



Pen-and-ink self portrait of the Eskimo "George" Niakungitok, with three annotations in German *Kurrentschrift* at the right. Drawing is 18 x 13 cm (total area with annotations: 19.5 x 24.5 cm) on larger laid paper, previously folded vertically in the center. 1824-1825

Translation of German annotations:

"As naïve as the drawing appears to be, it is of the greatest interest as it was done by himself, the Esquimaux George Nia-Kungitok, who jokingly signed it "Johann Esquimaux", as he was called by that name. The native of Baffin Bay was exhibited for money in Berlin by the American ship captain Hadlock in 1824."

"The above historical note was written by Professor H.L. Karrig in Berlin, it was found when his estate was sold in 1843 in Hamburg. See catalog. (signed) Wilhelm Kloos, 1843"

"NB. Not professor, but Director. See Catal. Portrait 5249. The same with his wife Mary Coomummok. Lithograph"

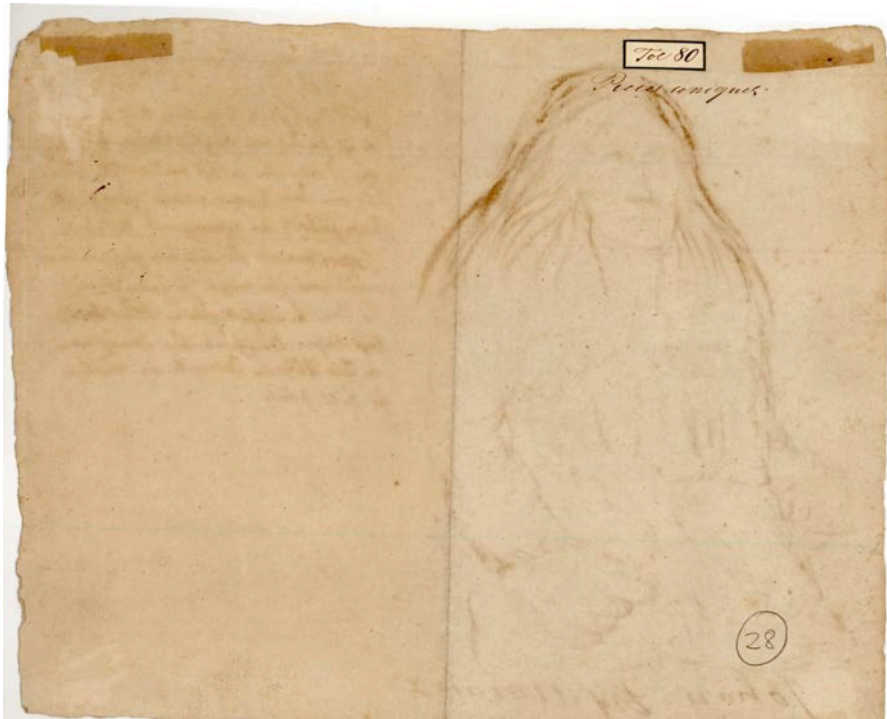
So schließt diese Zeichnung mit dem
 so ist sie aus dem großen Kistchen, aus
 dem ist von ihm selbst gefertigt, unter
 dem von dem Esquimaux George Ma.
 Kungibot der Pfanzmann Joseph
 Esquimaux Linné der Gaffriabau,
 weil man ihn nicht so genau
 der Natur. Spitzbergen Havel
 und dem Caffin-Cari Cuvier
 im Jahr 1824 in München in Berlin
 für Geld geben.

Das von Japanische Linné
 Nach ist gaffriabau nach Professor
 Dr. L. Karrig in Berlin.
 und Linné Linné Linné 1843 in
 Homburg nach dem Linné 3
 Jahr. Linné Cataloge.

