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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **February 12, 2010**

LUNCH TIME LECTURE SERIES BEGINS AT THE STATE MUSEUM

The state Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums is announcing a “brown-bag” lecture series, to take place at the Alaska State Museum every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m., beginning February 17 and running through March 31. The series will feature recent research on the state’s collections by staff and visiting scholars. In operation for over a century, the division houses a world-class collection of materials that is central to the study of Alaska history, Native cultures, and art. Admission to the lectures is free.

“An exciting attribute of the series will be the mini-exhibits accompanying each presentation,” explained Steve Henrikson, Curator of Collections at the museum. “We’ll bring out an exhibit case or two of artifacts, historical documents, or photographs to help illustrate the subject.”

Henrikson will deliver the first lecture in the series on February 17, titled “A Century in the Making: the Alaska State Library and Museum.” He will discuss the 110-year history of the institution, which began in Sitka with Russian and Alaska Native collections.

“Our first curators were the territorial governors themselves, who stored the objects and artworks they collected in their offices, and exhibited it at various world fairs,” Henrikson said. “The books and collections soon outgrew the governor’s office and by 1920 opened in their own dedicated space. As the collections expanded, they subsequently were moved four more times before ending up in their present locations.”

Henrikson will explore early and significant collections made by Governor John Brady, Father Andrew P. Kashevaroff, and Edward Keithahn, and will recount important projects, such as the totem pole retrieval project and the building of the Centennial Museum building in the late 1960s.

Future brown bag lecture topics scheduled are:

- February 24 Archie Cavanaugh Jr., artist and carver, on Tlingit Art
- March 3 Bob Banghart, Chief Curator, Alaska State Museums, on “Sustainable Shelter: Modern use of traditional architectural concepts in sustainable housing design”
- March 10 Daniel Cornwall, Information Services, Alaska State Library, “Exploring Alaska Statehood History”
- March 17 Mary Ellen Frank, doll artist, on Alaskan Art Dolls
- March 24 Anastasia Tarmann, Alaska State Library Historical Collections, discusses “The Men Behind the Masks: Letters of Alaska Native Mask Carvers from the Donald Burrus Collection”
- March 31 Ellen Carrlee, Conservator, Alaska State Museums, on “Fur, Fuzz, and Fibers: Materials ID at the Museum”

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us



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