

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

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JUNE ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

[INUPIAT IVORY LADLE](#)

A small ladle carved from one piece of ivory is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for June. The ladle is only 5 ½" long and 2 ¼" wide with the bowl a little over an inch deep.

Although there is no firm documentation of the ladle's origins, the person who described it on the catalog card chose to catalog it as a Kobuk River object. There are several ladles and spoons in the collection similar to this one that have been positively identified as being from that region. Sheldon Jackson, who collected many of the museum's objects, wrote "1890," his name, and "Kowak (sic) River, Arctic Alaska" on a number of these other utensils. Shapes, styles and techniques of construction are often identifiable by the region they are from but neighboring groups also borrowed ideas from each other.

Ladles and spoons were common household utensils, some being carved from wood, others from mountain sheep horn, moose or caribou antler, or bone as well as walrus and mammoth ivory.

The ivory ladle will be on exhibit June 1 through June 30. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Summer admission is \$4. Youth under 18 and those with annual passes are admitted free.

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