

Basketry will highlight crafts symposium

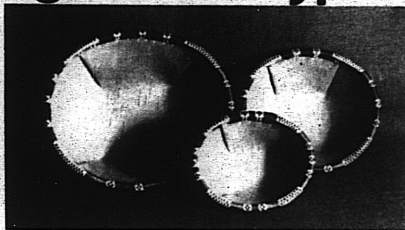
A major symposium on the native crafts of the Pacific Basin will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, May 11-15, 1981. Participating will be 17 basket, net and fishtrap makers from Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii and the Northern Marine Islands. Three eminent scholars from the region will attend and participate as well. The purpose of the symposium is to develop policies and strategies which will assist future cultural preservation and crafts development programs. Sponsors of the symposium are the Consortium for Pacific Arts and Cultures (C-PAC), the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Visual Arts Center of Alaska.

The Pacific Basin participants will include the creators of woven containers with historic uses for gathering, storing and preparing foods. They represent the traditional craftsmen who are faced with the dramatic changes in roles and uses of their craft objects. Their baskets, nets and traps have become "decorator objects" rather than tools for survival. Thus, the craftsman has a significantly altered status



and position in society based on the significance of the objects made.

Invited scholars are Dr. Barre Toelken, Folklorist at the University of Oregon (Eugene); Dr. David K. Rose, Curator of Ethnology from the Bishop Museum, Honolulu; and Dr. Richard Arvizu, Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. Discussions between the scholars and regional arts administrators will focus on the ways to achieve a mutual understanding of the indigenous crafts from a native viewpoint. They will examine public arts policy to determine how government can play a more positive



role in the traditional crafts and cultural preservation issues.

Symposium meetings will be held at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, 121 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage. Further information about the schedule, public events and lectures is available from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, 619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 220, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, telephone: 907-279-1558.