

OWHWOWIN OF SEVUOKUK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT KUKULIK

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND, ALASKA

Preliminary Report by Otto William Geist and Froelich G. Rainey-Prepared under the direction of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in cooperation with the University of Alaska



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Fourteen small rectangular brass plates (Pl. 40, Fig. 8) found in Meat Cache 21 are similar to the bone plates used to reinforce armor, and it is probable that these were used for the same purpose. All these plates are perforated with a series of holes and two were found still lashed together with a rawhide thong. A small bronze bell (Pl. 40, Fig. 9) was found in Meat Cache 3.

A few fragments of window glass, several pieces of dark green bottles and several hundred small round glass and porcelain beads were found in the house and in Meat Caches 3, 4, and 14 (Pl. 40, Fig. 12).

COLLECTIONS FROM THE SECOND HOUSE

The second house as described in a preceding section (p. 61) lay directly below and was somewhat smaller than the modern house. It was partly destroyed and the exact form and construction could not be determined. The upper part of the walls appeared about 18 inches below the floor of the modern house. The remaining walls were approximately 18 inches high; thus its floor lay 3 feet below the floor of the first and 6 feet below the surface of the midden. The second house lay directly above the third house (see Map 3, page 32) and was slightly larger. It appears that the second house was simply the third house enlarged and rebuilt after it (the third house) had been filled up with débris. No distinct level separated these two structures as between the first (modern) and second houses.

The material found in this structure is classed and described in the same manner as that found in the structure above.

BONE AND IVORY OBJECTS

SEAL AND WALRUS HARPOON HEADS

In the collection from the second house are eighteen more or less complete harpoon heads (Pl. 41), three indeterminate fragments, and three ivory blocks which are, apparently, harpoon heads in construction. Twelve of the complete specimens are Type B, as described in the preceding section, with a blade-slit parallel to a triangular to round line hole, an open socket without holes or slots for lashing to the foreshaft, and a single spur (Pl. 41, Fig. B). Eleven of these heads are made of ivory and one of bone. The discoloration of the ivory indicates some age, but no specimen bears the deep patination characteristic of most harpoons from the lowest deposits. These twelve heads cannot be distinguished from the Type B harpoons found in the modern level. No blades remain in the blade slits.

A single head in the collection is of the Type A which characterizes the

modern period (Pl. 41, Fig. A). It has the blade-slit parallel to the triangular line hole, a closed socket, and a single spur. A rivet hole through the one remaining flange of the blade-slit suggests that the head may have had an iron blade, a feature characteristic of Type A. The head is made of ivory and is precisely the same as the numerous heads of this type from the surface level.

Two harpoons in the collection are Type C, with the blade-slit parallel to a round line hole, an open socket with slots for lashing to the foreshaft, and a single spur. One is made from ivory and its dark brown patination suggests considerable age. A large part of the head has been broken away, but enough remains to identify it certainly as the Type C (Thule Type 3) previously described (Pl. 41, Fig. C). The other specimen is made from bone and is also discolored and partly disintegrated, but easily recognizable.

Two unique ivory heads in the collection are fragmentary, so that they cannot be completely described or included in a category of the general classification of harpoons, but enough of each head remains to show that both are different from any of the heads in the modern deposit and in the second house. One (Pl. 41, Fig. 2) has a thick rectangular body with sharp blade-like lateral edges and a blade slit running at right angles to the axis of a round line hole. The butt has been broken away and there is nothing left to indicate the method of attachment to the foreshaft. The second (Pl. 41, Fig. 3) has no blade slit, four barbs (one broken), and a triangular line hole. Its butt has also been broken away. The lateral barbs suggest a connection between this head and the minor Type 8 heads (Thule Type 2) described previously, but the Type 8 heads have two rather than four barbs. As mentioned before, barbed heads are more typical of a still earlier deposit.

The percentage of Type B harpoon heads in the second house indicates that they are characteristic of this period of occupation at Kukulik which precedes the modern phase.

WHALE HARPOON HEADS

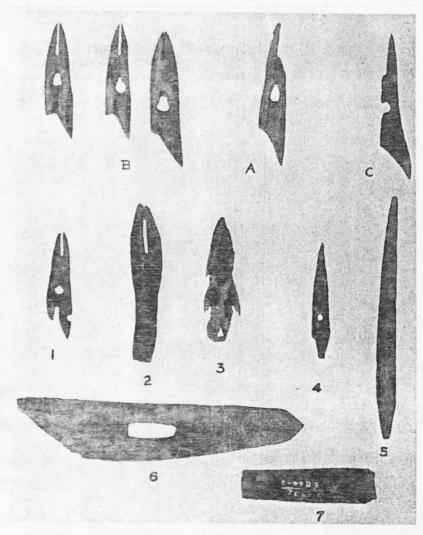
Two large ivory harpoon heads (Pl. 41, Fig. 6) of the type used in whaling were found in the second house. They are, in all respects, the same as those found in the modern deposit.

HARPOON FORESHAFTS

Seven of the ten foreshafts (Pl. 41, Figs. 4–5) found in the second house are the same type as those found in the modern house and meat caches, but three are noticeably longer, measuring 16 cms. All have round or triangular line holes, long sharp points which fit into the harpoon head sockets, and short blunt points which were inserted in the foreshaft receiver sockets.



Modern Trade Objects from the Modern House and Meat Caches. 1-2, Iron Spear Heads; 3, Iron Knife; 4, Iron "Woman's Knife"; 5-6, Native Hafted Iron Knives; 7, Iron Ax Head; 8, Armor Plates of Brass; 9, Bronze Bell; 10, Metal Spike; 11, Bottle Neck; 12, Glass Beads.



Bone and Ivory Objects from the Second House. B, Harpoon Heads of Type B; A, Harpoon Head of Type A; C, Harpoon Head of Type C; 1-3, Unidentified Harpoon Heads; 4-5, Harpoon Foreshafts; 6, Whale Harpoon Head; 7, Foreshaft Receiver.