

## PRESS RELEASE draft

### Sheldon Jackson Museum

104 College Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

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

Home page: <http://www.museums.state.ak.us>

### MUSEUM HAULS OUT SEA LION BOWL FOR OCTOBER

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CAROLYN YOUNG, 747-8981

A bowl carved in the likeness of a sea lion is the Artifact of the Month for October at the Sheldon Jackson Museum.

Rudolph Walton, a well-known Tlingit artist and Sitka resident, carved this bowl. It was purchased early in the twentieth century by Lillian B. Drake Theis, a young woman who came to Sitka to teach fifth, sixth, and seventh grade in the public schools (one of her students was Robert DeArmond, journalist and Alaska historian.) After one year she moved on to the American School in Mexico City, married, and eventually ended up on the East Coast where she raised her family.

Theis's grandson, Christopher Hare of Albuquerque, New Mexico, contacted the Alaska State Museum about the bowl last year and was referred to the Sheldon Jackson Museum. Although Hare's family admired and enjoyed the bowl for many years, he felt it was time for it to come back to Alaska. This bowl, similar to several other sea lion bowls in the Museum's collection, features rounded peg teeth made from ivory or bone. The artist carved the bowl out of alder and stained it a brown/black color. Inlaid white beads decorate the back flippers that are carved into the bowl; abalone inlay fills one nostril.

Walton worked in wood and silver from about 1892 to 1951, selling pieces to residents as well as tourists. He owned and operated Rudolph Walton and Son Store on Katlian Street until 1920, but continued to produce art for many more years. The bowl will be on display October 1-31.

