

# BULLETIN

ISSUE 4

AN INFORMATION SOURCE FOR ALASKA'S MUSEUM COMMUNITY

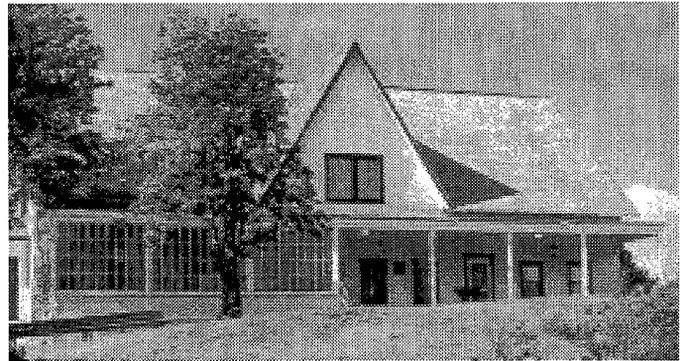
FALL 1997

## State Museum Distributes \$85,600 in Grants to Alaska Museums

In July, the Alaska State Museum awarded 14 grants under its Grants-in-Aid program for fiscal year 1998. The grants totaled \$85,600, ranging from \$1,763 to \$10,000, for projects to take place between July 1997 and June 1998. The State Museum annually awards Grants-in-Aid on a competitive basis to museums, historical societies and related agencies in Alaska. Grants are available for a wide-variety of museum and preservation-related activities.

Those receiving grants this year are:

- The Resurrection Bay Historical Society, Seward: *Map I survey*, \$2,000.
- Sheldon Museum & Cultural Center, Haines: *MAP III assessment*, \$2,000.
- Cordova Historical Society: *MAP II assessment*, \$2,000.
- Baranof Museum/Kodiak Historical Society: *Staff and volunteer training, object processing, conservation supplies*, \$5,000.
- Alaska Museum of Natural History, Eagle River: *Upgrade collection storage environment*, \$1,763.
- University of Alaska Museum, Fairbanks: *Ethnology collection stabilization and improved access*, \$9,975.
- Southeast Alaska Indian Cultural Center, Sitka: *Collection inventory and documentation*, \$8,000.
- Eagle Historical Society & Museum, Eagle: *Purchase conservation materials, exhibit upgrades*, \$6,450.
- Anchorage Museum Association: *Museum directors' meeting*, \$2,990.
- Valdez Museum: *Computer networking and collections data access*, \$6,075.
- Juneau-Douglas City Museum: *Juneau history video production*, \$9,467.
- Tokchaket, Inc., Nenana: *Research and produce exhibits for new cultural center*, \$10,000.
- Museums Alaska, Anchorage: *Annual meeting for professional development*, \$9,880.
- Tongass Historical Museum, Ketchikan: *Exhibition with educational and media materials on Ketchikan's aviation pioneers*, \$10,000.



**The Erskine House, home of the Baranov Museum in Kodiak.** The Baranov Museum/Kodiak Historical Society was one of 14 recipients of a Grants-in-Aid award.

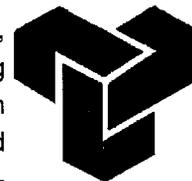
## Notes on the Western Museums Association Annual Meeting

by Ken DeRoux

Alaska's participants at the Western Museums Association Annual Meeting in San Diego were much in evidence as they brazenly promoted the excellent adventure to be had by those who will be traveling to Anchorage, site of next year's WMA Annual Meeting (Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 1998). The opening night reception in San Diego featured Alaska salmon hors-d'oeuvres and door prizes awarded by Pat Wolf (Anchorage Museum of History and Art) and Donna Matthews (Museums Alaska). They were assisted by the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau's larger-than-life mascot,

Seymour the Moose (Ken DeRoux). Seymour, ably assisted by Janine Amon of the ACVB, handed out walrus lapel pins to conferees. Janine also set up a terrific promotional display on Anchorage in the hotel lobby. Not to be outdone by a moose, Cynthia Jones (Sheldon Museum) climbed into the Haines Chamber of Commerce bald eagle costume for the closing reception, where Pat and Donna gave away still more door prizes. These were quality prizes too, no mere moose nuggets. Other Alaskans getting out the message that one can fly

**Notes**  
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## **Do you save your AASLH Technical Leaflets?**

If you've been a member of the American Association of State and Local History for very many years, you've probably saved your old Technical Leaflets. Since 1969, the AASLH has issued nearly 200 leaflets on a variety of subjects. Some of them are now outdated, but many are still valuable sources of information. To facilitate their use, we've compiled an index by general subject area, e.g. collection management, exhibits, conservation, local history, administration. If you would like a free copy of the index, contact Ken DeRoux at the State Museum at (907) 465-2396. Individual leaflets are available from the AASLH, 530 Church Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219-2325. Phone (615) 255-2971. Price is \$4 each for members. It has a list of available issues, as well as special reports and a videotape lending library.

