

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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CARVED TLINGIT SHAMAN DOLL OCTOBER ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SCOTT MCADAMS, 747-8981

[A carved Tlingit shaman doll](#) is Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for October.

The 18-inch high figure is one of four pieces the museum purchased in 2001 from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. The other pieces include a grease dish carved to resemble a puffin, a canoe model and a sled dog whip. The pieces appear to have been made in the growing Native art market of the late 1800s.

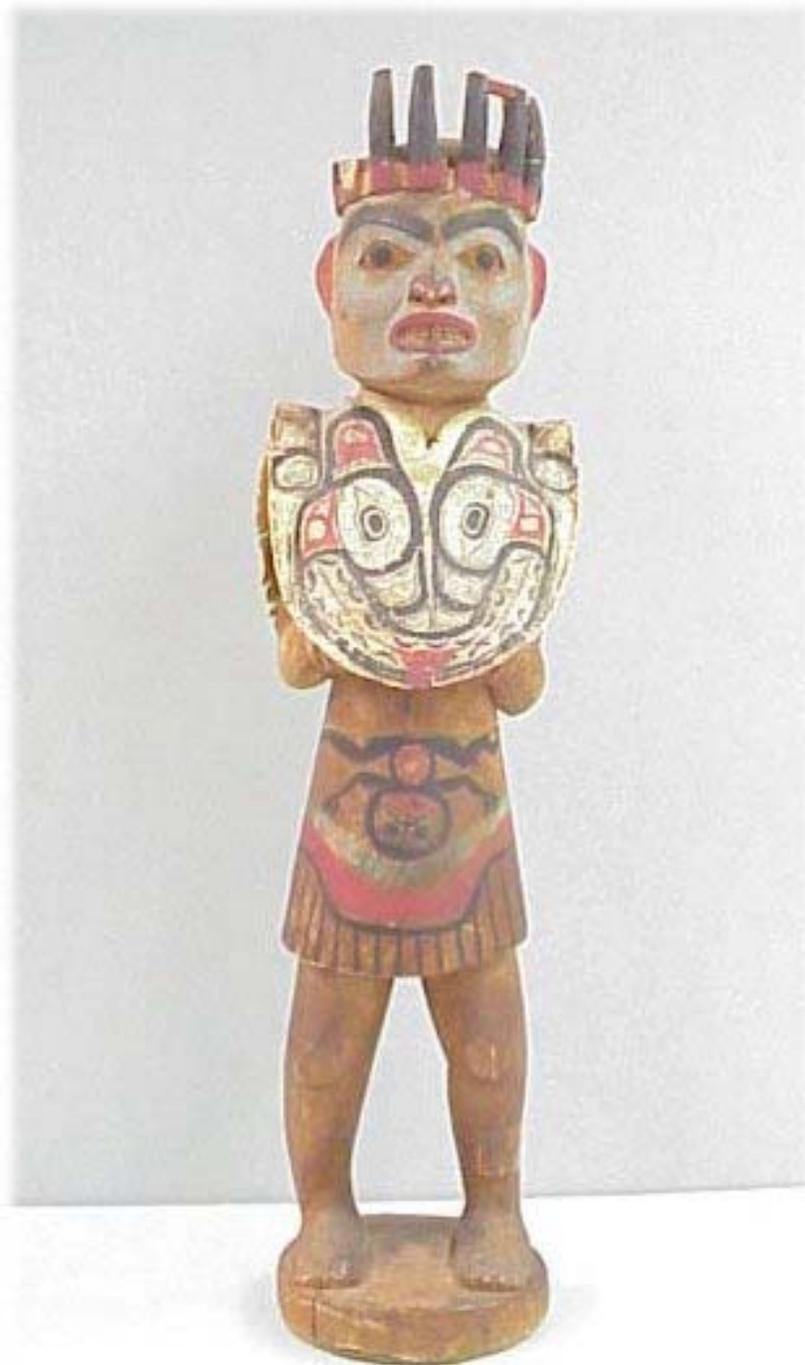
The shaman figure is carved onto a round base. Attached to a felt pad on the bottom of the carving is a tag that says, "Alaska 1879. Bought from Indian 1879."

Wilson Moore, a wealthy Presbyterian philanthropist who originally collected the pieces, visited Alaska in 1879. Museum officials theorize that Moore may have been on the same expedition that brought Sheldon Jackson on his second trip to Alaska, along with naturalist John Muir. That expedition was intended to introduce high-level Presbyterian officials to the area. Moore's name, however, does not appear in articles, books or correspondence written by Jackson, Muir or other expedition members at the time.

Paul Gaebelein Jr., Moore's grandson and a former instructor at the Fuller Seminary, donated the pieces to the seminary. The carving's headdress has 10 of 15 upright claws missing. The kilt or apron is also a part of the carved figure, and a separate painted leather tunic hangs around the shaman's neck.

People may view the shaman carving in the museum gallery Oct.1-31 or on the museum's web site at <http://www.museums.state.ak.us>. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger are free. Annual passes and Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum membership are also available.

Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 747-8981 before the visit.



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