

Punuk implement of unknown use, 12.7 cm

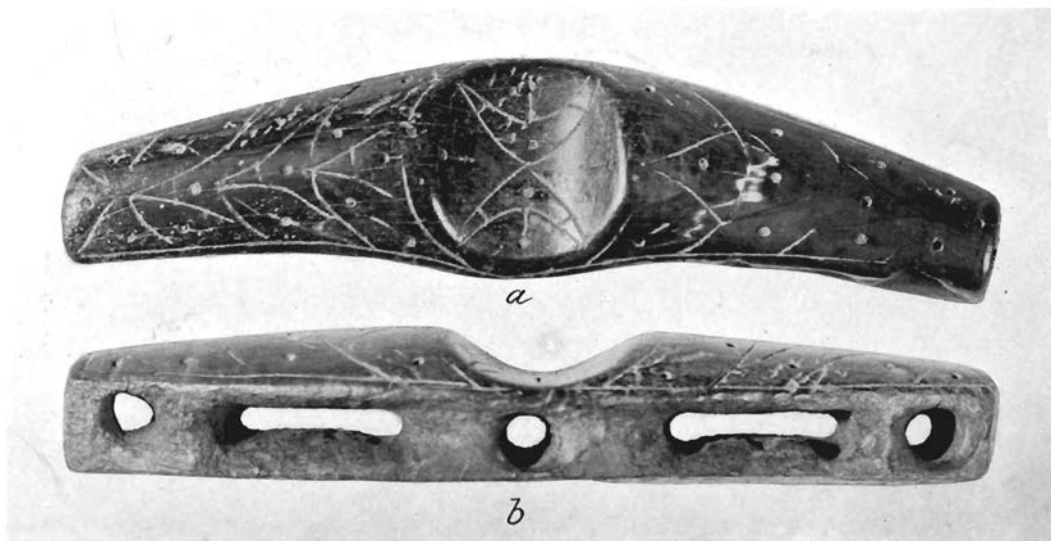


This object, excavated near Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island, corresponds to the decorated top portion of a 14.2 cm perforated object of identical form described and illustrated by Collins (1929, see below). The underside of the object above shows where it was originally joined to the lower section before the top and bottom portions separated. Two other examples from a private collection are also shown below. This is possibly a gadget for holding the lines in a puppet performance (suggested by Sergei Arutiunov, personal communication), but in over 80 years since the original description by Collins we have come no closer to understanding the function of these Punuk objects whose form has been so highly conserved.

Collins, H.B. (1929): *Prehistoric Art of the Alaskan Eskimo*, Washington, D.C., 1929, Pl. 14 and p. 24.

SMITHSONIAN MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS

VOL. 81, NO. 14, PL. 14



Ivory object of unknown use from Kukuliak, St. Lawrence Island.
(For explanation see pages 24 and 50.)

