

Linda S. Thibodeau
Director
Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums
lam.alaska.gov



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: **June 24, 2011**

July Artifact of the Month: Tsimshian Eagle Plaque



The Artifact of the Month for July is a red cedar plaque carved by Tsimshian artist Wayne Hewson from Metlakatla, Alaska. The dimensions of the plaque measure 10" high by 11½" wide and features a carved and painted Northwest Coast design of an eagle in traditional formline colors of black, red, and turquoise blue.

This plaque was designed and carved by Hewson in 2000 as a participating artist in the annual Native Artist Demonstrator Program at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. This program provides Native artists the opportunity to educate museum visitors about the art, history, and cultures of Native Alaskans. Hewson donated the plaque to former SJM Curator Rosemary Carlton, with the inscription, "To my friend, Rosemary. Thanks for everything. Wayne Hewson." Carlton donated the plaque to the museum's hands-on collection – an educational component of the museum that allows teachers and students throughout Alaska to study Native art and artifacts in their classrooms through handling the objects.

Hewson's carving career began in 1967 at a boarding school in Wrangell when he used a pocketknife and a bar of soap to carve a beaver. Since 1987, he has been carving and designing masks, bowls, paddles, bentwood boxes, rattles, and totem poles. From 1990 to 2000, Hewson apprenticed with renowned carver David Boxley. Hewson has created totem poles in many communities throughout the West and Northwest. In addition to four totem poles in Metlakatla, he has created totem poles in California, Washington State, and Oregon.

The plaque will be on exhibit at Sheldon Jackson Museum from July 1 through July 31. Previous artifacts of the month can be viewed on our website at http://www.museums.state.ak.us/sheldon_jackson/artifact_of_month.html.

Summer hours at the museum are daily from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. with \$4 admission. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge. The museum will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. The Sheldon Jackson Museum is located at 104 College Drive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

www.museums.state.ak.us