

A L A S K A S T A T E M U S E U M S

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

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>

Release date: **September 21, 2005**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Scott McAdams, 747-8981

OCTOBER ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH **[TLINGIT BEADED EAGLE EMBLEM](#)**

The Sheldon Jackson Museum's October Artifact of the Month is a Tlingit beaded eagle emblem. This piece is one of a number of objects relating to the November 2004 commemoration of the "Last Potlatch of 1904" that was placed on loan with the museum by Harold Enloe. Harold Enloe is headman of the Kaagwaantaan Noble or World House. Most of those pieces are now on exhibit in the museum.

1904, Alaska Natives were pushed to give up their language and culture. With permission from then Governor Brady, the Kaagwaantaan Clan of Sitka held what was deemed to be the "The Last Potlatch." Guests from around Southeast Alaska attended this event. One hundred years later, we can see that attempts at extinguishing Native culture have failed. The value of such cultures and cultural diversity is now known and accepted for the benefit of all.

The emblem is fully beaded onto a felt backing. It is over 15" high and nearly 14" wide, suggesting that it was made for placement on a large space.

The family believes that the piece might have been made by their grandmother, Mary Walton, wife of well-known Sitka carver, Rudolph Walton. While there is no evidence that this piece was used during the "Last Potlatch of 1904," other pieces on loan to the museum have been positively associated with the "Last Potlatch." The beaded Panting Wolf Chest piece, currently on exhibit at the museum, appears in a number of photos of the Potlatch.

The beaded eagle emblem will be on exhibit through October 31 and can also be viewed from our website at www.museums.state.ak.us.

Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. General admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

[return to top](#)

[SJ Artifacts-of-the-Month](#) | [press releases](#) | [SJ home](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)

TLINGIT BEADED EAGLE EMBLEM



[return to top](#)

[SJ Artifacts-of-the-Month](#) | [press releases](#) | [SJ home](#) | [Alaska State Museums](#)