## **Do you have environmental monitoring equipment on loan?**

The State Museum is considering reviving its Environmental Monitoring Kit loan program. It has come to our attention that previously loaned items may still be out in the field. If your museum has a U-V monitor,

recording hygrothermograph, sling hygrometer or other related items on loan from the Museum, we would appreciate hearing from you so we can assess the need and cost for this program. Please contact Brook Bowman at (907) 465-4806.

## **Mississippi Scholar Selected to Head National Endowment for the Humanities**

Professor William R. Ferris, a scholar of the American South at the University of Mississippi whose expertise runs from Faulkner to Elvis, has been selected by President Clinton to head the National Endowment for the Humanities. The selection of Professor Ferris, a native Mississippian, is likely to blunt the drive of conservative Republicans in Congress who have been trying to eliminate both the humanities endowment and the National Endowment for the Arts. When it became known that Professor Ferris was on a short list of candidates, the two Senators from Mississippi — Trent Lott, the majority leader, and Thad Cochran, both Republicans and both graduates of the University of Mississippi — wrote President Clinton endorsing his selection. Cochran said he expected Professor Ferris to be confirmed quickly by the Senate. He

would succeed Sheldon Hackney, a former president of Tulane University and the University of Pennsylvania, who is returning to Penn to teach. Professor Ferris is the founder and director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss., the nation's first for regional cultural studies, started in 1979. He also established a center for the study of the blues musical tradition at the university and is co-editor, with Charles Reagan Wilson, of the "Encyclopedia of Southern Culture." The humanities endowment is the principal federal agency engaged in intellectual scholarship, providing grants in history, philosophy, and related disciplines.

Molotsky, Irvin. "Mississippian to Head Humanities Agency."

New York Times 8/26/97, p. A14.

## **Alaska Museums Receive Grants from Institute of Museum and Library Services**

The IMLS announced in September that four Alaska museums had received grants from the federal agency. The Anchorage Museum of History and Art received \$112,500 for a General Operating Support Grant, the highest level of IMLS funding. The Alaska Museum of Natural History (Eagle River) and Wrangell

Museum each received \$1,775 for Museum Assessment Program (MAP) I surveys. The Valdez Museum and Historical Archive obtained \$1,775 for a MAP II survey as well as \$3,390 for a Conservation Assessment.

## **Federal Grant Deadlines: Institute of Museum and Library Services Phone (202) 606-8539**

- CAP (Conservation Assessment)  
December 5, 1997
- General Operating Support  
January 23, 1998
- MAP III (public dimension)  
February 27, 1998
- Conservation Project Support  
March 6, 1998
- MAP II (collection mgmt.)  
March 13, 1998
- MAP I (general)  
April 24, 1998
- Museum Leadership Initiatives  
June 19, 1998
- National Endowment for the Humanities  
(202) 786-0438
- Public Programs  
January 12, 1998
- National Endowment for the Arts  
(202) 682-2000
- New guidelines for FY 1999 will be available in January.

**CONCEPTS on Aleut Basket Weavers Available**

A new issue of the Alaska State Museums' technical paper *Concepts* is available. It contains a database of Aleut weavers compiled by researchers Martha G. Murray of Unalaska and Peter Corey of the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka. The database lists all known basket weavers, present and past, with information about where they lived, their families, who taught them, and other data. It is 24 pages and is Number 8 in the *Concepts* series. It is available at museum stores in Juneau, Sitka and Kodiak, as well as at Nicky's Place in Unalaska. If your museum store doesn't have it, you can contact the Friends Museum Store in Juneau at (907) 465-4845 or FAX at (907) 465-2976. Cost is \$1 plus shipping.



Participants in a disaster planning workshop, at the Museums Alaska conference in Sitka this October puzzle over the damaged collections of the Hind-Sight Museum.

