

Taino Research

by Bobby Gonzalez

Individuals who wish to conduct research on the history and culture of the Taino have a number of resources available to them in New York City.

The New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue & 42nd Street (Manhattan) has an extensive amount of material in its catalog. The Research Division provides access to primary and secondary sources pertinent to the four voyages made by Christopher Columbus. As important, there are books, journals and periodicals which document the indigenous civilization of the Caribbean islands and the Native American perspective as regards to "the exploration, exploitation and colonization of the Americas by Europe."

The Huntington Free Library in the Bronx has over 40,000 books on the history, anthropology, art, languages and current affairs of the Native peoples of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It has an excellent collection of volumes on the

Taino in both Spanish and English. This institution is located at 9 Westchester Square. The library is open to the public by appointment Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4:30 pm. From September to June, it is also open on the first and third Saturday of every month. Appointments can be made by calling 718-829-7770.

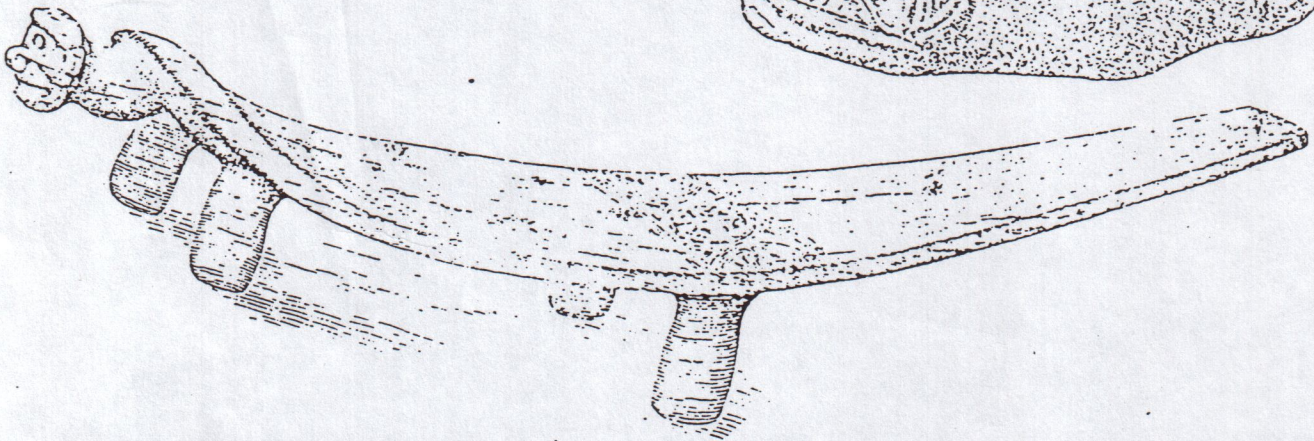
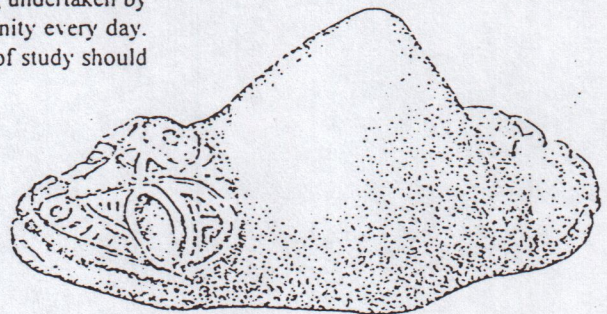
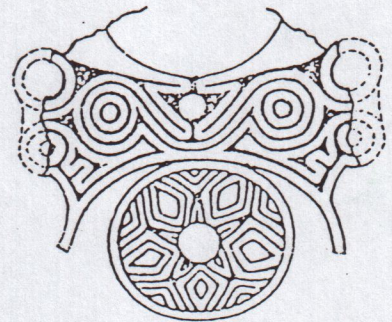
Taino Del Norte is a cultural organization of Taino people which conducts research on the oral traditions and aspects of the Taino culture such as "the language and music that have been submerged under invasive cultures..." They publish "La Concha," a journal of the Taino experience, past and present. "Our Return Home - Gua Koywa Bohio," is a TDF booklet which discusses and evaluates issues pertinent to the process of the Taino reemergence. Information on Taino Del Norte and their publications is available by writing to: Taino Del Norte, PO Box 061186, Staten Island, NY 10306-0012.

The search for our Native American roots is a challenge that is being undertaken by more individuals in our community every day. Those who set out on this task of study should

do so with patience, thoroughness and careful appreciation of Taino oral history.

Bena Kiba Gua Ajia (Until Again We Talk)

Editor's Note: Bobby Gonzalez is a Taino Native American storyteller and lecturer. He has spoken at such institutions as El Museo del Barrio and the National Museum of the American Indian. For information on lectures and presentations, contact A&I Speakers and Consultants at (212) 866-0125.



Taino Stories of the Sea: Friday, December 30, 1994, 3:30--4:30 p.m., at the South Street Seaport Children's Center. Taino storyteller Bobby Gonzalez takes you on a journey from his native Caribbean island along the Atlantic Coast. For information, call: 212-748-8590.