

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

PRESS RELEASE

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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SURFING THE NET YIELDS CARVED SILVER SPOONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Once again the Internet has helped the Sheldon Jackson Museum fill holes in its collection. In July the Museum will display six silver souvenir teaspoons acquired through the online auction house eBay as its Artifacts of the Month.

Peter Corey, the Museum's former Curator of Collections, found the spoons on-line. The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum purchased and donated four of the spoons as part of the organization's ongoing effort to support Museum acquisitions. When Corey retired last year, he purchased the last two spoons directly from the same dealer and donated them to the Museum.

The spoons are similar in design to those carved by Tlingit carver Rudolph Walton, who lived in Sitka from 1867-1951. He was widely known for his silver and wood carving, and made many spoons, bracelets, and other items for the tourist trade. He was also known until 1920 as the proprietor of Rudolph Walton and Son Store. Although the six spoons cannot be attributed to Walton with certainty, they display characteristics of his work.

Before these souvenir spoons returned to Alaska, a collector in New York had acquired them from an auction of the estate of Fred Huhges, a friend of artist and collector Andy Warhol.

The spoons can be viewed at the Museum during July or on the Museum's Web site at <http://www.museums.state.ak.us>. Summer Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and admission is \$4. Visitors 18 and younger and those with passes are admitted free.