TOTEM

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGY
VOLUME 16, 2007/2008

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Published annually by the University of Western Ontario Anthropology Society, University of Western Ontario, London Canada

Price: $10.00/issue

ISSN: 1203-8830

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# TOTEM: The U.W.O. Journal of Anthropology

**Volume 16 – 2007/2008**

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About the Cover

This year we are honoured to present as cover art, a piece designed by artist David Kanatawakhon. David has kindly allowed us to reproduce his piece, a design created for a calendar. David is a linguist, artist, and Mohawk language instructor at Western. He has written the following by way of introduction of his piece.

The design on the cover is an elaborated Iroquoian water and earth design. 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 as 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, however, they are more apt to be presented using commercial beads and ribbons.
From the Editors

The U.W.O. Journal of Anthropology takes a holistic approach to the discipline. The papers published in this journal display the forward thinking of the student’s involved. Anthropologists are critically engaged with the world around them as well as reflexive in the way they conduct their research. This journal affords undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to not only publish original research, but also to become part of the editorial process.

In previous years Totem was run by a single editor-in-chief with graduate students from each sub-discipline acting as co-editors and undergraduates acting as assistant editors. This year it was decided to have two co-editors-in-chief; one representative of bioarchaeology and the other from socio-cultural/linguistics. This formula has been a success.

Thanks to all of the assistant editors; you did a great job and we really appreciated all of your help. This year’s editorial staff was one of the largest in Totem history comprised of 28 people. Thanks to all who volunteered as this sped up the editing process and allowed us to complete Totem before the end of the school year.

We also wish to thank all who contributed to this years’ volume; all of the papers we received were excellent and it was a challenge deciding which ones to publish. Congratulations to those whose work was chosen!

We would like to announce that as of this year, Totem is going live and will be available on-line through the Anthropology Society website. Thanks to Douglass St. Christian for being our website guru and making this possible. We would also like to thank Lisa Hodgetts and Adriana Premat for their help and support, as well as Dave Kanatawakhon for providing us with artwork for our cover. We hope you find the papers as interesting and enjoyable as we do.

Sherri Pearce and Melissa Stachel

The University of Western Ontario
London, Ontario
March 2008