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Press Release

SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: **June 30, 2012**

July Artifact of the Month: Fish skin sewing kit from the Lower Yukon region

SITKA – The July artifact of the month is a “housewife” or sewing kit, known in Yup’ik as kakivik. The bag is made from salmon skins that are sewn together in contrasting patterns with some pieces of skin dyed red with alder bark. The bag has a rounded U-shaped top and a pouch at the bottom that was used to hold needles, thimbles, awls and other sewing implements. A raven foot design made with seal skin leather decorates the center of the bag. When closed, the bag is rolled up and secured with an ivory or wooden fastener. Women throughout northern and western Alaska used a similar style of roll-up sewing kit to hold sewing materials. Records at the Sheldon Jackson Museum do not indicate when this bag was collected or who collected it.

Among Alutiiq, Athabascan, Iñupiaq and Yup’ik peoples, skins from salmon and other fish were often used as a textile material to make bags, containers and clothing.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum will host visiting artist Audrey Armstrong who will teach an Athabascan-style fish skin bag making working workshop July 19-21st. For more information and to register, please call the museum at 907.747.8981.

Summer hours at the Sheldon Jackson Museum are from 9 am to 5 pm daily. Summer admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for seniors. Visitors 18 and under, members of the Friends of the Sheldon Jackson museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

www.museums.state.ak.us



Fish skin sewing kit I1H95

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