

# 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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### [TLINGIT CANOE MODEL](#) MAY ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**ROSEMARY CARLTON, 747-8981**

A Tlingit canoe model is the Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for May.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson collected the piece in the late 1800s. It became part of a Jackson family collection handed down through several generations linked to Jackson's sister, Louise Jackson Norcross.

Jackson's great-nephew, Ben Hawkes of Beauford, N.C., brought the canoe and several other pieces with him to a family reunion in Sitka in 1995 and donated them to the museum. The donation also included a bird form dish, an Eskimo wood pipe, a glass bottle covered with spruce root weaving and three large argillite pieces.

Although little else is known about this diminutive watercraft, models such as this one traditionally were made for children. After Euro-American contact with the Tlingit culture, model canoes became an important collector's item in the art and "curio" market. Early explorers collected them as examples of Tlingit material culture. During the latter part of the 19th century, tourists to Southeast Alaska purchased them as souvenirs.

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 canoe will be on display May 1-30. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is \$3. Summer hours go into effect May 15; they are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Summer admission is \$4. Youth under 18 and those with annual passes are admitted free.

## TLINGIT CANOE MODEL



[return to top](#)