

# Sheldon Jackson Native Artifact Exhibit Completes Series

Two collections of native Alaskan artifacts from the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka have completed a series of showings in the state. The first collection, dating from the early 1890's, consisted of wooden Eskimo masks from Old

Andreafski.

The second collection is a cross-section of all types of Alaskan baskets and bags with old baskets from all of the native Alaskan groups; Eskimo, Aleut, Athabascan, Tsimshian and Tlingit.

Distinctive materials were used in the various bags including seal intestine, baleen, porcupine quills and bird-foot skin, as well as better known substances.

Many of the valuable artifacts had never been seen outside

Sitka before. They were transported by museum curators Esther Billman and Alice Postell to the Southeast Alaska fair at Haines and to Klukwan, Glennallen and Valdez.

Two private showings were held for native groups who were

making modern baskets. Here there was appreciation of the fine texture of the old baskets.

The Sheldon Jackson Museum is planning additional showings of these and other traveling exhibits in various communities of the state. The exhibitions are made possible under the terms of a grant received from the National Council of the Arts.