

PRESS RELEASE

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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CEDAR BARK BASKET TAKES CENTER STAGE IN AUGUST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CAROLYN YOUNG, 747-8981

An unusual cedar bark basket from Metlakatla is the Sheldon Jackson Museum Artifact of the Month for August.

At first glance this lidded basket might resemble others made in the area, but this specimen lacks a handle on its lid. In place of the usual knob is a neatly finished hole about the size of a dime. Why was the basket made this way? No one knows for sure, but one guess is that the basket could have been used to hold a ball of yarn, with the strand playing out of the hole in the lid.

The design units on this basket are also unusual. Normally design units on cedar baskets are laid out evenly, but these are unevenly spaced. The basket was constructed using the "twining" method with false embroidery in dyed grass.



In 1987 this basket, along with four others representing Tlingit and Eskimo cultures, came to the Museum through a donation from the estate of long-time Sitka resident Patricia Smith.

The basket may be viewed at the Museum from August 1-31. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. General admission is \$4. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.