

# A L A S K A S T A T E M U S E U M S

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

## Sheldon Jackson Museum

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### **AUGUST ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH**

#### **TSIMSHIAN CEDAR BASKET**

The Sheldon Jackson Museum is featuring one of three Tsimshian baskets the museum acquired in 1996 as the August artifact of the month.

The baskets were donated by Louise Payten of California, who inherited them from her grandmother, Lucille Reinke. Reinke had purchased them when she lived in Alaska between 1920 and the 1940s. She originally lived in Petersburg, where she owned and operated a women's clothing store. After moving to Sitka, she opened Reinke's Dress Shop, which was located on the site of the current Shee Atika Building on Lincoln Street. After her retirement she lived at the Pioneers' Home. It is highly likely that the baskets were made in the Tsimshian community of Metlakatla.

The basket is twined from cedar bark and has an open top. It stands 4 inches high with a top diameter of 5 7/8 inches. False embroidery designs were done in dyed grass and maiden hair fern. All three baskets appear to have been made for sale. This one shows little wear other than some water stains on the inside bottom and wall and a few broken warps.

The basket can be seen at the museum from August 1- August 31. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. General admission is \$4. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

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