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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

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DAUENHAUERS TO SPEAK AT THE SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

Nora Marks Dauenhauer and Richard Dauenhauer, internationally acclaimed authors of numerous publications on Tlingit language and culture, will present a lecture at the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka on Wednesday, October 7, beginning at 7 p.m. The lecture is free and is the first in a series being sponsored by The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

The Dauenhauers will focus on the subject of their most recent book, "Russians in Tlingit America—The Battles of Sitka 1802 and 1804," which they edited with the late Dr. Lydia Black. Both Nora and Richard Dauenhauer serve as professors at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau.

The lecture will point out the connections the book makes between Russian documents, Tlingit oral accounts, and artifacts in museums, with specific reference to objects in the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

The book, which took over two decades of research and translation, is the latest volume in the highly regarded Classics of Tlingit Oral Literature series published by the Sealaska Heritage Institute and the University of Washington Press. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the Museum Store, operated by the Friends of the Museum.

Nora was one of sixteen children of noted artist Emma Marks of Yakutat and fisherman and carver Willie Marks of Juneau. Nora's Tlingit name at birth was Keixwnéi, and she is a member of the Raven moiety of the Tlingit nation, Lukaax.ádi clan, Shaka Hít or Canoe Prow House, from the Alsek River.

She earned a degree in anthropology from Alaska Methodist University in Anchorage, and has worked tirelessly for over thirty years to teach and document the Tlingit language and to record Tlingit history. In 2005, she won a Community Spirit Award from the First Peoples Fund, a Native American organization that supports the arts.

Richard received a B.A. in Russian and Slavic languages from Syracuse University, an M.A. in German from the University of Texas, and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Wisconsin. He came to Alaska in the late 1960s to teach at Alaska Methodist University (now Alaska Pacific University), and has since been involved in studying and teaching the Tlingit language, oral tradition, and ethnohistory.

In 1981 Richard Dauenhauer was named to a four-year term as Poet Laureate of Alaska, and has published several volumes of poetry including "Glacier Bay Concerto," "Phenologies," and "Frames of Reference." Nora is a poet and playwright, with work published in "The Droning Shaman," "Life Woven with Song," and many anthologies.

The Friends of the Museum Winter Lecture Series will continue on November 13 with Tlingit carver Tommy Joseph discussing his research into Tlingit war gear. Additional lectures will take place monthly, are in the planning stages and will be announced for January through April. For further information please contact the museum at 747-8758.

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