

**“Thunderbird – Killer Whale Pole”**  
**By Leo Jacobs, Sr., Edwin Kasko, Clifford Thomas, and  
John Hagen**



This is a two figure totem pole representing the two mythological beings who guided the ancestors of the present Tlingit Indians to Alaska from their homeland in Hokkaido.

This migration is believed to have occurred about 5,000 years ago after the disappearance of the land bridge that once connected Alaska with Siberia.

The people departed from Hokkaido in their great canoes and were guided across the ocean by the Black Eagle which flew before them making lightning with his wings. This also caused thunder, for which he was called the “Thunderbird.” But, as days went by, fog closed in and the people could no longer see the Thunderbird and they became lost.

Finally a killer whale appeared with the mystic figure of Gunara riding on its back. Gunara told the people to follow the killer whale which led them to the Stikine Valley near the present day city of Wrangell in Southeastern Alaska.

**Location: Boney Courthouse, Anchorage**

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