

## Sheldon Jackson Museum

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### **TLINGIT RED-CORNER BENTWOOD BOX FEATURED FOR JANUARY ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**ROSEMARY CARLTON, 747-8981**

A small Tlingit red-corner bentwood box is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for January.

This approximately 5 inch well-used object is an excellent example of these utilitarian boxes. Used to store oil, this bentwood box is permeated with it, resulting in a dark brown coloration. Any red color that might be on the corners of the box is obscured by this coating; however, the scoring on the corners and the lid fits with the pattern of classic "red-corner bentwood box" style. A cross-hatching design covers the center of the exterior of the lid and the joined corner is sewn with spruce root.

Bentwood boxes of all sizes and shapes were used to store anything from oils to clothing or could even be used for cooking or tabletops.

This bentwood box came to the museum with the Aaron Taylor Simpson/William Albert Simpson Collection donated by Mrs. Gracye Alexander of Monaca, Pennsylvania. Alexander's grandfather, Aaron Taylor Simpson, taught shoemaking at the Sheldon Jackson Training School from 1889-1894. Her father, William Albert Simpson, inherited the collection and passed it on to his children. In 1997 Mrs. Alexander, along with her mother and brother, decided to donate the collection to the Sheldon Jackson Museum because of Simpson's ties with the Sheldon Jackson Training School.

The Artifact of the Month series at the Sheldon Jackson Museum offers visitors an opportunity to view various pieces that aren't on exhibition or are new to the collection.

The box may be viewed in the museum gallery during January. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

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