



Handle (?)

Not on display

Title/Description: Handle (?)

Object Type: handle

Materials: Walrus ivory

Measurements: h. 156 mm

Accession Number: 845

Historic Period: Punuk period (c. AD 500-1200)

Production Place: Bering Sea, North America, The Americas

Credit Line: Purchased with support from the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Art Trust, 1982

A number of objects of this kind have come to light but as yet their function has not been determined. This spear-head shaped implement has a plain, slightly concave back and may have been a handle for a tool, or possibly even a tool itself. Wardwell (1986: 103) refers to it as a handle; it could also have been a decorative attachment for a ritual object. The ivory is blackened and the engraving crisp and deep.

Steven Hooper, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) p. 234.

Provenance

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from Jonathan Holstein, New York, on the advice of Robert Sainsbury in 1982 out of funds provided by the Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Art Trust.
