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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM WELCOMING BACK THE ROBE
EVENTS**

The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum invite the general public a two-part series of special events taking place to honor the return of a Chilkat robe. The robe has been in the hands of a family on the East Coast for several generations and is believed to have been collected by Secretary of State William Henry Seward during his travels through Southeast Alaska and British Columbia in 1869. The exact origins of the robe, culturally and geographically speaking, are unknown because its design pattern was not unique to any singular group and is one of the more common designs found in Chilkat weavings.

The first event to honor the return of the robe will be a welcoming ceremony led by Tlingit clan leaders and a public reception with Alaska Native dancers at Centennial Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday, Sept. 14th. The robe will be on display for the general public to see and dancers will welcome it back to Alaska with traditional song and dance. A reception with dessert will follow. The general public is invited to attend this free event.

In the second event happening in honor of the return of the robe, Shelly Laws, Chilkat weaver, will give a lecture at the Sheldon Jackson Museum Friday, September 15th at 6:30pm. During her talk, Laws will share her expertise on Chilkat robes and the returning Chilkat robe being given to the Sheldon Jackson Museum. She will unpack as much as possible, the mysteries of the robe, including its potential age, what types of yarns and dyes were used to make it, and its design pattern. She will also talk generally about the history and cultural significance of Chilkat robes, patterning, and some of the many Chilkat robes she has studied in museums and what she has learned from her examining them. A robe woven by Laws and a weaving in progress will be displayed during the talk alongside the recently acquired robe. The lecture will be free and open to the public.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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