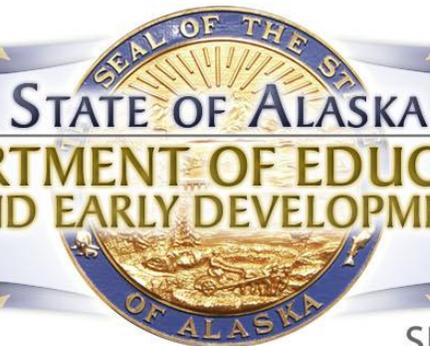


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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 28, 2012

September Artifact of the Month: Hemp Socks from the Kuskokwim River

SITKA – The September Artifact of the month is a pair of twined socks from the Kuskokwim River region made from hemp which might be an unraveled rope. The socks are decorated with six horizontal lines of red and beige yarn. Such socks were worn as a liner inside skin boots and helped to absorb moisture and provide warmth. Grass padding was sometimes added to such socks as an additional insulation layer.

The style of these hemp socks are similar to those that were made from cotton grass. Historically, each fall Yup'ik women harvested large quantities of grass which was dried and used to make socks, mitten liners, mats, a variety of basketry containers, ropes and padding for bedding.



The socks will be on display in the museum gallery September 1 through September 29. Summer hours run through September 10 and are daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with \$5 admission. Winter hours begin September 11 and are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Winter admission is \$3 for adults. Visitors 18 and under, members of the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge..

The image can also be viewed on our website at

http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/artifact_of_month.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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