



22. Ritual Mask of a Haida or Tsimshian Woman

The stage expression of this mask played a part in a ceremonial ritual drama about life and death. Its outstanding feature is a longed lower lip, shaped to imitate the "labret" worn by Indian women—a decorative wooden ornament permanently inserted in her lower lip. Imagine how many

it must have been to hear the masked and costumed dancer sing or speak as the wooden lip moved up and down! Typical colors for this mask are deep red for the mouth and cheek decorations, with blue for her eyebrows and facial decorations.