

A L A S K A S T A T E M U S E U M S

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

Sheldon Jackson Museum

104 College Drive, Sitka, AK 99835

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

GRASS BASKET

JUNE ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ROSEMARY CARLTON, 747-8981

The Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for June is a small, open-weave twined grass basket from the Kotzebue Sound area.

This basket has been in the collections for many years. It is thought to have been collected by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson during his travels in the north as General Agent of Education for the U.S. Bureau of Education in the 1890s.

Some sources list small baskets such as this one as "toy" baskets, but recently, researcher and author Ann Fienup Riordan suggested the basket was made to fit over a pottery cup. She notes similar baskets and pottery cups are found in some European museums. Research is continuing in the field of Eskimo basketry and more information may come to light on these small twined grass baskets.

The Artifact of the Month series at the Sheldon Jackson Museum offers visitors an opportunity to view various pieces that are beyond the scope of exhibited collections, are too fragile to exhibit permanently, or are new to the collection.

The basket will be on display June 1-30. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and admission is \$4. Youth under 18 or with passes are admitted free.

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TWINED GRASS BASKET



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