

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sheldon Jackson Museum

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### **BASKETRY DISPLAY SALUTES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ROSEMARY CARLTON, 747-8981

In observance of National Women's History Month in March, the Sheldon Jackson Museum is exhibiting a group of materials used by Tlingit women in basketry. A basket start and samples of weft and warp strands of spruce roots, grasses, and maidenhair ferns in various stages of preparation will be exhibited.

The Museum purchased this collection from a Sitka merchant, who bought them from weaver Annie Dick at the time she moved into the Pioneers Home in 1991. The number "55" is written on the circular piece of cardboard to which the base of the basket start is attached. Museum staff members believe Mrs. Dick (Kaa se nak of the Chookaneidi Clan) gathered and prepared these materials sometime before 1955.

The collection also contains skeins of roots split in half for weaving, clumps and bundles of split weft and warp -- some dyed, some in their natural color -- and a number of "straw foot soles" made from cedar, bamboo, or cardboard. Prepared weaving materials were sorted by color and size on these "soles." The basket start and spruce root and grass samples will be on view from March 1-29 in the Sheldon Jackson Museum Gallery.

Winter hours at the Museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. For more information, call 747-8981.

