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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOCAL CARVER TO TALK ABOUT HIS SUMMER RESEARCH ON TLINGIT WAR GEAR

Tommy Joseph, a noted Sitka artist and carver, will lecture about his travels this summer visiting eastern U.S. and European museums researching Tlingit war gear. The free talk is at the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka Friday, November 13, beginning at 7 p.m. It is the second in an ongoing series of lectures being sponsored by The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The presentation is also in recognition of National American Indian Heritage and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

Joseph has been actively engaged in Northwest Coast carving since the 1980s and has worked as an instructor, interpreter, demonstrator and as a commissioned artist. He is of the Eagle Moiety, Kaagwaantaan Clan. Since the early 1990s, he has been in charge of the carving shop at the Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center.

He has produced a wide range of artwork including 35-foot totems, smaller house posts, intricately carved and inlaid masks and a wide range of bentwood containers. He also has replicated Tlingit ceremonial *at.óow* (treasured objects) and armor. In addition, he has been employed by the National Park Service to restore and replicate some of the Sitka National Park's totem poles.

Throughout his career, Joseph has done widespread research in Alaska museums on northwest art and history and this past summer he received a Smithsonian Institute fellowship that allowed him and three other U.S. artists to visit and conduct research at ten affiliated Smithsonian museums on the East Coast. At the end of those three weeks, Joseph took advantage of being half way to Europe and spent several more weeks visiting various museums in and around Paris and London, and in St. Petersburg at the Kunstkamera. All together, he visited and conducted research at approximately twenty museums this past summer.

The Friends of the Museum Winter Lecture Series will continue in January with additional lectures scheduled through April. For further information please contact the museum at 907-747-8758.

Winter hours at the museum are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Winter Admission is \$3.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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