

BULLETIN

Issue 3

AN INFORMATION SOURCE FOR ALASKA'S MUSEUM COMMUNITY

Summer 1997

NATIVE ARTIST DEMONSTRATORS PROGRAM AT THE SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

The Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum is in its 10th year of sponsoring a summer program featuring Native artists. The artists demonstrate their work and share their cultures with the Sitka community and the thousands of travelers who visit the Museum each summer. Myths about Alaska's indigenous population fade and appreciation grows as visitors interact with demonstrators carrying on their cultural traditions.

Organizing the popular program begins each February, when traditional Alaska Native artists are invited to take part in the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum Native

Artist Demonstrators Program. The Museum sends them forms to complete if they are interested in working part time at the Museum during the upcoming summer. The Native Artist Demonstrators program tries to include demonstrators from the four major Native groups of Alaska: Northwest

Coast, Athabaskan, Aleut and Eskimo.

Through careful scheduling, the program has employed all demonstrators who have expressed an interest in the program. All artists receive a \$15 an hour salary. If they reside outside of Sitka, they are provided air or ferry transportation, housing and food.

Demonstrators are attracted to the Museum as a place not only to demonstrate and talk about their culture, but also as a

place for them to research and study the traditional objects found in the collection.

The program coordinator is the primary contact and organizes and implements the program. Others involved are volunteers and board members for the Friends organization, as well as the staff of the Museum.

In March, the program coordinator develops a work schedule for each demonstrator. She distributes a poster to local merchants and cruise ships and recognizes contributors by listing their names on a large board in the Museum. She also distributes a news release statewide at the beginning of the summer and a weekly article listing current demonstrators to the local paper.

The program coordinator arranges all flight and ferry reservations and room and board accommodations. Volunteers or the coordinator meet demonstrators arriving in Sitka and take them to their accommodations. Museum staff assist the artists in setting up and arranging their work spaces in the Museum gallery.

Public response to the program has been positive, and it generates significant word-of-mouth publicity for the Museum, with visitors commenting that they have been told by others to "see the demonstrators." This summer's demonstrators will include Dave Galanin, a Tlingit silver carver from Sitka; Irene Jimmie, a Tlingit weaver from Sitka; Inupiat carver Myron Wheeler, from Nome; and Tlingit beaders Cathleen Pook and Candice Whitson, both from Sitka.

If you are interested in developing a demonstrator program at your museum, or if you know an artist who might be interested in participating in the Sheldon Jackson Museum program, contact Rosemary Carlton at (907) 747-8981.



Tlingit Weaver Karen Kane

VIDEO LOANS Preventive Conservation Videos

In case you missed seeing it in the last Bulletin, we'd like to remind you that the Alaska State Museum has 19 videotapes on preventive conservation available for loan to Alaska museums, historical societies and related organizations. The institutions that have borrowed the videos have become repeat users. Why not try one? Users may request up to three tapes at one time. Loans are for one week and the user is responsible for return postage. The tapes are about ten to fifteen minutes each, and were collaboratively produced by the Centre de conservation du Québec, the Canadian Conservation Institute and the Université du Québec à Montréal.

To borrow any of these videotapes contact: Ken DeRoux, Curator of Museum Services, at (907) 465-2396.

The titles are:

1. Introduction to Preventive Conservation
2. Light and Lighting
3. Relative Humidity and Temperature
4. Pollutants
5. Integrated Pest Management
6. Packing and Transportation of Museum Objects
7. Storage
8. Protecting Objects on Exhibition
9. Disaster Contingency Planning
10. Closing a Seasonal Museum
11. The Condition Report
12. Handling Museum Objects
13. The Care of Paintings

14. The Care of Works on Paper
15. The Care of Sculptures
16. The Care of Metal Objects
17. The Care of Furniture
18. The Care of Textiles
19. The Care of Museum Objects

OTHER VIDEOS

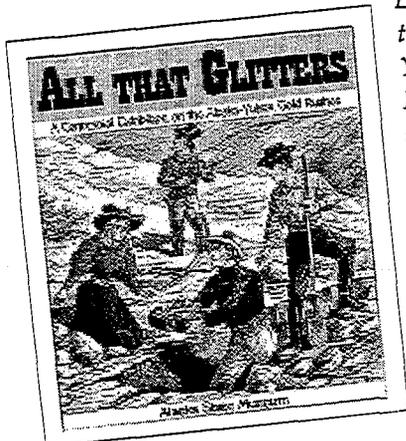
The Sheldon Jackson Museum also has a number of videos on interpretation available for loan. These are:

