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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 23, 2012

August Artifact of the Month: Siberian Bola

SITKA – The August artifact of the month is a bola from Plover Bay, Siberia. It was collected by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson in 1891. The bola consists of a group of three wooden pear-shaped weights attached to braided sinew chords. Bolas are designed to hunt birds while in flight. Hunters throw the bola overhead at a flock of birds and the skin lines entangle the birds so that they fall. Bola weights are often made of ivory, stone, bone or wood. Since wood floats, bolas with wooden weights were often used to capture birds while on the water.

Birds are an important subsistence resource throughout the Arctic. Along with providing a food source, bird skins provided warm and waterproof clothing material. Bird beaks, feathers, and feet were used as decorative elements on ceremonial gear and clothing, and bird bones were used to make needles and needle cases.



The Siberian bola will be on display in the museum gallery August 1-August 31. Summer hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum are from 9 am to 5 pm daily. Summer admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors. Visitors 18 and under, members of the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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