

Ivory Punuk harpoon socket piece in the form of a polar bear head with an open mouth to receive the foreshaft, 22.5 cm



This is a Punuk version of the highly stylized bear head motif commonly engraved on OBS socket pieces. Punuk socket pieces are rather uncommon. An example with relatively little decoration was found in Ekven burial 319 (Bronshstein et al., 2007, #58, p. 112), and three undecorated examples were found in Ekven house H-18 (Dneprovsky, 2002, Fig 3, 8-10). A Birnik example from the north coast of Alaska, that is more closely similar in form to this socket piece and essentially indistinguishable in style from early Punuk implements, is shown in Ford (1959, Fig. 37-b), and a very similar but considerably smaller (13.3 cm) bone socket from Wales, Alaska is in the Menil collection (A8340).



Early Punuk socket piece from the harpoon set found in Ekven burial 319, 32 cm

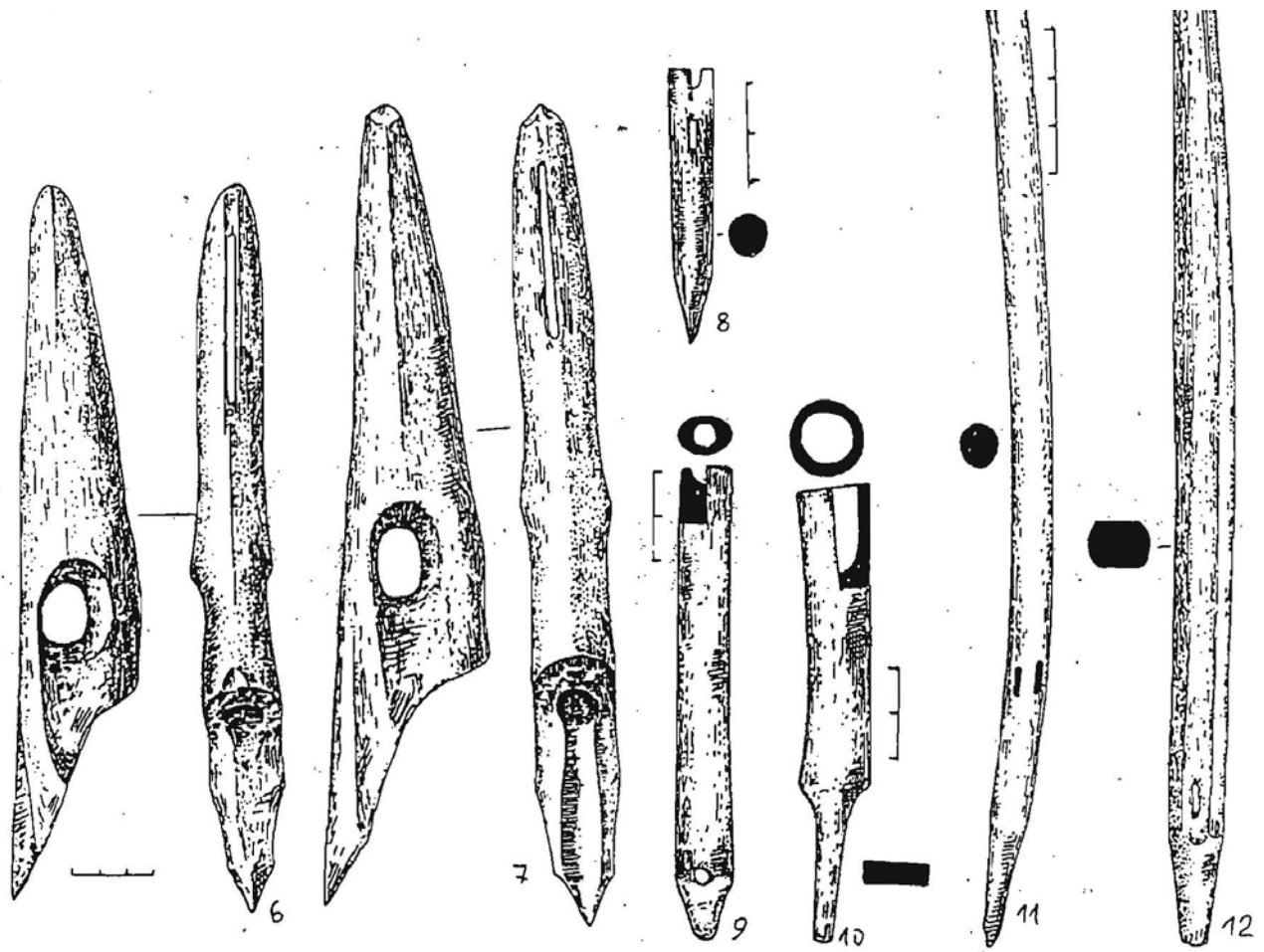


Figure 3. Marine hunting equipment: 1-7, harpoon heads; 8-10, harpoon socket pieces; 11, 12, harpoon foreshafts.

