



Seal attachment

Not on display

Title/Description: Seal attachment

Object Type: Ornament

Materials: Walrus ivory

Measurements: l. 109 x w. 20 x d. 12 mm

Accession Number: 739

Historic Period: 18th century or earlier

Production Place: Alaska, North America, The Americas

Credit Line: Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1980

The purpose of this attachment is not known, although it was clearly meant to be bound and fitted to a larger object, possibly a kayak. The rich brown ivory has glossy and matt surfaces, the matt area

on the seal's back being carved in the shape of a baby seal riding on its back. The baby's tiny eyes are deeply drilled. The eyes of the main seal are inlaid with ivory rings, the pupils of which are missing.

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. 237.

Provenance

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from Arbutus Limited on the advice of Robert Sainsbury in 1980 out of income from the Sainsbury Purchasing Fund.
