

# Basic Detail Report

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## Mask

**Date**

1810-1850

**Primary Maker**

Haida

**Medium**

Yellow cedar, copper, paint, skin straps

**Description**

Tlingit and Haida societies are aligned as two opposite halves, called moieties: Eagle (or Wolf) and Raven, both composed of numerous clan subdivisions that each own the rights to display certain crest-image emblems that refer to their historic relationships with human and animal ancestors. This finely-made mask most likely represents Raven, indicated by the black color and the particular shapes of the upper and lower mandibles. Accompanied by the skilled movements of a talented dancer or performer, mechanical masks are able to convey an extremely lifelike portrayal of real and imaginary beings. The well-handled and polished surface of this early mask underscores its long history of use as a much-treasured family or clan heirloom.

**Dimensions**

Overall: 13 × 9 × 18 1/4 in. (33 × 22.9 × 46.4 cm)