



Chiefs of the Sea and Sky: Haida Heritage Sites of the Queen Charlotte Islands

George F. MacDonald

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In 1966 the National Museum of Man launched a major program of prehistoric research on the northern coast of British Columbia, a project which was carried out over two decades. An important part of that program was the mapping and recording of the major villages of the Haida on the Queen Charlotte Islands. In *Chiefs of the Sea and Sky*, archaeologist George F. MacDonald provides an overview of this extensive research on the Haida. He recounts the history of eighteen of the major villages, telling the story of their people and describing the site of their houses and other known structures. In his introduction, he explains how the Haida's immense cedar houses and totem poles are part of a fascinating spiritual and material culture which integrates family, history, ritual, and mythology. The numerous historical photographs which accompany the text illustrate the richness and variety of Haida sculpture; they show the villages at the height of their glory in the 1880s and 1890s and in their subsequent and tragic decay.

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