

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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SEPTMEBER ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH SIBERIAN CHILD'S BOW

A Siberian bow made for a child is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for September.

In 1890, Sheldon Jackson sailed for the first time with the Revenue Cutter Service, which was the forerunner of the United States Coast Guard. The Bering Sea fleet captains were instructed to assist the General Agent of Education in efforts to establish schools throughout Arctic Alaska. The Bear, under the command of Captain Michael Healy, was also under orders that year to proceed to Siberia where they were to present gifts to a group of villagers who had assisted stranded American mariners a few years earlier. It was on this trip that Jackson collected this small bow made for hunters in training.

The bow is only 21 inches long, strung with twisted sinew cord and is well-documented as to its origins. Jackson wrote on the bow: "Cape Navarine, Siberia, Koriak, (Sic) by Sheldon Jackson 1890." The reindeer-herding Koryak people populate the northern portions of the Kamchatka Peninsula. Some of the first reindeer Jackson imported to Alaska in the early 1890s were purchased from the Koryak.

The bow may be seen at the museum from September 1 to September 30.

Summer hours are daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with winter hours beginning September 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Summer admission is \$4. Winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

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