Mich. H. L. Carrig
 1843.
 Linné Cataloge Portrait 5249
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Enlarged view of annotations

In 1827 H. L. Karrig founded the Prussian National Institute for Silk Production and Bee Keeping in Boizenburg (see his 14-page privately published booklet, *Andeutungen über den Seidenbau in Preußen*, Berlin, 1827). "It is curious that the 5249 also appears above the drawing. It is equally curious that the drawing is on a piece of paper with a margin wide enough for extensive annotations - quite unlike the other drawings by George. It may suggest that Karrig asked George to produce a drawing that could be annotated." "The fact that the drawing was collected in Berlin makes it the earliest known drawing by George." (Christian F. Feest, Director, Museum für Völkerkunde, Vienna, personal communication, July 2008)



Reverse of Johan self-portrait

In October 1820, Samuel Hadlock Jr. (1792-1829), a whaling captain from Maine, brought onboard his ship *Five Brothers* an Eskimo man from Greedy (now Grady) Harbor, Southern Labrador (near Cartwright), and then picked up an Eskimo woman and child about 50 miles further down the coast. Hadlock was in Labrador to obtain a cargo of ice for the West Indies trade, but arranged with the families of the two young Eskimos to take them with him until the following summer. They were initially exhibited in New London, Connecticut, and by his uncle Epps Hadlock in New York and Philadelphia in early 1821 (Hugh L. Dwelley: *Hadlock's Eskimos in New York (1821)*, undated 8 page photocopy). A recent widower, Samuel Hadlock then left his three children with his sister and in the Fall sailed for Europe, where he exhibited his "Esquimaux Indians" and "Museum" at country fairs throughout England and Ireland, and then in Hamburg, Leipzig, Berlin, Dresden, Potsdam, Prague, Vienna, Munich, Stuttgart and Strasbourg during the period of 1821-1825. According to a booklet printed to accompany the exhibition, Hadlock's "Museum" contained 77 items, with about equal proportions of North American Indian and Eskimo clothing and ethnological objects; natural history specimens, especially various animal skins, teeth, bones, and various "oddities"; and New Zealand Maori clothing and objects, including a jade *hei tiki* and a preserved tattooed head. The Eskimo couple originally consisted of 27 year old Niagungitok, baptized George (at the Moravian mission at Hopedale, where he learned to read Inuktitut and speak English), 25 year old Mary Coonahnik, and an infant who died in New York. Mary died later that year in England, and for exhibition purposes was initially replaced by a Gypsy woman dressed as an Eskimo, and later by another dark-complexioned but more sober and reliable impostor! Niagungitok demonstrated the use of his kayak, a dog pulling a sled, his skill at spearing birds (and coins), and an "Eskimo marriage ceremony", both before the general paying public and for royalty (after Hadlock's marriage to the daughter of a worker at the Royal brass works near Berlin). He also sold his pen and pencil drawings, most of the few known examples showing him holding a harpoon, his "wife" holding a fish on a short line, and a dog standing in between (see Bankmann, 1997, and example below). After George died of pneumonia in Strasbourg on November 18, 1825, his "wife" was exhibited in Paris together with George's stuffed



Samuel Hadlock, Jr., 1824 (from *Beyond God's Pocket*, 2003)

corpse (*Journal des Dames et des Modes*, Frankfurt, January 1826, and drawing by N. Leroy, Vicomte de Barde, 1926; Schierle, 2003). Hadlock returned to his home on Great Cranberry Island in Maine with his new Prussian wife and their daughter, born in Paris shortly before their return in the late spring of 1826. He died in 1829 on the coast of Greenland when his ship and all hands were lost at sea while on an Arctic voyage in pursuit of seals, which he planned to stuff and sell to European royalty for their collections of curiosities (*Wunderkammer*) on his expected return to Europe.

Literature: *Beyond God's Pocket. A Collection of Material About the Travels of Captain Samuel Hadlock Jr., Cranberry Isles Skipper and Pioneer Yankee Showman in Europe and the Eskimos who Accompanied Him 1820–1826.* Islesford Historical Society, Occasional Papers 12, 2003, 99 pp. This booklet includes the first general account (from 1987 and in many instances inaccurate) by Robin K. Wright on "The traveling exhibition of Captain Samuel Hadlock Jr: Eskimos in Europe, 1822-1826" that originally appeared as a chapter in *Indians and Europe*, Christian F. Feest, Ed., University of Nebraska Press (reprint, 1999), pp. 215-233. C. F. Feest: "Ich bin Niakunêtok: Ja, gewiss." Ein Labrador-Eskimo in Europa. *Kleine Beiträge aus dem Staatlichen Museum für Völkerkunde Dresden* 15:40–45 (1996). Ulf Bankmann: The "Esquimaux-Indians" in Berlin: Drawings and Prints. *European Review of Native American Studies* 11(2):21–26 (1997). Sonja Schierle: Samuel Hadlock, His "Esquimaux Show," and Missing Pages. *European Review of Native American Studies* 17(1):29–36 (2003).

