

**Plate 15: Suggiaq-Ahltiq Kayak (DNM Ib.160).**

Henrich Holmberg, a Finnish Mining Engineer, collected this kayak at Kodiak Island in 1860. While not trained as an ethnologist, Holmberg made very significant observations and collections among the Kodiak Islanders and the Tlingit.



Figure 135. The Danish National Museum's Ib.160. This photograph accompanied Kaj Birker-Smith's *Early Collections From the Pacific Eskimo* (1941). (Courtesy of Ethnographical Collections, National Museum of Denmark.)

The Ib.160 has received scholarly attention before: Kaj Birker-Smith described (and depicted in—figure 135) it in his *Early Collections From the Pacific Eskimo* (1941:149), and David Zimmerman featured a scale drawing of this kayak in his book *Qajaq* (2000:29, fig.38).

Because of the hogged sheer and collapsed portions of the hull, I've drawn a conjectural restoration of the kayak's original lines. Plate 15 shows the conjecturally restored lines of the Ib.160, and figure 137 shows the damaged original's profile. As can be seen in figure 136, the forward end of the hull has held its shape very nicely despite the hogging.

The Ib.160's chine lashings are made of split spruce roots, and are lashed in the pattern shown in figure 494, though with two pairs of root line instead of one (the lashed lashings were missing). Roots also serve as the deck beam lashings and the coaming-to-deck beam lashings. The coaming is supported by stanchions instead of carles, despite the relative narrowness of the coaming, compared to the breadth of the kayak.

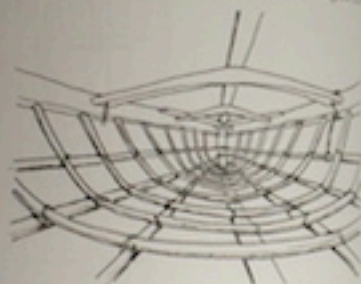


Figure 136. Forward interior view of the Danish National Museum's Ib.160 from Kodiak Island.



Figure 137. Original profile of the Ib.160 showing the extent of hull collapse and hogging.

Each deck line on the Ib.160 is made of a 1/2" (1.2cm) wide strip of baleen, folded at the ends around leather tabs sewn to the kayak's deck. The folded ends of the deck lines are sewn together, as in figure 577. The coaming is bound below the rim with the same 1/2" wide baleen, and is secured to itself the same way as the deck lines.

All of the seams on the Ib.160 are embellished with whiskers and tufts of what appear to be thread. The pattern is shown in color plate IV, no. 3. This tuft and sea mammal whisker pattern is present through all of the seams—even around the bottom of the hull; the tufts are 1/2" (1.2cm) long, and the whiskers are 1-1/2" (3.8cm) long. The Ib.160's seams are shown in figure 566.

As mentioned above, David Zimmerman has featured a scale drawing of this kayak in his 2000 *Qajaq*—originally published in 1986 as *Qajaq* (29, fig.38 in both). In the late 1990s I built a couple of replicas of this kayak from this drawing. The first replica was a minimally restored version, and as you can see from the artificial lines in figure 137, it needed much more than just minimal restoration. Indeed, the replica paddled poorly with its overly



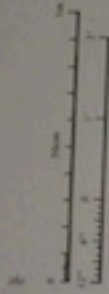
Figure 138. Bow of the Danish National Museum's Ib.160. Note the whiskers sewn into the longitudinal seams.



Figure 139. Level of the bow view of the restored DNM Ib.160. I've added a stanchion line at 7'.



Figure 140. The replica of the Danish National Museum's Suggiaq-Ahltiq kayak Ib.160, paddled by Gary Peterson, Hood Canal, Washington, 2014.



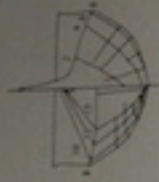
Overall 11'0" (top width 1'0")

(bottom width 7'0")

Rib 3'0" (7'0")

Chine 3'0" (1'0")

Keelson 3'0" (1'0")



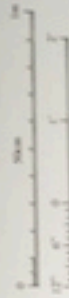
**KING ISLAND KAYAK**  
 Collected by Capt. Richard March, ca. 1915  
 -from the collection of John D. Henshaw-

Length 14' 0"  
 Beam 62.4 cm  
 Depth to Gunwale 21.4 cm  
 Depth Overall 36.1 cm



March (October, 1961)

Plate 536  
 Alaska State  
 Museum  
 2013-7-2  
 (Hull Lines)



Overall 11'0" (1'0")

(bottom width 7'0")

Chine 3'0" (1'0")

Keelson 3'0" (1'0")

Rib 7'0" (3'0")

Rib 7'0" (3'0")

