

**East Greenland water bucket (*Imeq*) and wood box (*Erserpiardik*)  
with pegged and inlaid ivory decorations, ~1910-1925**





Bruce White photos

## Provenance:

Danish National Museum  
Harry Beasley  
John Hewett  
Merton Simpson  
Jonathan Holstein

**"Wooden tool box having the sides and top decorated with ivory models of seals, bears, fish, etc. A loop handle of ivory beads.** 9½" x 4¾" x 3¼" " (from Beasley Collection inventory, 19-12-1932, see copy below). Collected in 1927 in Ammassalik, East Greenland, by Alfred Tycho Hedegaard (1872-1941), factor (*kolonibestyrelser*) in Ammassalik during the period of 1915-1929 (replacing the first *kolonibestyrelser*, Johan Petersen, who was active from the time of the Danish colony's establishment in 1894 until 1915). Acquired in 1928 by the National Museum of Denmark (Accession No. L.9565), and in 1932 acquired in exchange (through Thomas Thomsen, National Museum Director) by the Cranmore Ethnographical Museum, U.K. (i.e., Harry G. Beasley Collection; label on underside of lid reads: "Angmagssalik, A Tool Box, 19-12-1932"). L.9565 is also written in ink on underside of lid. 24.5 x 12 x 8 cm.

In the original Danish National Museum collection entry for a group of seven very similar, but largely undecorated, wood boxes with lids (based on information supplied by Gustav Holm, who made this collection in 1885 when he discovered the Ammassalik Eskimos), these are described not as tool boxes but rather for "... keeping small objects, especially ivory carvings such as decorations, beads, buttons, etc." (Meldgaard, 1985, Lc.979.1-979.6-7, pp. 188-189; Lc.979.1 is illustrated with about 20 small objects of this type that it contained, see illustration below). The decoration of these boxes with pegged ivory figures may be a somewhat later development, though it is present on buckets, cups, eye shades, harpoon throwing boards and other objects collected by Holm.

**"Water bucket built of wooden staves having the sides and top edges inlaid with [ivory] plates, and models of seals in ivory.** Name: - Iméripik, H 6½" " (quoted from Beasley Collection inventory, 19-12-1932). Height is actually 7½" (19 cm); top diameter 18.5 cm; bottom diameter 11.5 cm. Beasley Collection label on the bottom of the bucket reads: "Angmagssalik, Iméripik, 19-12-1932" (the actual name is *Imeq* in East Greenlandic and *Qattaq* in the current West Greenlandic orthography; see Meldgaard, 1985). Listed in the Beasley Inventory as one of eight items from Greenland (seven from Ammassalik, one from West Greenland) acquired on 19-12-1932 in exchange from the National Museum. Only the wood box was catalogued by the Museum as part of the 108 item 1927/1928 Hedegaard collection (L.9563-L.9671), and the bucket was therefore probably obtained from another source (Jørgen Meldgaard, personal communication, 1989).

Meldgaard, J., Ed. (1985): *The Gustav Holm Collection. Objects collected by the Umiak-Expedition to Ammassalik 1883-85.* The Greenland Secretariat, National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen.



Lc.979  
*Syv firkantede Træesker med Laag, til Opbevaring af mindre Gjenstande, især Udskjæringer af Been, saa som Dupper, Perler, Knapper og desl.*

Lc.979.1  
Æske  
længde: 14 cm  
bredde: 7 cm  
højde: 7,5 cm  
KNK/Grønlands Landsmuseum.

Illerfiusaq  
Erserpiardik

1932

C M S continued

21 10 (6)

Complete with mouth piece and

iron pointed drill

H -

ESQUIMAUX. BEHRING STRAITS. POINT BARROW: A fishing apparatus consisting of a carved short rod, of bone, gut line, iron a bone hook a sinker

H -

A similar

fishing apparatus

N -

A broad wooden

spear thrower

13 7/8

N -

17-12

Dr Harris (Horniman Museum) &amp; Rev Dr W. Lucena visited →

19-12

In Exchange with the National Museum den Etnografiske Samling, Copenhagen.

Dr Thomas Thomsen, Director.

GREENLAND. WEST:-

A whale bone snow knife from a grave.

15"

S -

ANG-MAGSSALIK:-

A water bucket built of wooden staves

having the sides and top edges inlaid with plates, and models of seals in ivory. Name:- IMÉRPIK

H 6 1/2"

MT -

A wooden tool box having the sides and top decorated with ivory models of seals, bears, fish etc. A lock handle of ivory beads.

9 1/2" x 4 3/4" x 3 1/4"

A MC -

A wound plug of wood having the end decorated as a human face. Name:- NIATERSEET

M E

An ivory harpoon with an iron point.

Repaired with two copper bands. Name:- SAWIKATTAQ

M -

A bone thong smoother having two holes at the smaller end. Name:- NAKWIKIN

E

A bow drill complete with mouth piece and drilling stick. Name:- PUTODRUTIN

C -