

Catalogue

The Samoyeds





1. Enets or Nganasan full fur coat representing overwear with the hairs cut very short. It was sewn of one white or black reindeer hide and it had to be procured during the summer slaughtering as the reindeer hairs were shorter then. On the front of the coat, there are two strips, which are bordered with ochre chamois. Below the belt, the garment is ringed with two strips, the larger being bordered with red chamois. White dog skin is sewn on the hem of the fur coat. Chamois gussets dyed with ochre inserted in the armpits and in the cuffs. The undercoat had a hood, but no gloves. Length 74cm, width of hem 58cm. *Pels av renskin.* *Samojedisk.* Holmberg catalogue 152. Castrén Collection VK434.

Published: Lehtinen, Ildikó, 2003. A la mémoire de Mathias Alexandre Castrén. *Remota relata. Studia Orientalia* 97: 141–153. Finnish Oriental Society, Helsinki.





2. Samoyed tobacco pipe carved from mammoth tusk. The bowl is decorated with metal inlay. Length 16cm, diameter of bowl 4.5cm. *Pipa af mammuthben.* Holmberg catalogue 152, Färling catalogue 364. Castrén collection VK432.



3. Samoyed knife sheath of wood, decorated with leather and leather fringes. The sheath is an example of the aesthetic art of the Samoyeds. The knife is missing. Length 24.5cm. *Knif med träskaft. Dessa pjeser vitna hvarken om smak eller konstfärdighet hos Samojederna.* Färling catalogue 365. Castrén collection VK433.

The Evenki / Tungusic Peoples

Evenki men's dress consisting a fur coat, a pair of boots, a bib, and a shoulder belt with a powder pouch

4. Tungus coat made of a single reindeer skin, with the legs forming the sleeves. On the back, the hide has remained in its original form. It is characterized by the cut of its straight hems with two gores. In addition to the reindeer hide, the skins of wild goats edged with black horsehair were used. The cut and the seams sewn with reindeer vein thread. The coat is decorated with white, blue and black glass beads along the hems, the collar, and the shoulders. On the back, the square motif and the two gores are also edged with glass beads. The glass beads are sewn into a one-centimetre-wide cotton fabric band of graphite colour. The decoration on the back was typical of the type of coat with a straight hem. There are two fringes on the back made of white and blue glass beads. Length 91cm, width of hem 51cm. *Rock av brunt, sämskartadt skinn*. Holmberg catalogue 147, Färling catalogue 366.

Castrén Collection VK435:1.

Published: Virtual Collection of Asian Masterpieces = VCM <http://masterpieces.asemus.museum/index.nhn>. Read 24 October 2017; Lehtinen, Ildikó, 2002. Costumes of the Siberian peoples – practicality and luxury. Lehtinen, Ildikó (ed.), *Siberia. Life on the Taiga and Tundra*: 69, 108–145. National Board of Antiquities, Helsinki.









5. Tungus footwear belonging to the costume are of the moccasin type, with a long supple collar reaching to the thigh. The materials for the shoes included reindeer leg skins, chamois and woollen cloth. The boots were tied to the legs with strings. The moccasins are embroidered with large white, blue, black, and yellow glass beads. The material is reindeer hide used in winter. The decoration symbolized the local groups. The embroidery with glass beads was common to all of the Evenki region. Length 80cm. *Ett par benkläder, liknande ett par strumpor.* Holmberg catalogue 147; Färling catalogue 366. Castrén Collection VK435:2ab.

Published: Virtual Collection of Masterpieces. <http://masterpieces.asemus.museum/index.nhn>. Read 24 October 2017.





6. Tungus breast piece. The bib is a piece of reindeer skin with a sharp cut. It consists of two parts, the chest and the midriff pieces. Both parts are decorated with a cotton fabric band in white, which is embroidered with glass beads. In the collar and in the middle part there are two chamois strings to tie around the neck and the waist. At the edge there is a piece of chamois with hairs of a black horse. The bib decorated with the long hair of wild sheep used during the spring festival known as *ikenipke*. Length 73cm, width 23cm. *Ett anhängsel*. Holmberg catalogue 147; Färling catalogue 366. Castrén Collection VK435:3.

Published: Virtual Collection of Masterpieces.
<http://masterpieces.aseumus.museum/index.nhn>. Read 24
 October 2017.



7. Comb made of bone. According to the museum assistant, because of the shape 'the comb resembles a "hair comb" used by European women a few decades ago'. The handle is decorated with incised bullseyes, and pairs of lines of black pigment. Length 15cm, width 5cm. *Tungusisk benkam*. Färling catalogue 367. Castrén Collection VK436.



The Yakuts



8. Spoon of mammoth tusk, modelled after a 16th-century European Renaissance silver spoon brought to Siberia by a Russian merchant. The handle is decorated with carved lines and points. Length 15cm. *Jakuterna. Tre skedar af mammothben*. Färiling catalogue 368–370; Holmberg catalogue 148. Castrén Collection VK437.