- Interpretive Exhibit Design
- Labels: Verbal Communication of the Interpreter
- Interpretation of the Humanities through Museum Exhibits
- Interpreting History: Pictorial Documentation
- Museum Education: A Tool for Interpretation
- Successful Interpretive Planning
- Interpreting History through Three Dimensional Objects
- Deciding What to Interpret
- Training for Docents and Greeters

The Sheldon Jackson Museum has over 75 other videos, many on Alaska's Native cultures, available for loan. For any of the above, or a complete listing of the Sheldon Jackson hands-on loan program, contact Rosemary Carlton at (907) 747-8981.

GOLD RUSH MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The Friends of the Alaska State Museum Store has copies available of the catalog for the exhibit *All That Glitters: A Centennial*



Exhibition on the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rushes, last summer's temporary exhibition at the Museum. The catalog, written by guest curator Ken DeRoux,

provides a general overview of the gold rush period. This catalog is 36 pages and has color illustrations. Wholesale price for resale in your store is \$6. Retail orders are \$10. Contact the Friends of the Alaska State Museum Store, 395 Whittier Street, Juneau, AK 99801; phone 465-4845; fax 465-2976.

The Alaska State Museum can also make available to your museum copies of the *Kids' Gazette*, a 4-page brochure that provides gold-rush related activities for children. The *Gazette* can be made available in bulk quantities for the cost of printing. For more information, or a sample copy, contact Ken DeRoux at 465-2396.

NEWS

New Directors at Ketchikan Museums and Duncan Cottage Museum

Following an extended search process, **Michael Naab** has been selected to head the Museum Department for the City of Ketchikan. He will oversee operations of the Tongass Historical Museum and the Totem Heritage Center. Mr. Naab comes to Ketchikan after having served as both a curator and director of the Columbia River Maritime Museum in Astoria, Oregon. He also has experience at the National Park Service and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Pat Beal has been selected as the new curator of the Duncan Cottage Museum in Metlakatla. LaVerne Welcome is retiring after many years in the position. Ms. Beal has been a teacher in Metlakatla and her family is closely tied to the history of the community. The Duncan Cottage Museum is in the historic home of Father William Duncan, the missionary who, along with a community of Tsimshians from British Columbia, moved to Metlakatla in 1887. The Alaska State Museum is working with Metlakatla to help with the transition.

We'd like to join in welcoming Michael Naab and Pat Beal to Alaska's museum community, and to thank LaVerne Welcome for her years of dedicated work in Metlakatla.

New Museum in Glenallen

The Ahtna Heritage Foundation is establishing the Ahtna Heritage Museum in Glenallen, where cultural artifacts and traditions will be showcased to the many tourists passing through the region each summer. The museum will feature artifacts, historic photos, videos, and books on Ahtna traditional culture. Ahtna was one of the last Native American cultures to come into contact with Euro-American culture. Contact in mid and upper villages was not made until 1885 when Lt. Henry Allen, U.S. Army Reconnaissance, led an expedition into the heart of the Copper River region. The museum store will offer authentic Ahtna-made objects of art, books, maps and

posters of the region. Contact: John E. Smelcer, Ahtna Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 213, Glenallen, AK 99588; phone (907) 822-5778.

University Of Alaska Museum Wins AAM Award

The University of Alaska Museum was awarded an Honorable Mention in the 1997 American Association of Museums Publications Design Competition in the category of Fund-raising Campaign Materials. The museum's Coordinator of Exhibits, Wanda Chin, and UAF Rasmuson Library Graphics Designer, Dixon Jones, created the Campaign 2002 packet, which also included the Guide to the University of Alaska Museum. "The award shows that Campaign 2002 materials produced 'in-house' ranked on a national level in terms of excellence. I am pleased to work with my fellow UAF professional colleagues who offer their talents and technical skills," said Jones. This annual juried competition handles over 900 national and international museum entries. All listings will be published in the July/August *Museum News* magazine.