**Career Development Opportunities NAGPRA**

Heritage Resources Management of the University of Nevada, Reno, is offering a one-credit, graduate level course titled *NAGPRA'S Evolving Legacy*, which deals with management and compliance issues associated with NAGPRA. Cost is \$495. Expenses may be tax deductible. Courses will be held in Seattle March 29-31 and again in Los Angeles May 7-9 in conjunction with other museum related conferences. Register one month in advance. Contact: Division of Continuing Education, University of Nevada at 1-800-233-8928.

**New Web Page Address**

The location of the Alaska State Museums' Home Page on the Internet has changed. The new address is: <http://www.educ.state.ak.us/lam/museum/home.html>. This will take you to both the Alaska State Museum in Juneau and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka. You can also find links here to numerous other museums in Alaska.

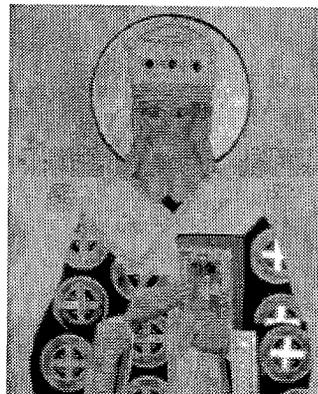
**Museum Information**

*Museum Information Management, Introduction to Heritage Conservation* is a distance education course being offered, by the Division of Continuing Studies, University of Victoria, P.O. Box 3030, Victoria, B.C. V8W 3N6, Canada, from January to April, 1998. Phone (250) 721-6119 for more information.

**New Alaska State Museum Traveling Exhibition Continues Statewide Tour**

"A Good and Faithful Servant: The Year of St. Innocent, Bicentennial of the Birth of Ioann Veniaminov, 1798-1997," was created by the Alaska State Museums in collaboration with the Alaska Veniaminov Bicentennial Committee. It honors the bicentennial of the birth of Saint Innocent, Apostle to North America and Siberia.

Ioann Veniaminov was the first priest at Unalaska, the first Orthodox bishop in Alaska and, as Bishop Innocent Veniaminov, headed the entire Orthodox church in Russia from 1868 until his death in 1879. In 1977, he was proclaimed Saint Innocent. This exhibition is made up of 10 panels with photographs and other illustrations.



**Saint Innocent**  
An icon featured in the exhibition painted by ??? Birdsall for the traveling exhibition.

**BULLETIN**

**Alaska State Museums**

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

<http://www.alaska.educ.state.ak.us/lam/museum/home.html>

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

**Notes**

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to Anchorage and not become mired in debt were: Donna Baron from the State Museum, who will be heading up the registrar's events next year; Terry Dickey and Wanda Chin, Alaska's WMA board member, from the University of Alaska Museum; and Janice Williams of the Carrie McLain Museum in Nome.

Those of us at the **workshop for State Museums Associations** listened to cultural tourism ideas from presenters in the San Diego area. Among the comments and suggestions you might find relevant:

- Have "National Geographic quality" slides of your museum available

for publicity use. The importance of high quality cannot be overemphasized, especially for large circulation publications and guides because the issue of image quality can override content when an editor has to choose an image.

- Stage "fam" (familiarization) tours of your institution for local tourism people, like bus and taxi drivers, hotel employees, (especially concierges), and gift shop owners, i.e. those people who are in daily contact with the traveling public. You might be surprised how many local tourism workers haven't been in your museum recently.

- Surveys indicate most people travel to have fun. Windows 98 will have a desktop icon for "Travel and Entertainment".
- The tourism industry is one of collaborations. To collaborate, it is essential to understand each other's business needs and priorities.
- Do you use your visitor registration book to compile statistical data, or is it unread or only used for checking comments? Some useful targeting information might be obtained here.
- The WMA will put up web pages for members for a \$250 fee and maintain it for \$30 a month. Compare this

with your local Internet provider to see if this is a deal or not.

A previous *Bulletin* mentioned a purchasing cooperative for museum supplies that was discussed at last year's WMA meeting. Progress since then has been slow, but the California Museums Association is now engaged in establishing such a cooperative, which will be available to other museums in the western region. One should expect discounted prices from suppliers such as Gaylord and Light Impressions. Hopefully this will benefit Alaska museums. More information should be available in the near future.

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