



Eskimo “crooked” knife with a riveted iron blade

E 305) A “crooked” knife with a riveted iron blade. The handle has a few worn decorative designs engraved into the surface which were most probably artistic trials rather than a specific attempt to decorate the object. Several holes have been drilled through either to serve as attachment points or possibly the handle was used as an occasional fire-starter.

Crooked knives were used for shaping wood, bone and antler. The crooked knife has a small blade attached near the end of a long-curved handle. The knife is held with the fingers of one hand on the underside of the handle, and the thumb positioned on top of the blade in an indentation in the handle. The craftsman rests the underside of the blade against the object being worked and draws the knife towards the body while using the thumb on the hand holding the tool to check the depth of the cut. Alaska possibly from Point Barrow. Mid to the late Thule culture : 1500 - 1900 AD. 28 x 2,4 x 1 cm.

Literature:

Ref. :

An identical example in the Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka, Alaska