

*Powerful Families*

## **Introduction**

Powerful families around the world have used their wealth to support the arts as a way to show their own status and importance.

## Chief's rattle



On the Northwest Coast of North America powerful families (or clans) have long been art patrons. This is, they have hired artists to make special objects for them, like this Haida chief's rattle.



## Totem Pole



Haida family crest poles show animals associated with particular clans. This pole shows a whale, bear, fish, and another bear with a fish in his mouth.



## Sun Mask



This sun mask was made by a Kwatiutl artist.





## Comb



Even such an everyday object as this Haida comb was carved with a face.

## Frontlet



A Tsimshian artist made this mask that combines the faces of a hawk and a person.



## Transformation Mask



Modern Northwest Coast Native American artists still make traditional masks like this one. At clan feasts, a dancer wearing the mask pulls cords to open up the pointed mask of a bird to reveal the person mask hidden inside.



## Haida Sitting Eagle Crest Design



A modern Haida artist named Freda Diesing made this print showing an eagle.

## Goblet



Objects made by artists for the wealthy families of Europe in the 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s have a different look.

French





## Wall clock with bracket



French



## Side chair



Portuguese

## Chest with key



Norwegian

## Center table



French, made by German craftsmen







This carved chair was made for aa Asante chief in Africa.





## Yet Belt



This very fancy belt with many beaded attachments was made for a person of the Kuba people also of West Africa.





## Memorial head



This bronze memorial head was made between 1550 and 1650 in the West African Kingdom of Benin. When an Oba's (King's) responsibilities passed from one generation to the next, each new Oba commissioned artists to create memorial heads representing his predecessor.





## Water pitcher

