

# **Beluga Hunters**

**An archaeological reconstruction of  
the history and culture of the  
Mackenzie Delta Kittegaryumiut**

**Robert McGhee**

**Illustrated by D. W. Laverie**

**Newfoundland Social and Economic Studies No. 13**

**Institute of Social and Economic Research,  
Memorial University of Newfoundland**

*Nail*: Three small wire nails are heavily corroded.

*Beads*: The 173 beads found can be divided into the following classes:

- (1) 57 small spherical blue beads, 1.3 to 4 mm in diameter.
- (2) 37 cylindrical white beads 2 to 5 mm in diameter and 2 to 6 mm long.
- (3) 56 brown-lined red beads ranging in shape from spherical (3 mm in diameter) to cylindrical (up to 5 mm in diameter and 8 mm long).
- (4) 12 white-lined red beads, spherical and 3 to 5 mm in diameter.
- (5) 10 large spherical blue beads of various shades, 7 to 14 mm in diameter. Three are split as if for mounting on labrets.
- (6) 1 large circular green bead 10 mm in diameter.

Although little is known regarding the dating and origin of these European objects, they all appear to be consistent with the trading history of the site as outlined in chapter 1.

## *Part II: Artifacts from Radio Creek*

### (A) SEA HUNTING EQUIPMENT

*Harpoon Head, Tasik Open Socket Variant*: The only harpoon head found is of antler, 135 mm long; it has an open socket with lashing slots, a drilled line-hole, and an end-blade slot perpendicular to the line-hole. The cross-section is oval with a pronounced constriction just distal to the line-hole. The harpoon head is decorated with an incised triangle running distally from the line-hole on both ventral and dorsal surfaces; the dorsal triangle extends proximally through the lashing slots to the base of the specimen (Pl. 23a). In all characteristics except the direction of the end-blade slot, which is perpendicular rather than parallel to the line-hole, this specimen resembles the Tasik Open Socket type found in the Birnirk and Nunagiak periods at Point Barrow (Ford, 1959:82, Fig. 29m-s). A similar specimen was found at an undated Thule site at Lady Franklin Point, western Victoria Island (Taylor, 1972:Pl. VIb), and one with drilled lashing holes is in Rasmussen's collection from Point Atkinson (Mathiassen, 1930:Pl. 1<sub>2</sub>). This variant of the Tasik type may have been specific to the Amundsen Gulf-Beaufort Sea region of the western Canadian Arctic.

*Harpoon End-Blade*: A small triangular blade of red slate (Pl. 24i) is 45 mm long and approximately 30 mm wide at the base. It is evenly ground on both surfaces to sharp, slightly convex, lateral edges, while the base is straight and ground flat. This end-blade is within the range of variation of specimens from Kittigazuit.

*Harpoon Foreshaft Socket*: Two specimens are of antler, 210 mm long with

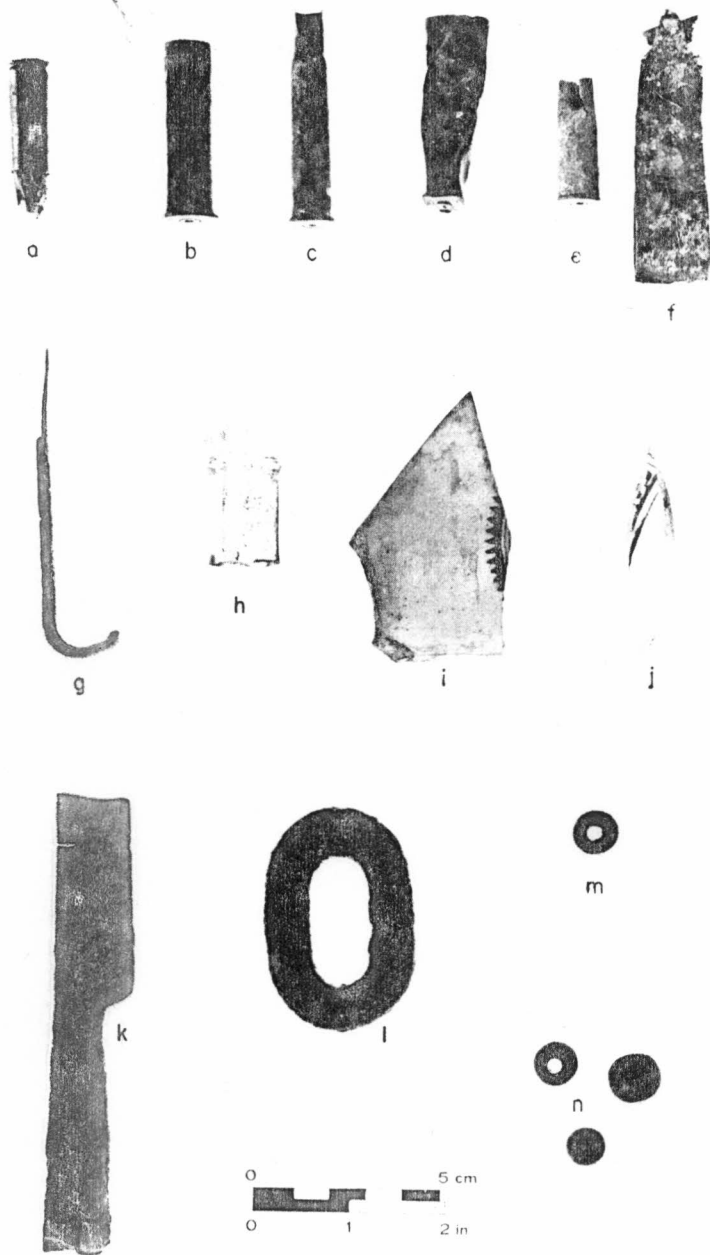


Plate 1: Kittigazuit, H-1 and M-1. European goods.

a. Blunt arrowhead made from cartridge case (p. 76); b-e. Cartridge case (p. 76); f. Unidentified copper object (p. 76); g. Unidentified iron object (p. 76); h. Bottle neck frag. (p. 76); i. China sherd, transfer printed ware (p. 76); j. China sherd, transfer printed ware (p. 76); k. Table knife frag. (p. 60); l. Chain link (p. 76); m. Clay pipe stem frag. (p. 76); n. Trade beads, large blue varieties (p. 77).