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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December Artifact of the Month: 1827 Russian Painting



SITKA – The December Artifact of the Month at the Sheldon Jackson Museum is an 1827 watercolor painting by Russian artist, Aleksandr F. Postels. Titled “Sitka in the North Pacific,” this painting is a recent acquisition purchased by the Alaska State Museum in Juneau.

The painting features a panoramic view of Sitka (Novo-Arkhangel’sk) with a vantage point of the artist from a site currently owned by the Poulson family. The shoreline has completely changed since that time due to the construction of the bridge and fill of all the tidelands surrounding Castle Hill. To the right of Castle Hill are the walls of the upper and lower fortress which include several substantial buildings. This was the exact site of a major archaeological dig sponsored by the State Office of History and Archaeology during the mid-1990s. In the background is part of the log wall or palisades encircling the outer fortress. Farther to the right is the Church of St. Michael the Archangel which was built in 1813 and replaced in 1834.

Postels (1801-1871) was a naturalist aboard the sloop *Seniavin* on the Litke expedition in 1826, where he served as a mineralogist and sketch artist. On a four year round the world voyage, Postels made over 1,000 illustrations of plant, fish, and other natural history specimens.

The painting can be seen at the museum through December. Winter hours at the museum are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with \$3 admission. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge. For more information, contact the museum at 747-8981.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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