman) named Sa'wan who created and developed the Lingít style halibut hook. John Wallace finished this kootéeyaa in 1942 when he was in his 80s. The kootéeyaa was bought and moved to Juneau by the Juneau Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce in 1962. It was shipped to Juneau via the Alaska Steamship Company. On June 9, 1963 the kootéeyaa was raised at 6th and Seward Street in Juneau. In 1992 the kootéeyaa was moved to its present location in front of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. In 1993, Lee Wallace, grandson of John Wallace, did some restoration work on the pole..



CITY MUSEUM

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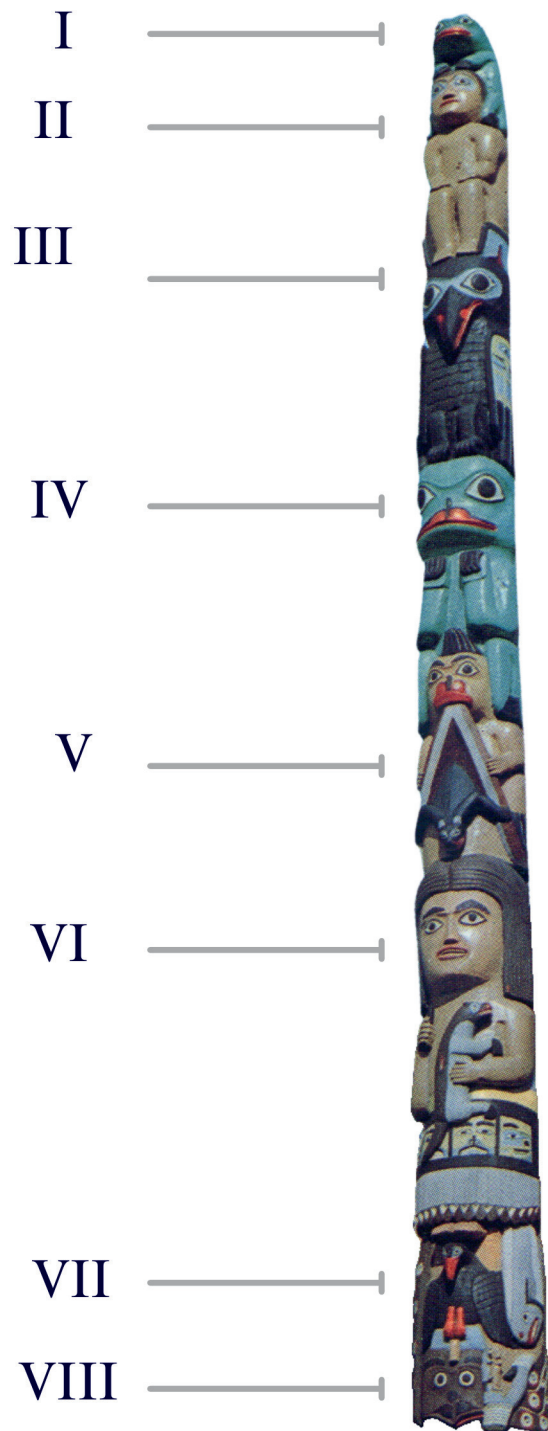


TLINGIT
KOOTÉYAA

Sa'wan and the First Halibut Hook

John Wallace

The Figures on the Kootéeyaa



I. Frog

II. Young man painted brown, short straight hair

III. Raven

IV. Frog in more or less human form

V. Log, wake, and land otter searching

VI. Sa'wan the great medicine man holding land otter

VII. Cormorant rattle, medicine man rattle

VIII. Devilfish used to bait halibut hook swimming into hole, tentacles across front and up each side

(Moore 2022 & Garfield 1945).