Chukchi Collection of the Vega Expedition of 1878–1880: a Chukchi interpretation 140 years later

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Vega Expedition: Winter of 1878-1879

Map of Study Sites
- Netskan - Chukotkan Villages
- Nettken - Hunting Camps
- Bering Sea - Geographical Feature

Anadyrsk Gulf
Chukchi Sea
Chukotka Peninsula
Bering Sea
Alaska

1878-1880 Sweden (Vega) polar expedition of 1878–1880, under Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld

1880s-Present Time Research by Igor Krupnik and Martin Schultz

2019-2020s Research by Tlecheivyne and Nutetgivev

2020s

2030s Reunion?

Museum of Ethnography
Stockholm, Sweden

In the collection, 1080 objects were identified as ‘Chukchi’, 25–30 drawings and over 70 photographs
Research Team

*Indigenous Knowledge Experts*

Vasily Roskhinaut  
*Neshkan*

Nikolay Ettyne  
*Neshkan*

Nikolay Rovtyn  
*Enumimo*
Kerker - Reindeer Fur Jumpsuit

Internal kerker – Evysan’ker;
External kerker – Gyrgosan’ker

Edge made from wolverine skin – K’epernelgyn;
from dog skin – Yttyynelgyn

Informant Irina Nutetgivev [45 years old]
Informant Nina Kyttagina [70 years old]

The only difference between these kerkers – caribou tendon thread and fabric thread used for sewing
Fashionista


A group of housewives in a Chukchi reindeer herding camp; Yanranau in the center. Neshkan tundra 1970s.
Each unique landscape pattern has a special meaning in Chukchi culture. It could be a mountain and a river, but it could also be a small cliff and a stream. Life in each place is controlled by the Master. This belief determines the Chukchi's perception of space and time: Space and time are relative, and their states depend on the settings of the mind of a human being.

Chukchi fur clothing:
Ensures survival in the Arctic and promotes the perception of space and time as a unit in which humans need to thrive rather than survive.
Bring an Indigenous Perspective to Museum Collections

University of Alaska Museum of the North

- Wales collection
- Barter Island Collection
- Birnirk Collection

- Incorporating Iñupiaq into museum narratives
- Building an Indigenous Perspective in the Museum Database
Acknowledgement

Connecting Indigenous Peoples and Museums

Neshkan and Enurmino Communities
Nina Kyttagina
Galina Ettul’
Igor Krupnik, NMNH