

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sheldon Jackson Museum

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TLINGIT GREASE DISH COLLECTED ON VOYAGE WITH JACKSON

A Tlingit grease dish carved in the shape of a puffin or crested auklet is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for May. Each May an artifact associated with the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the Museum's founder, is selected for exhibit in connection with the anniversary of his birthday and International Museum Day on May 18.

Written on the bottom of this dish is "Alaska 1879 D. Wilson Moore trip taken with Sheldon Jackson and John Muir." This was Jackson's second trip to Alaska and one intended to introduce high-level Presbyterian officials to the area. By coincidence, naturalist John Muir was also on the same steamship. So far the name of D. Wilson Moore does not show up in any of the articles, books or correspondence written by the members of this group. Moore was a wealthy Presbyterian philanthropist who may very well have been along on the trip in some capacity, but his participation remains unsubstantiated.

The dish, along with a carved standing figure, canoe model, and a whip, were purchased by the Museum in 2001 from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. The pieces had been donated to the Seminary by Paul Gaebelein Jr., who had taught there. Gaebelein was the grandson of D. Wilson Moore. Dishes such as this one may have been used to hold candle fish or seal oil in which food was dipped during great feasts. This one shows no signs of use, so it may have been made for sale. The dish, carved of wood, measures approximately 17 inches long by 6 inches wide by 3 inches deep.