9. Spoon of mammoth tusk, modelled after an 18th-century European silver spoon. Length 19.5cm. *Jakuterna. Tre skedar af mammuthben.* Färling catalogue 368–370; Holmberg's catalogue 148. Castrén collection VK438.



10. Spoon of mammoth tusk modelled after an 18th-century European silver spoon. Length 23cm. *Jakuterna. Tre skedar af mammuthben.* Färling catalogue 368–370; Holmberg catalogue 148. Castrén Collection VK439.



The Buryats

11. Buddha statue of bronze. The pose is mostly common, with the legs crossed, the left hand on the lap, and the right hand pointing to the ground with the palm facing inward towards the Buddha. The headgear is a blue hood or a cap with a button on the top. The statue is gilded and the lips are painted red. According to Castrén, ‘this work symbolizes the icons of the common god as the following three items listed below. The name is “the statue of Cokjamiini” (Buddha).’ Harry Halén points out that it is a Śākyamuni, and in terms of posture it represents the Buddha as Calling the Earth to Witness. Height 10cm, width 6.8cm. *Mongoler. Buddhabild af brons*. Färling catalogue 371. Castrén Collection VK440.

Published: Bell, Marja-Liisa – Halén, Harry, 1980. *Oi munkit, ponništelkaa lakkaamatta!: buddhalaišten kulttiesineiden näyttely / O munkar, šträven framåt oupphörligen!: utställning av buddhistiska kultföremål / Oh, ye monks, Strive onwards diligently: exhibition of Buddhist ritual objects*: p. 25. Helsingin kaupungin taide-museo; Halén, Harry, 1987. *Mirrors of the void: Buddhist art in the National Museum of Finland: 63 Sino-Mongolian thangkas from the Wutai Shan workshops, a panoramic map of the Wutai Mountains and objects of diverse origin*: p. 94. Museovirašto, Helsinki.





12. Bronze statue of the deity Beg-tse, one of the fierce protective deities known as the *dharmapālas*. The deity stands defiantly, one foot resting on the belly of a horse, the other on a man. He wears armour, his left hand is across his chest and the right hand is holding a sword scabbard (the sword is broken). There is a scorpion on his neck. In the museum's records the bronze statue is described as 'a common, Mongolian Burchan (icon of a god)'. Height 10.5cm. *En vanlig, mongolisk Burchan (helgonbild) af brons*. Färling catalogue 139. Castrén Collection VK441.



Published: Bell, Marja-Liisa -Halén, Harry, 1980. *Oi munkit, ponnišelkaa lakkaamatta!: buddhalaišten kulttiesineiden näyttely / O munkar, sträven framåt oupphörligen!: utställning av buddhištiska kultföremål / Oh, ye monks, strive onwards diligently: exhibition of Buddhišt ritual objects*: p. 201. Helsingin kaupungin taidemuseo.; Halén, Harry, 1987. *Mirrors of the void: Buddhišt art in the National Museum of Finland: 63 Sino-Mongolian thangkas from the Wutai Shan workshops, a panoramic map of the Wutai Mountains and objects of diverse origin*: p. 87. Museovirašto, Helsinki.



13. Bronze bell, *ghanṭā*, *dril-bu*. The handle is topped with a closed *vajra* thunderbolt sceptre with four prongs. In the handle there is a depiction of two faces, probably symbolizing Prajñāpāramitā (perfect wisdom). The clapper is missing. Height 10cm. *Buddhistisk prästklocka af brons*. Färling catalogue 373. Castrén collection VK442.



14. Ritual thunderbolt sceptre, *vajra, do-rj*, made of bronze. There is a knob in the middle and four (five?) prongs at each end. Length 7.5cm. *Ett vid buddhaiska gudstjensten brukligt instrument*. Färling catalogue 374. Castrén Collection VK443.

China

15. Snuff bottle, made from the peel of a fruit, probably calabash, decorated with silver inlay, and green, red, and blue precious stones. Height 8.5cm, width 6cm. *Snusflaskor. Dessa pjeser synas vara temligen gamla och äro af intresse genom sin ordning.* Färling catalogue 44-45. Castrén Collection VK445.





16. Snuff bottle, made of bone and decorated with silver inlay. Around the flask there is a plaited band, decorated with precious stones and email cloisonné. Height 6cm, width 4cm. *Snusflaskor. Dessa pjeser synas vara temligen gamla och äro af intresse genom sin ornering.* Färling catalogue 44-45. Castrén collection VK446.



17. Tobacco pipe carved of bone, mouthpiece reinforced with white metal, decorated with checkerboards motifs. Height 24.5cm, diameter of bowl 1.1cm. *Pipa för opiumrökning* (?). Färling catalogue 474. Castrén Collection VK447.



18. Chinese calligraphy brush with case. Length 18 cm. *Två (?) sl. tuschpenslar*. Holmberg catalogue 157. Castrén Collection VK448.