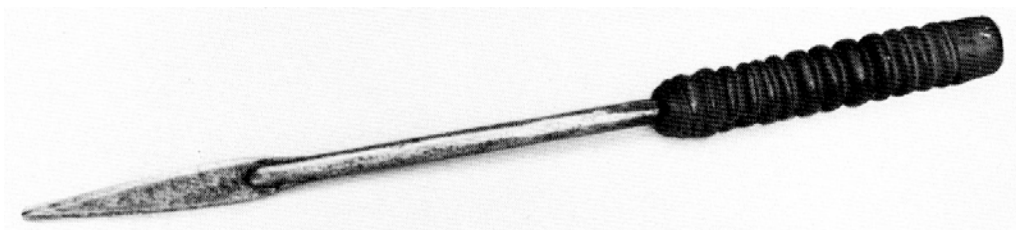


East Greenlandic short lance (*angivaliit*) with iron blade, early 20th century, 31.5 cm



Porsild (1915), in his chapter on lances, has described the West Greenlandic equivalent as follows: “The object of the lance is to give the mortal wound to the animal previously harpooned, or shot with the rifle. [...] Moreover, a short, slender lance, which consisted only of a long knife-like blade immovably fixed onto a wooden shaft was always used formerly and is still used at times. It is employed to give the animal the death-stroke when one comes so close to the animal that the long throwing lance becomes unmanageable, as is implied by its Greenland name “something to stab with”. Since the introduction of the rifle it has in some measure disappeared, or, to be more correct, has become shorter and been converted into a long handled knife which is stuck in the sheath on the deck of the kayak. If the bullet does not entirely finish off the animal, the small lance is finally used, and particularly to give the cuts necessary for the attachment of the various towing tackle ...”.



Short lance collected by Capt. Gustav Holm on his “Umiak Expedition” to Ammassalik in 1883-1885, when he discovered the East Greenland Eskimos. Described by Holm as having an iron blade set in a wood shaft, 33.5 cm, National Museum of Denmark accession number Lb.397 (from Meldgaard, 1985, pp. 74-75).

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.

Porsild, M.P. (1915): Studies on the material culture of the Eskimo in West Greenland (*Meddellelse om Grønland*, Vol. 51), Copenhagen, pp. 163-164.