

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sheldon Jackson Museum

104 College Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

Phone (907)747-8981 Fax (907)747-3004

Home page: <http://www.museums.state.ak.us>

### **HAIDA CEDAR BARK BASKET FEATURED IN DECEMBER**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Rosemary Carlton, 747-8981

In December, the Sheldon Jackson Museum will feature an unusual specimen from its basketry collection, a plaited, Haida-style cedar bark basket, as the Artifact of the Month.

This basket, 21 inches wide by 18 inches high, exhibits the plaiting method of basket weaving. Three evenly spaced dark bands encircling the basket provide the only decoration. This basket displays an unusual shape: it is flat, with the bottom tucked in a v-shaped fold. In order to save space in a community house, baskets that were not in use were dampened and flattened for storage. If unfolded, this basket would have a square shape.

A basket this large might have held someone's goods during a canoe journey or it might have been used to store food or clothing. There are no food stains on this basket and its condition is very good, giving Museum curators a clue that it may have been made for the tourist trade in the late 19th or early 20th century.

The basket may be viewed December 1-31.

