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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **May 23, 2012**

June Artifacts of the Month: Two Bentwood Hats From Anvik

SITKA – The June artifacts of the month are two bentwood hats that were collected by the Reverend Sheldon Jackson from the village of Anvik on the Yukon River in the early 1890s. Both hats were made by bending wood into a triangular shape using steam and heat. The wood is sewn together at the back of both hats with root line and reinforced by a bent piece of wood running across the seam. The surface of the truncated cone hat (IIF23), pictured on the left, is painted red on the back and light green on the front. The slightly more elongated cone hat (IIF22), pictured on the right, is painted light blue and includes a leather chin strap. The style of bentwood hat with a short visor, like these examples, was used by coastal peoples from Bristol Bay to Norton Sound. Bentwood hats with more elongated visors were used on the Aleutian Chain and Kodiak Island.



Bentwood hats were worn by men when hunting on the ocean. Functionally these hats reduced the glare of the sun off the water, protected the wearer from rain and sea spray, and helped increase a hunter's ability to hear.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum will host Aleut bentwood hat artist, Patty Lekanoff-Gregory June 12th, 13th and 14th. Stop by the museum to meet Patty and learn the process of bentwood hat making.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum is open daily from 9 a.m to 5 p.m. Museum admission is \$5 with a \$1 discount for seniors. Visitors 18 years of age and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

www.museums.state.ak.us

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