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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM MARCH ARTIFACT
OF THE MONTH**



The Sheldon Jackson Museum's March Artifact of the Month is a pair of moccasins (SJ-IV-X-24). The museum has little information on the pair of moccasins but they are believed to be Athabascan in origin. The moccasins were collected in the Nome area around 1900 by Harrison Lynn Kepner. The moccasins were one of several artifacts assembled in the Nome area around the turn of the 20th century and donated in 1982.

The moccasins are most likely made of caribou and are comprised of two pieces – a sole and an upper. The sides of the upper piece are joined at the back. The seam joining the sole to the upper is welted. The inside of one of the moccasins is lined with cream-colored muslin cotton. The other moccasin is lined with cream-colored muslin with a black leaf and floral pattern. The opening of each is bound with maroon grosgrain ribbon. Each moccasin has a beaded design of a frog done in a light blue

and maroon checker-board pattern. The face has medium blue beads with brass and black beaded eyes and a nose done in white beads.

The March Artifact of the Month will be exhibited until March 31st. The museum is home to sixteen pairs of moccasins. The majority are Tlingit; only six are Athabascan. Almost all the moccasins have designs on them in glass beads. Some are embroidered with applique. The March Artifact of the Month and other moccasins and examples of Athabascan beadwork may be seen Tuesday through Saturday between 10am and 4pm. The museum is closed for lunch from noon to 1pm. General admission is \$3 and free for those 18 and under or members of either the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum or Friends of the Alaska State Museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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