

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>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scott McAdams, 747-8981

FEBRUARY ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH TLINGIT CHILD-SIZED MOCCASINS

A pair of Tlingit child-size moccasins is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for February. Former curator Peter Corey noticed the moccasins listed on an auction site and immediately recognized them as "old-style" Tlingit moccasins with traditional design beadwork. He suggested that they might be of interest for the Sheldon Jackson Museum collections, and the museum acquired the moccasins last summer.

Although the known provenance of the moccasins ends at the estate of a retired California judge, research showed that he had been collecting Native American materials since the 1950s, when he lived in Arizona. He was considered by antiques dealers to be a major collector.

A pair of moccasins like these, made around the turn of the nineteenth century, would most likely have been made for the tourist trade. They don't appear to have been worn, but have a few small insect holes and loose beads. Upon arrival at the museum, the moccasins were sent to the State Conservator in Juneau for isolation in their low-temperature freezer (to kill any insects) and for minor repairs to the beadwork.

The moccasins will be on exhibit through February 28 and can also be viewed from our website at www.museums.state.ak.us.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

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TLINGIT CHILD-SIZED MOCCASINS



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