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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **March 30, 2010**

April Artifact of the Month: Rudolph Walton Silver Souvenir Spoon

The April Artifact of the Month at the Sheldon Jackson Museum is a silver souvenir spoon attributed to well-known turn of the century Tlingit artist Rudolph Walton.

The spoon, along with 20 other pieces of silver, was purchased at Bonham's and Butterfields of San Francisco. The spoons came from the estate of Lynn Trusdell owner of Crown & Eagle Antiques in New Hope, PA. The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum provided the financial support for the museum to bid on the lot and donated 19 of the pieces to the museum. Two pieces were commercially made and retained by the Friends for future fund raisers.

The word "Sitka" engraved on the back of the spoon shows up on many of the pieces done by Rudolph Walton and has been confirmed as his writing. Other pieces in the collection have his name and the words "Sitka" engraved on them validating that these are his works. This spoon is very similar in design to another in the collection that is attributed to Walton.

Rudolph Walton, Kaawootk' (Little Bead) Aakw'tatseen (Lively Frog in a Lake), Kik'sadi Tin.aa Hit (Copper Plate House) was a well-known Tlingit carver from Sitka. Walton lived in Sitka from 1867 to 1951. He was widely known for his silver and wood carving, and made many spoons, bracelets and other items for the tourist trade. He was the proprietor of the Rudolph Walton and Son Store on Katlian Street until 1920.

The spoon will be on display April 1–30. Winter hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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www.museums.state.ak.us

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