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## Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **APRIL ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH** **SILVER SOUVENIR SPOONS**

Two small silver engraved souvenir spoons are the Artifacts of the Month for April at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. The spoons have some similar traits which suggest they may have been carved by the same artist. Both spoons are demitasse size, about 4" long and 3/4" wide at the bowl. One has a slightly curving handle with a round bowl much like a ladle; the other has a straight handle and regular "teaspoon" shaped bowl with the outline of an eagle head engraved in it.

The similarities are in the handles. At the top of very narrow handles (less than 1/8" wide) each has a repoussé animal or bird face. The muzzles or beaks have been pounded forward from the back giving the heads a three-dimensional appearance. The eyes are slightly different. One spoon has round eyes with a small dot punched in the center; the other has form line-like eyes, wide in the center and tapering to a point on either end. Both have small crescent shapes on either side of the mouth and the ears are rough split U forms.

The most obvious similarities are the two groups of lines on the handles. Each spoon has a set of diagonal parallel lines filled with vertical hatch marks just below the head and immediately below that grouping is a set of horizontal parallel lines also filled with vertical hatch marks.

Both spoons were donated to the museum by former Curator Peter Corey. The spoon with the eagle head carved in the bowl was donated in January of 2007 and has been featured before as an Artifact of the Month. It came through a dealer in Arizona. The second ladle-like spoon was donated in mid-2008 and was purchased from a Seattle-area dealer.

The spoons can be seen in the museum gallery April 1 through 30. Winter hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge. The spoons can also be views on our website at [http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon\\_jackson/artifact\\_of\\_month.html](http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/artifact_of_month.html).

**[return to top](#)**

**[SJ Artifacts-of-the-Month](#) | [press releases](#) | [SJ home](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)**

## SILVER SOUVENIR SPOONS



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[return to top](#)

[SJ Artifacts-of-the-Month](#) | [press releases](#) | [SJ home](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)