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## Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER: MODEL OF NAVAJO WEAVER**

A model of a Diné (Navajo) woman sitting at her loom with a baby in a cradle board and a partially completed rug is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for November. Although the museum now collects only Alaska Native artifacts made prior to the 1930s, a few Native American objects from other areas were added to the collection prior to the 1984 adoption of the current scope of collections. Each November the museum exhibits one of these pieces to highlight the diversity of Native cultures of North America in recognition of National American Indian Heritage and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

This weaver model was donated in 1970 by Violet Sell who was a "Volunteer in Mission" at Sheldon Jackson College. As with many items entering the collection at that time, minimal information came with the object. The one note in the background files states that it is from the Southwest, but doesn't give any hints about whether Ms. Sell was from that area or had just visited there. Unfortunately, there is no mention of what village or part of the southwest it originated in. These doll/models show up on online auctions and are described as "vintage," occasionally with an artist associated. They seem to have been a popular tourist item in the southwest during the mid-twentieth century. The doll and loom are well constructed, the woman's clothing is in keeping with a Diné woman's dress and the model has tiny rolls of wool and even a spindle with wool. The loom is reproduced with a rug in progress. A baby in a cradle board sits by the loom.

The doll and loom model can be seen at the Sheldon Jackson Museum November 1 through November 30. Winter hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge. The images can also be viewed on the museum's website at [http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon\\_jackson/artifact\\_of\\_month.html](http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/artifact_of_month.html).

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## MODEL OF NAVAJO WEAVER



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