OBS II ivory engraving tool or tattoo needle handle, 9 cm



Bruce White photo

Although these objects are usually described as engraving tool handles, it is equally likely that the smaller ones were used as handles for tattooing needles. A similarly carved but larger OBS handle from burial 132 of the Ekven site is shown in Arutiunov and Sergeev (1975, Fig. 83-4, below left), and a variety of sizes and styles of OBS and Punuk engraving tool handles from Ekven are illustrated in Bronshtein et al. (2007, #352-362, p. 148, below right).



Arutiunov, S.A. and Sergeev, D.A. (1975): *Problemy etnicheskoi istorii Beringomoria – Ekvenskii mogilnik* (Problems of the Ethnic History of the Bering Sea – The Ekven Cemetery), Nauka, Moscow

Bronshtein, M.M, Dneprovsky, K.A., and Sukhorukova, E.S. (2007): *Mir arkticheskih zveroboev: shagi v nepoznannoe* (World of Arctic Maritime Hunters: Steps into the Unknown). State Museum of Oriental Art and Department of Culture of the Chukotka Autonomous Region, Moscow-Anadyr.