

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,  
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718

907.465.2901

## Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 26, 2010

### **September Artifact of the Month: Silver Spoon with Killer Whale Handle**

The Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for September is a Tlingit-made silver souvenir spoon with a split killer whale head and tall dorsal fin at the end of the handle.

This spoon, along with 20 other pieces of engraved silver spoons and one brooch, was purchased from an auction house. They came from the estate of Lynn Trusdell, owner of Crown and Eagle Antiques in New Hope, PA. The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum provided the financial support for the museum to make the successful bid.

The spoon handle reflects most of the typical identifiers of a killer whale design: large mouth with teeth, round eye, smoothly rounded snout, dorsal fin and circle on the dorsal fin. This particular design is reminiscent of the design found on the pommel of a dagger originally from Angoon and estimated by author and researcher Bill Holm to have been created in the late 18th century. This spoon may have been created in the late 19th century with that dagger in mind.

By the end of the nineteenth century, engraving on silver, copper or gold become part of a lucrative occupation for a number of Northwest carvers. The objects, some finely crafted, others not so finely carved, made their way into the hands of hundreds if not thousands of early tourists to Alaska's Inside Passage. Today those treasured souvenirs show up regularly on Internet sites or on occasion at the large auctions houses around the world.

The silver spoon can be seen at the Sheldon Jackson Museum September 1 through September 30. Summer hours are daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with \$4 admission. Winter hours begin September 18 and are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Winter admission is \$3 for adults.

The image can also be viewed on our 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)

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone (907) 747-8981 Fax (907) 465-3004

[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

[return to top](#)

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

## SILVER SPOON



---

[return to top](#)

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