Overall 11'0" (1'0")

(bottom width 7'0")

Chine 3'0" (1'0")

Keelson 3'0" (1'0")

Forward Deck Strop (7' x 1'0")

Center 1'0" (1'0")

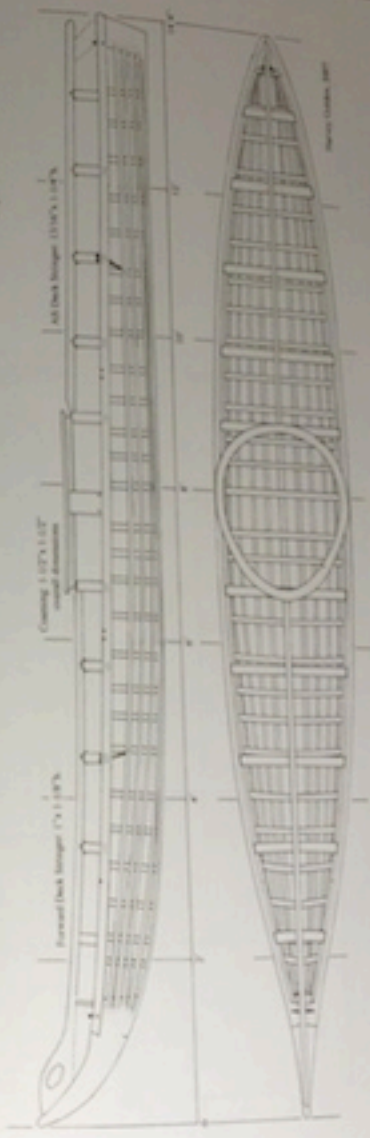
overall dimension

Aft Deck Strop (11'0" x 1'0")

**KING ISLAND KAYAK**  
 -from the collection of John D. Henshaw-

Collected by Capt. Richard March, ca. 1915  
 from the private collection of John D. Henshaw

Length 14' 0"  
 Beam 62.4 cm  
 Depth to Gunwale 21.4 cm  
 Depth Overall 36.1 cm



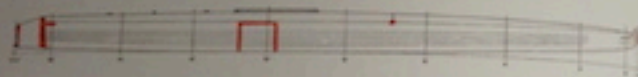
March (October, 1961)

Plate 537  
 Alaska State  
 Museum  
 2013-7-2  
 (Frame)

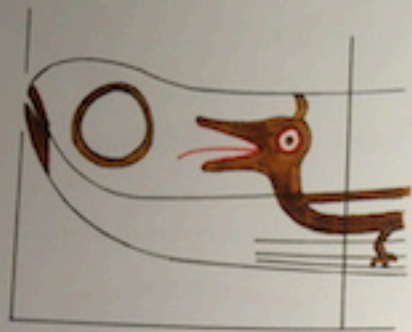
1. GUTE Am692 paddle (Figure 63)



2. Red Paint on UOMNCH 2-15894 (Plate 14)

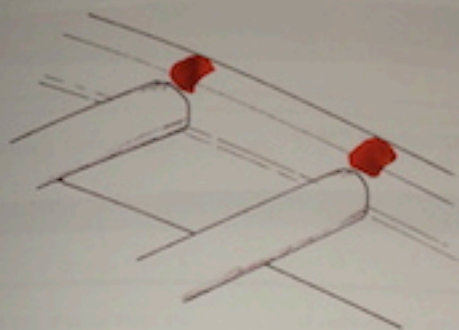


3. Bow Painting on NMNH 160415 (Plate 28)

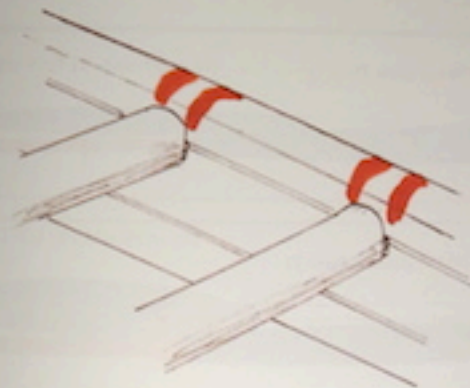


COLOR PLATE VIII

1. Paint on the upper edges of the gunwales of MM 1914.0009.000001 (Plate 56)



2. Paint on the upper edges of the gunwales of CWB 0098 (Plate 73)



COLOR PLATE IX



Figure 482. Oblique view of the stern joinery shown in figure 481. The lashing below the gunwales that connects to the stern plank is detailed exactly as that shown in figure 483.



Figure 483. Oblique view of the NMNH 129173's bow piece. Also see figures 484 and 525.

view of this bow block, and figure 484, left for an aft-view contrasted with a King Island bow block. The lashing method used on this bow block is shown in figure 485.

