Front Pages

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ABOUT THE COVER

Once again we are honoured to present, as our cover art, a painting by artist David Kanatawakhon. David is a Mohawk artist from Kenhtèke (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte Territory), and also a lecturer in the University of Western Ontario’s Department of Anthropology, Native Language Centre, specializing in Mohawk language and culture.

David has kindly allowed us to reproduce his piece, a design that depicts an elaborated Iroquoian water and earth design. He has written the following by way of introduction of his piece.

The geometric pattern at the base represents the waters that flow under the earth. Above that is the earth pattern represented by mountain designs, while the curling patterns depict the winds that blow about the earth.

This design is typical of the traditional clothing decorations used by ancient Iroquoian Peoples. This particular design would be commonly found at the base of a woman’s dress or a man’s kilt. It could also be used at a border design for a wearing blanket or in more contemporary times, a shawl. Prior to the European cultural invasion, designs like these would be fashioned from porcupine quill or embroidered using moose hair, coloured with natural dyes. Today, they are more apt to be presented using commercial beads and ribbons.
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From the Co-Editors

Totem, as The University of Western Ontario’s Journal of Anthropology, has been long dedicated to showcasing original and excellent work within the field of anthropology. Our discipline is wide-ranging and this year’s volume reflects the diverse research undertaken and explored by students.

We accept and encourage submissions from all over, but we remain focused as ever on providing a platform for Western undergraduate and graduate students to not only experience the publication process but the peer review and editing process as well. Our peer reviewers did a fabulous job, and we are grateful to have worked with Zoe Morris and Karyn Olsen, who helped to create and enthusiastically lead the reviewer training sessions.

We’re very proud to be showcasing so much excellent work this year on a large range of topics from a variety of scholars across Canada. These articles thoroughly impressed us with their creativity and strong research components. We received a record number of submissions and we would like to thank all of those who submitted work.

Finally, our biggest achievement this year has been going online. We feel passionately about open access and we firmly believe that this change will benefit Totem and anthropology students worldwide as we are now able to publish more articles with higher impact. We want to thank Dr. Andrew Walsh for suggesting and encouraging our online goals; furthermore, we are indebted to Adrian Ho and the bepress team who have helped us to navigate the website process. This would not have been possible without the Scholarship@Western initiative.

We’d also like to thank Dr. Douglass St. Christian, our unofficial Totem advisor; he has been a great support when we have needed it. We also thank our supervisors for letting us slack in our own work in order to produce this volume! Last but not least, thanks are due to Micheline Piskun, who has been tirelessly scanning archived volumes so that we can have a complete online archive of Totem. She has done an amazing job.

So whether you are a student, faculty member, or newcomer to the field of anthropology, we are confident that you will enjoy the following collection of papers as much as we have.

Julianna Beaudoin and Flannery Surette
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London, Ontario
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