

ON THE RARE COLLECTION OF THE SCHOOL MUSEUM

UVAROVSKAYA A.R

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In the summer of 1993, Nikolai Arinkin, a 5th grade pupil of the Moruk secondary school, found a spear in the Lippe area on the territory of the Moruk nasleg of the Megino-Kangalassky District and handed it over to the Biology teacher M.S. Ermolaeva to be conveyed to N.M. Ermolaev, the then-director of the school museum.

The artifact is kept at the school museum under inv. No. 10. The spearhead is 20 cm long, the socket is 13 cm, its diameter is 3.5 cm. The spear has a double-edged blade in the shape of a leaf. The well-defined midrib merges into a conical socket with a reinforced wider edge. On one side, a crack can be noted almost the entire length of the socket. Where the socket merges into the tip, there are three thickenings ornamented with oblique shading on both sides. The nubs on both sides are decorated with two parallel notches. The thickening of the socket edge is divided by a line and decorated with oblique herringbone hatching. There is one lateral pin hole in the socket (photo 1).

After the find was announced to the Central Museum of the Megino-Kangalassky district, an expedition was organized in the Lippe area, with archaeologists taking part, but, unfortunately, nothing else was found. The expedition was attended by E.K. Zhirkov (currently an employee of the Archaeological Museum of the North-Eastern Federal University), N.M. Markov, and archaeologist N.P. Zhirkov. It is believed that the spear



Photo 1. A spear from the school museum of the Moruk secondary school of Yakutia from three sides (a, b, c)

is a weapon of the medieval Sakha (Yakuts) of the Kyrgys era.

For the discovery of a rare artifact, A.I. Egorov, the then-director of the school, sent schoolchildren Kolya Arinkin and Roma Egorov to the archaeological expedition camp in the Ust-Aldansky District. The children returned home happy, having learned a lot about the history and archeology of their native land. N.E. Arinkin has now become disabled, having lost his hand, and lives in the village of Suola (photo 2).



Photo 2. N.E. Arinkin with the spearhead he found 28 years ago.

Information about author

UVAROVSKAYA Alexandra Robertovna, Chief curator of the House of the Museum. T.K. Aprosimova, of the municipal district of Megino-Kangalassky ulus, 678077 Megino-Kangalassky ulus, p. Suola, st. Baikalova 1, e-mail: uvarovskaya_6@mail.ru.

Editorial note. The shape of the spear blade resembles the widespread leaf-shaped weaponry of the Bronze Age from Greece to China. The thickening at the border of the transition of the socket to the tip has yellow abrasions; the artifact likely contains a copper impurity. A spear of the same shape and similar ornamentation is kept in the Museum of Archeology, Ethnography and Graduate School of the Northeastern University. Based on these data, archaeologists believe that the spear was made locally ca. 18–19th century. The thickening of the edge of the socket is decorated with oblique hatching in the form of a herringbone, “tangalai oyuu” in Yakut. This ornamental motif is considered a characteristic and widespread motif of the ornamental art of the Yakuts. The spear is considered to be iron, but its chemical composition needs to be studied. It is necessary to find out if the artifact is made of iron and copper alloy? Articles made of iron and copper alloy are characteristic of the transition period from bronze to the Iron Age, i.e. for Yakutia, the beginning of the Common Era.