From Dneprovsky, 2002

Literature:

Bronshtein, M.M, Dneprovsky, K.A., and Sukhorukova, E.S. (2007): *Mir arkticheskikh zverboev: 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.

Dneprovsky, K.A. (2002): Ekven house H18 – A Birnik- and early Punuk-period site in Chukotka, in *Archaeology in the Bering Strait Region – Research on Two Continents* (Dumond, D.E. and Bland, R.L., Eds.), University of Oregon Anthropological Papers No. 59, pp. 166-206.

Ford, J. A. (1959): *Eskimo Prehistory in the Vicinity of Point Barrow, Alaska*, Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. 47, Pt. 1, New York.

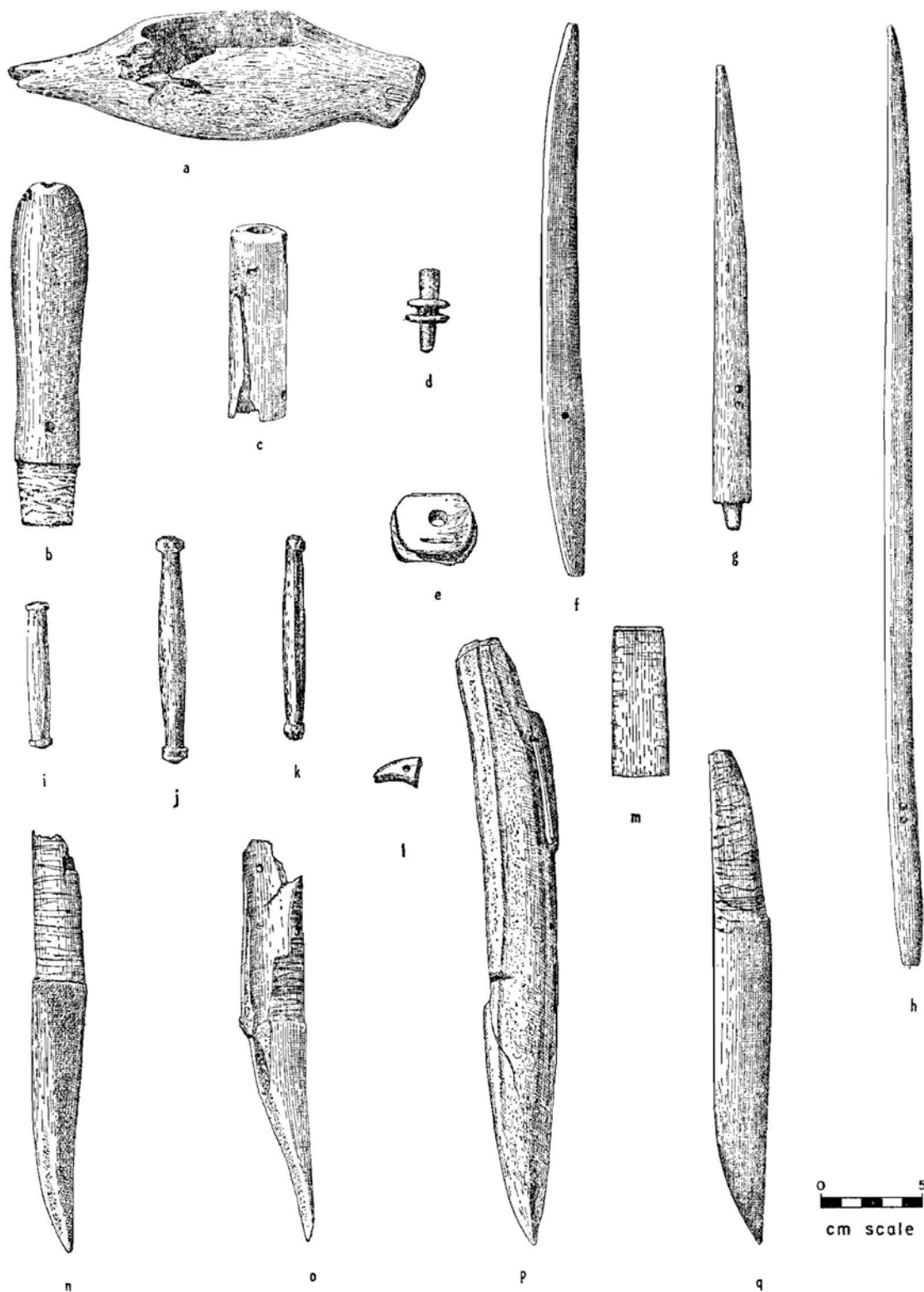


FIG. 37. Harpoon gear from Nuwuk and Utkiavik. a. Wooden box for harpoon blades. b-c. Bone socket pieces for harpoon shaft. d-e. Inflation nozzles for sealskin float. f-h. Foreshafts. i-k. Wood float bars. l. Finger rest for harpoon shaft. m. Antler plate for reënforcing splice in harpoon shaft. n-q. Antler ice picks for butt of harpoon shaft.

From Ford, 1959