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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **January 28, 2011**

February Artifact of the Month: Two reproductions of old Tlingit carvings

Artifacts of the month for February are two reproductions of very fine examples of old Tlingit carvings. The artifacts are a Tlingit mask representing a bear's face, and a portion of a headdress, representing a wolf head. The originals, acquired prior to 1900 can be seen in the permanent exhibit in the museum gallery. Thirty years ago when the museum was still part of the Sheldon Jackson College, Director Peter Corey submitted a grant to the Alaska State Council on the Arts to have reproductions made. The originals were desiccated and fragile, and the grant would support Northwest Coast style carver Steve Brown in reproducing the pieces. A few years later, after the State of Alaska purchased the museum in 1985, these pieces, as well as a number of other artifacts, were part of a traveling exhibit to introduce Alaskans to the Sheldon Jackson Museum collection.

Brown, a protégé of Bill Holm, a Northwest Coast art scholar, was recognized for his ability to create accurate reproductions. He reproduced and repaired objects for many museums, constructed old style whaling canoes, and restored items for private collections. Brown requested that the project include an assistant who would serve as an apprentice, which would help stimulate and encourage interest in the Northwest Coast arts. One of the apprentices was Robert Davis Hoffmann, a Tlingit carver who was studying at Sheldon Jackson College. Hoffmann and Brown worked side by side, usually late into the night.

The carvings can be seen at the Sheldon Jackson Museum February 1 through February 28. The image can also be viewed on our website at

http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/artifact_of_month.html

Winter hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10a.m to 4 p.m. Discounted winter admission is \$3 for adults; age 18 and younger are admitted free.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone (907) 747-8981 Fax (907) 465-3004

www.museums.state.ak.us

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Reproductions of old Tlingit carvings



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