

# Basic Detail Report

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## Frontlet

### Date

1840-1870

### Primary Maker

Coast Tsimshian

### Medium

Maple, abalone shell, paint, native copper repair on back, twine, string

### Description

Frontlets worn on the forehead, were an indication of rank. Few attain the mastery of design and execution evidenced here. Exact interpretation of such imagery is difficult, and can depend on the identifying totemic images of the family that owned it. The recurved beak image, for instance, may refer to a hawk or a thunderbird

or a mythological raven. The reflective abalone that circles the face may refer to the sun, suggesting that the central creature might be the great mythological being Raven-at-the-Head-of-the-Nass, the owner of daylight.

### Dimensions

Overall: 8 3/4 × 8 × 3 1/2 in. (22.2 × 20.3 × 8.9 cm)