

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH FOR MAY: [THEODORE RICHARDSON WATERCOLOR](#)

The Sheldon Jackson Museum's Artifact of the Month for May is a watercolor by turn of the century artist Theodore J. Richardson. Each year, the selection of May's artifact of the month is made in connection with International Museum Day and Dr. Sheldon Jackson's birthday, both occurring on May 18th.

Richardson made his first trip to Alaska in 1884 when steamship tourism to the region began. Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Richardson visited Sitka and other places in Alaska regularly over the next 20 years "to obtain some of the beautiful bits of landscape scenery that abound at Sitka." (*The Alaskan, August 11, 1888.*)

These are the years that also saw annual visits from Sheldon Jackson. He would leave his East coast home in April or May and stay in Alaska sometimes through December. Often his wife and/or grown daughters would accompany him, staying with friends in Sitka. One of these daughters, Lesley Jackson, was a painter and engraver. Records show that she and others took lessons from Richardson when he was in town. In fact, some of her works reflect the same subjects that Richardson painted – not an unusual practice for beginning artists.

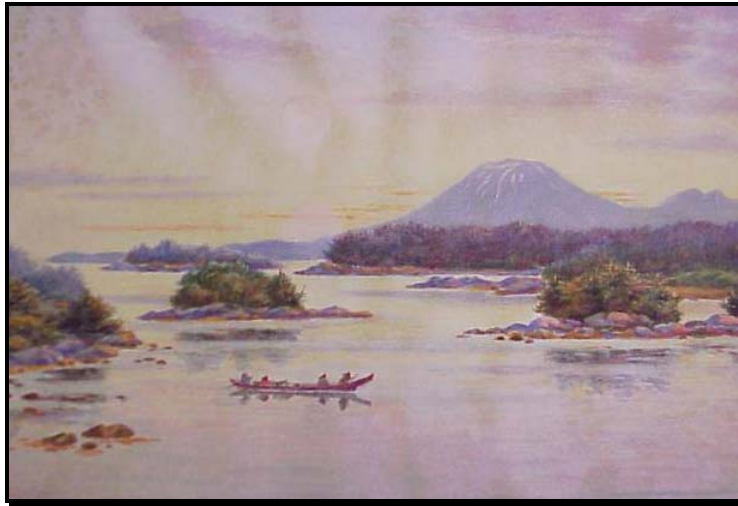
Former Museum Curator, Peter Corey, suggested in his research on the museum's acquisition of the painting that it might have been donated by Huge Brady, son of the former Governor of Alaska, John Brady. The Brady family often hosted the Jackson women when they were in town and have a number of Lesley's paintings in their private collection. Richardson sold many of his paintings to local Sitka residents and with the connection to Lesley Jackson, this could be the avenue by which the painting arrived in the Museum's collections.

The painting will be on display May 1-30. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Summer hours go into effect May 15 and will be 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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THEODORE RICHARDSON WATERCOLOR



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