Global Village Project

Sue Thorsen at the National Park Service in Sitka informs us that the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the University of California at Berkeley, and several other institutions have initiated a project to virtually connect schools, academic institutions, museums, and other partners via the World Wide Web across the region historically called Russian America. Breck Parkman, archaeologist for the Department of Parks and Recreation, is seeking new voices to join in the Global Village Project. Students will be able to track activities at an archaeological investigation at Fort Ross through internet connections. Fort Ross was a Russian settlement in northern California. If you think this might be of interest to you contact him at: 75263.3037@CompuServe.com.

To find out more, visit their web site at: www.mcn.org/ed/ross/gv.htm.

OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Museum Studies at the Smithsonian Institution has an **American Indian Museum Studies Program** to respond to the needs of Native Americans working in tribal museums and cultural centers. It sponsors workshops and seminars, provides technical assistance and publications, and has launched a new *Development Award Program* to provide in-depth assistance to a selected museum for a year.

Contact: American Indian Museum Studies, Center for Museum Studies, MRC 427, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560; phone (202) 357-3101 or (202) 633-8991; fax (202) 357-3346.

The Alaska Humanities Forum has revamped its grant program. It has announced that an increased share of grant awards will go to "Challenge Grants," which will be awarded on a one-for-one cash matching basis. New guidelines and application materials are available from: Alaska Humanities Forum, 421 West First Avenue, Suite 210, Anchorage, AK 99501; phone (907) 272-5341; email: forum@alaska.net.

Museum related workshops and seminars are sponsored regularly by the **University of Victoria in British Columbia**. Upcoming seminars include: *Public Relations & Marketing Strategies*, Sept. 22 - 27; *Planning in Cultural Organizations*, October 20 - 25. Fees vary but seem to range from \$300-\$600. College credit is available.

The University is also providing several **Distance Learning Courses**, which you can

take from home, keeping in touch with your instructor by email. These are:

- *Introduction to Museum Studies*, September 9, 1997 - April 17, 1998, \$640 Canadian.
- *Human Resource Management in Cultural Heritage Organizations*, Sept. 9 - Dec. 12, 1997. \$589 Canadian. Access to internet required.
- *Museum Information Management*, Sept. 9 - Dec. 12, 1997, \$589 Canadian. Access to internet and computer w/ cd-rom needed.

Contact: Cultural Resource Management Program, Attention: Joy Davis, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria, PO Box 3030, Victoria, B.C. Canada V8W 3N6; phone (250) 721-8462. Details are on their web site at: www.uvcs.uvic.ca.

The Winedale Seminar on Museum Administration and Interpretation will be held November 9-19 in Roundtop, Texas. Deadline for applications is Sept. 22. The fee of \$500 includes room, board, and materials. This is a long-established training seminar. Participants are selected from applicants. Contact: Kit Neumann, Texas Historical Commission, PO Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711; phone (512) 463-5756; email: kneumann@access.texas.gov.

The Association of Science-Technology Centers has a list of publications available dealing with exhibits and other museum topics, primarily related to science. Their *Cheapbook: A Compendium of Inexpensive Exhibit Ideas*, has been recommended. Contact ASTC at: 1025 Vermont Ave., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005; phone (202) 783-7200; fax 783-7207. Or see the list on the Internet at: www.astc.org/astc/.

MUSEUMS ALASKA CONFERENCE

The annual Museums Alaska Conference will be held in Sitka October 19-22. The theme is Cultural Tourism. The conference begins on a Sunday this year so that visitors may take advantage of Alaska Day ceremonies in Sitka on Saturday, October 18. The June issue of *Alaska Museums Network*

contains the preliminary schedule. Scholarships are available for members wishing to attend the conference. For further information contact Donna Matthews, Museums Alaska, P.O. Box 242323, Anchorage, AK 99524; phone (907) 243-4714.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Alaska presents special problems to those endeavoring to preserve the collections entrusted to their care. Many objects are of delicate composition; ivory, gut, baleen, fur and hides all require carefully controlled environments—all of this in a state with a wide range of climatic conditions. This spring the Alaska State Museum's Conservation Outreach Program has had the opportunity to assist several of Alaska's museums: the Sheldon Museum in Haines, the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka, and the Pratt Museum in Homer.