North Alaskan kayaks exhibit two very different executions of their end joinery. The most common method is the simple mating of the gunwales together, with the keelson lashed or nailed to the bottom of this joint. Less common are kayaks that utilize blocks to receive the gunwale ends, keelson, and the deck stringers. Only three kayaks in this study make use of the latter method (plates 67, 68, and 73).

The end joinery of a Northern Hupiaq kayak is depicted in figure 486 (CWB 0098, shown in its entirety in plate 73). The gunwales are simply drawn together and then metal nailed to each other. The ends of the keelson are broader and thicker than elsewhere. This effectively serves as a bow block by providing more structural mass to fasten into; the keelson ends are metal nailed to the bottoms of the gunwales. Plain to see in figure 486 is the fact that the joinery does not vary between the bow and stern. Likewise, the form of the bow and stern of these kayak types is also nearly identical. Similar end joinery can also be seen on the PC Coupeville kayak, in plate 72.

While the keelson ends are thicker and broader at their ends, they are hollowed out considerably, which keeps them light in weight. Figure 488 shows a profile view of the hollowed portions of a keelson end; note how it is left solid where the member is fastened to the gunwales.

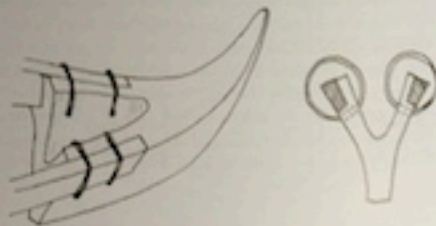


Figure 485. Lashing course leading the forward gunwale ends to the curved bow-piece of the Cape Espenberg Bering Strait kayak (plate 56).



Figure 484. High-aft views of two forms of Bering Strait/Southern Hupiaq kayak bow blocks. Left, the NMNH 129173 (plate 56) from Cape Espenberg; right, a typical form from King Island.

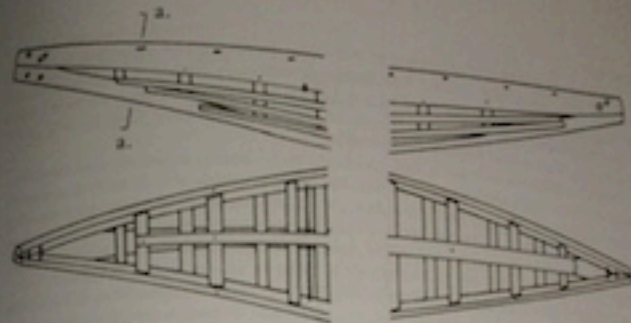


Figure 486. End joinery of a Northern Hupiaq kayak (after plate 73). Chases omitted from plan views. See figure 487 for cross-section view of a-a.

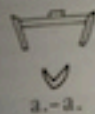


Figure 487. Cross-section view of the North Alaskan kayak shown in figure 486.

Figure 489 shows the bow joinery of a Northern Hupiaq kayak that is probably from Point Barrow (plate 75). This kayak does utilize a bow block—an effective mass of wood that receives the gunwale ends, the keelson, and the forward deck stringer. It is not as elegantly fashioned as Yup'ik kayak bow blocks, but is very functional and sturdy. Note the cross-section at this bow-block, shown in figure 490. The gunwales and the deck stringer are rabbeted into the block and metal nailed. The keelson alights on the block, but is not rabbeted; instead, it just tapers to a fine end.

The unusual kayak shown in plate 68 undoubtedly has separate end blocks—perhaps better termed end horns as they curve up to prominent points. The back end of the bow gunwale block can be seen in figure 280.

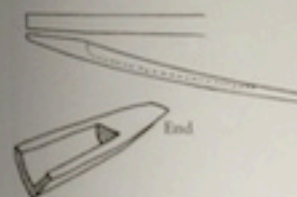
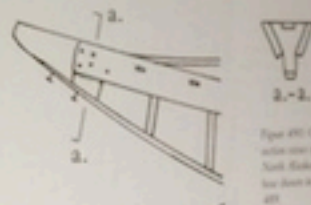


Figure 488. Detail views of a North Alaskan kayak's hollowed keelson end. Upper shows the portion hollowed in a profile view. Lower shows the appearance of the keelson's end and cross-section.



(Right) Figure 489. End joinery of North Alaskan Hupiaq kayak utilizing block to receive gunwales, keelson, and deck stringer (after plate 75). Chases are omitted; walls are "pulled" a bit to show their positions. See figure 490 for a cross-section view of a-a.



Figure 490. Cross-section view of the North Alaskan kayak bow block shown in figure 489.