

marking a “transitional period” is somewhat arbitrary and should be extended to 1000 BP (after Matson and Coupland 1995).

⁴The label ‘sea-wolf’ should not be viewed as either accurate or definitive. Commonly spoken of as ‘lightning snake’ or hai’itlik (the Church site [DgRw 192] and Museum both use this title in their information boards) and sometimes as ‘Wasgo’ or ‘Wasco’, the former terminology derives from a specific Nuu-chah-nulth figure (the “hai’itlik” or Lightning Serpent is associated with the Thunderbird and becomes the Thunderbird’s harpoon when it takes whales). The term really should not be used outside the Nuu-chah-nulth area and that specific context (Alan McMillan, personal communication 2003). It is difficult, however, to find an appropriate descriptive designation for this peculiar creature. Certainly a label such as ‘sinuous beast with hunched limbs, long tail, ferocious teeth, and fiery mouth’ is cumbersome and inconvenient. I employ the name ‘sea-wolf’ here for descriptive purposes—as the creature does possess wolf-like features and a sea-serpent’s form—yet I do so with awareness that the label lacks ethnographic specificity. Several Snuneymuxw refer to the creature simply as ‘mythical.’

⁵The sex of a given figure is, however, often ambiguous and in many cases it appears that hermaphrodites may be portrayed; gender indeterminate beings instilled with powers both masculine and feminine.

⁶ But see the extraordinary artifact recovered from the Pender Canal site (Carlson and Hobler 1993; Figure A30). This object depicting a ‘sea-wolf’ motif problematizes any tidy or linear chronology with regard to the evolution of Northwest Coast design elements and style. The piece looks to be of Marpole age but has been associated with the date of 3600 +/- 10 C-14 years BP (Carlson and Hobler 1993:47).

HILARY STEWART

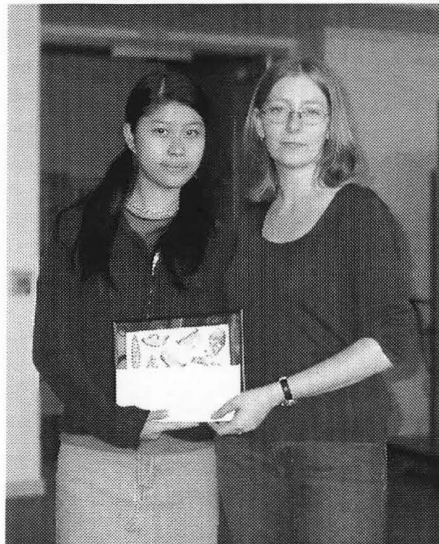
ART & ARCHAEOLOGY

COMPETITION

MAY 2004

On May 12, just before the ASBC’s monthly public lecture, I was pleased to present several prizes to Lucy Tran (age 17, from Vancouver, BC), the winner of the new Hilary Stewart Art & Archaeology Competition. The winning illustration by Lucy is featured on the cover of this volume of *The Midden*.

The Hilary Stewart Art &



Incoming ASBC President awards prize to student Lucy Tran

Archaeology Competition was launched this year in honour of Hilary Stewart, a talented award-winning British Columbian author best known for the nine books she has written and illustrated on Northwest Coast First Nations cultures. The competition is designed to encourage the interest of young people in the Archaeology of British Columbia.

Prizes include a copy of one of Hilary Stewart’s books, *Cedar*; a \$50.00 cash prize; their artwork featured on cover of the ASBC’s publication, *THE*

MIDDEN; and an original drawing of a suite of Northwest Coast First Nations artifacts, provided by Hilary Stewart.

Ms. Stewart generously submitted two drawings to the ASBC and Lucy chose one of the two which included illustrations of a hand maul, slate knife, awl, beads, and stone bowl, and several other artifacts.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year’s Competition. The Competition will run again in Fall of 2004 and will be open to children and youth between grades 3-7.

Congratulations Lucy, on your fine illustration! We at the ASBC wish you all the best in the future, and encourage you to continue to explore your interest in Archaeology.

Sarah Ladd
President
2004-2005
ASBC

