

CHISEL HANDLES



Punuk chisel handles, 15.5, 20.8 and 11.2 cm

Decorated chisel handles of the type shown above appear to be largely if not entirely a Punuk invention. The two holes were used for lashing a bone or antler jacket clip with an inserted stone blade (Sergey Arutiunov, personal communication), and the handles frequently have the portion containing the distal hole missing due to breakage with use. Because their function has generally not been recognized, they are described only as “handles” (e.g., Wardwell, 1986, Nos. 126 and 128), or as Punuk “ornaments” (often in the form of a whale tail; Fitzhugh et al., 2009, Figs. 4 and 5, p. 210).

That these objects are decorated on only one side (see rear of one example above) distinguishes them from somewhat similar burin handles that are decorated on both sides. Burin handles contain a slot in which a stone blade is inserted, such that the inner edge may partially cover a single hole on one side, which is used for replacing a worn blade by inserting an awl to push out the old blade (Arutiunov and Sergeev, 1975, Fig. 69 #1 to 5, and especially #13, where the slot at the bottom and the rectangular hole above it are shown as dark areas at the bottom in the drawing).

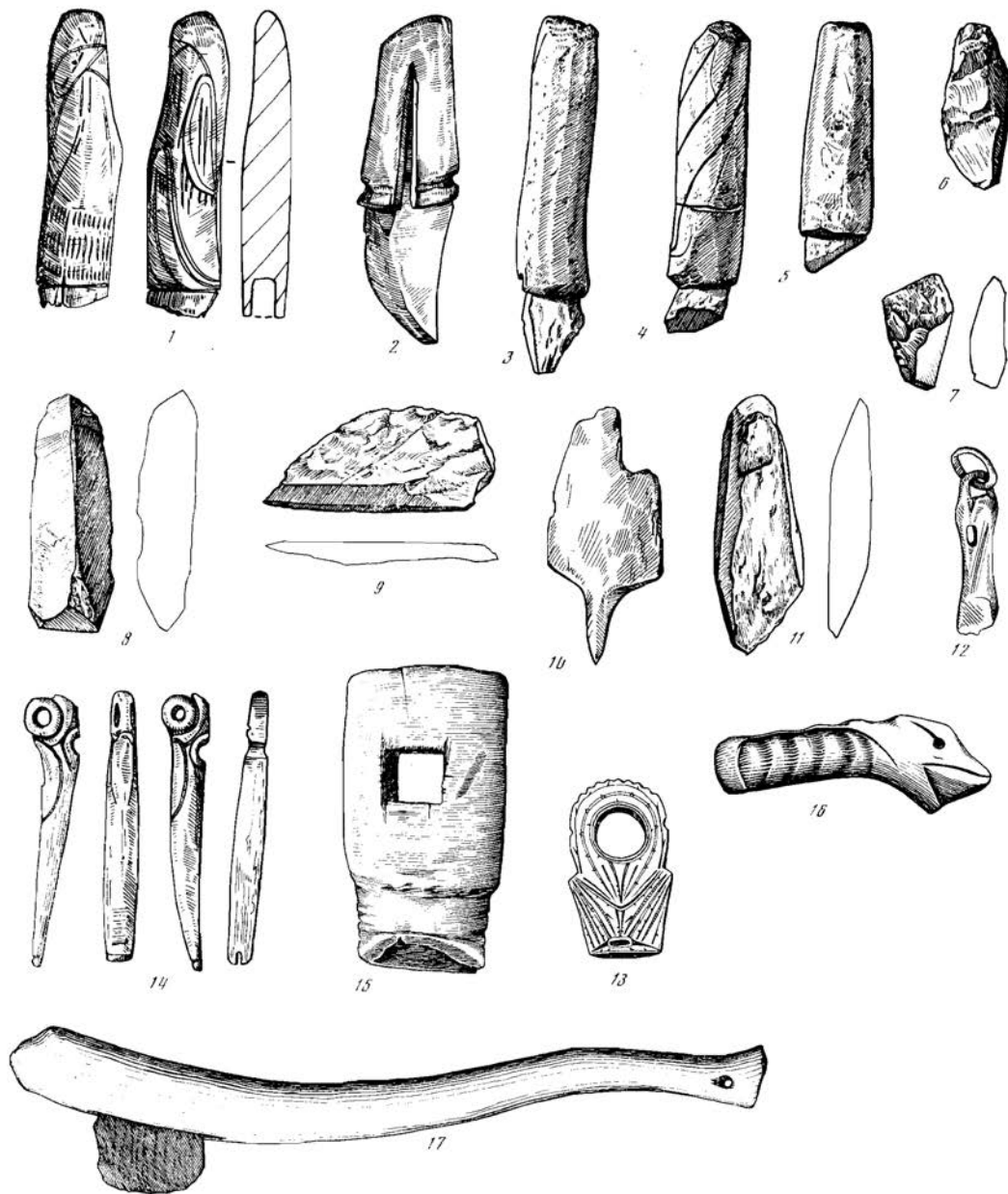


Рис. 69. Резцы и обоймы ($1/2$ натур. вел.)

1 — погр. 92, 2 — погр. 40, 3 — погр. 144, 4 — погр. 150, 5 — погр. 125, 6 — погр. 150, 7 — погр. 139, 8 — погр. 140, 9 — погр. 150, 10 — погр. 5, 11 — погр. 150, 12 — погр. 49, 13 — погр. 42, 14 — погр. 142, 15 — погр. 170, 16 — погр. 137, 17 — погр. 168 ($1/4$ натур. вел.)

10 С. А. Арутюнов

Literature:

- Arutiunov, S.A. and Sergeev, D.A. (1975): *Problemy etnicheskoi istorii Beringomoria – Ekvenskii mogilnik* (Problems of the Ethnic History of the Bering Sea – The Ekven Cemetery), Nauka, Moscow [English translation by Richard L. Bland, Shared Beringian Heritage Project, U.S. National Park Service, 2006].
- Fitzhugh, W.W., Hollowell, J. and Crowell, A., Eds. (2009): *Gifts from the Ancestors: Ancient Ivories of Bering Strait*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London.
- Wardwell, A. (1986): *Ancient Eskimo Ivories of the Bering Strait*, Hudson Hills Press, New York.