As part of the survey, the conservator evaluated temperature, humidity and light levels in each of the museums. Also, museum staff identified areas of concern within the collections themselves. Possible solutions were then discussed. A particular problem may exist at one museum which has been addressed and solved by another museum. This information can be tailored to the current needs of the hosting museum. These personalized exchanges of problems and solutions will be one of the most rewarding aspects of the outreach program as it develops and matures.

During visits, the conservator surveyed individual artifacts, generated condition reports and developed treatment proposals. Each outreach visit has given the conservator the opportunity to select one artifact to conserve.

Community involvement with the museum is part of the outreach effort and includes meetings with local fire and police departments, as well as the museum's insurance provider. This community involvement has also included newspaper and radio interviews which discuss the concept of conservation and the museum's roll in conserving the community's history. The conservator also offers special evening workshops, such as "Caring for Family Heirlooms" or "Care of paper, textiles, and photos." These all help generate community awareness of the museum's mandate to protect and preserve.

A Conservation Outreach visit can be arranged for your museum. Call or write: Brook A. Bowman, Alaska State Museum, 395 Whittier Street, Juneau, AK 99801; phone (907) 465-4806; email: bbowman@educ.state.ak.us.

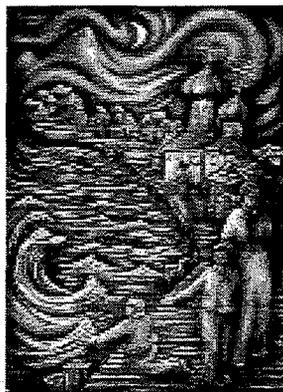
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND THE MUSEUMS ALASKA CONFERENCE 1997

The months between July and October will be busy ones for all of us. However, in preparation for the Museums Alaska Conference in Sitka this October, I will be contacting each of you. Conservation's goal for the year 1997-1998 will be the gathering of information on your museum's experience with emergencies and how you were or are prepared.

TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Submerged: A Carolyn Reed Solo Exhibition

The drawings and prints of Unalaska artist Carolyn Reed will be featured in a new traveling exhibit from the Alaska State Museum, scheduled to begin touring in the fall of 1997. Reed's subject matter is the activities and lives of women in the Aleutian Islands, showing the relationship between people and the environment. The artist works with charcoal and colored pencil drawing, as well as with woodblock prints, monotypes, and etchings. Her colorful, fluid style is gaining recognition



Only the Children See

across the state. This exhibition is based on a solo show held at the Alaska State Museum in March 1997. Reed has also been featured in an exhibit at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. The exhibit will consist of framed drawings and prints, ready to hang, although the exact number of works is yet to be determined. If you are

interested in scheduling this exhibit at your museum, or would like further information, contact Mark Daughhette at (907) 465-4819.

JAMES SCHOPPERT EXHIBITION

One of the exhibitions currently at the Alaska State Museum for the summer is "*Instrument of Change: Jim Schoppert a Retrospective Exhibition.*" The exhibit was organized and previously shown at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Schoppert was an influential contemporary artist of Tlingit descent who took

Northwest Coast and Eskimo art traditions in new directions. We currently have a web page for the Schoppert exhibit that includes essays and images of some of the work in the exhibit. To take a look, go to: <http://ccl.alaska.edu/local/museum/asmhome.html>.

ALASKA MOVING IMAGE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION (AMIPA)

AMIPA is an organization dedicated to preserving and collecting Alaska's cultural history as it has been recorded on motion picture film, video, and audio tape. As these materials are fragile and often improperly stored or cared for, much of this history is

eventually lost. Since museums often generate these types of materials, documenting people and cultural events, we should all ask ourselves how we are taking care of these materials. If you know of films or videos you think should be preserved, or would like more information on the subject, contact Francine Taylor at AMIPA, 1325 Primrose Street, Anchorage, AK 99508; phone: (907) 279-8433.

Alaska State Museums

Alaska State Museum
395 Whittier Street, Juneau AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-2901
Fax (907) 465-2976

Sheldon Jackson Museum
104 College Drive, Sitka AK 99835
Phone (907) 747-8981
Fax (907) 747-3004

Email bkato@educ.state.ak.us
All staff have email—*first initial, last name*
(*up to 8 letters*)@educ.state.ak.us

<http://ccl.alaska.edu/local/museum/home.html>

Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums
Alaska State Department of Education

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