



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to Inuit drawings collected
by Ludwig Kumlien, 1877-1878

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Inuit drawings collected by Ludwig Kumlien
Date:	1877-1878
Identifier:	NAA.MS87819
Extent:	11 Drawings (visual works) (graphite)
Language:	English .
Container:	Box 87819 / 87824, Folder 1; Box 87819 / 87824, Folder 1

Administrative Information

Provenance

The drawings were collected by Ludwig Kumlien on the Howgate Polar Expedition and most likely deposited in the United States National Museum (USNM) along with other artifacts from the Expedition. There are no USNM accession or catalog numbers associated with the drawings. The drawings were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1969.

Processing Information

The drawings in this collection were originally cataloged by the National Anthropological Archives in two lots as "Drawings, Eskimo--Land and sea animals, inscribed "Wrichatau, a Cumberland Island Eskimo" and "Drawings, Eskimo--Eskimo activities, insects, animals, and a stone lamp, by Eskimo artists from Cumberland Island." In 2023, all drawings collected by Kumlien were consolidated into a single collection. The drawings were arranged chronologically.

Preferred Citation

Inuit drawings collected by Ludwig Kumlien (MS 87819), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Aaron Ludwig Kumlien (1853–1902) was an American ornithologist. He was a member of the Howgate Polar Expedition (1877-1878) and collected ethnological, zoological, botanical, and other specimens for the United States National Museum.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of eleven (11) drawings by Inuit artists collected by Ludwig Kumlien on the Howgate Polar Expedition. The drawings depict animals and daily activities, including hunting.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Baffinland Inuit

Cultures:

Baffinland Inuit

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Works of art

Names:

Howgate Polar Expedition (1877-1878)

Places:

Arctic regions
North America

Container Listing

Duck, rabbit, fox, and two caribou, 1877 November

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 5.5 x 3.5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Duck, Rabbit, Fox, and Two Caribou; \(Drawn by Cumberland Island Eskimo\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Duck, Rabbit, Fox, and Two Caribou; \(Drawn by Cumberland Island Eskimo\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08542900

Inscribed on verso: "Drawn by 'Wrichtau,' a Cumberland Island Eskimo. Nov 1877. L. Kumlien."

Whale swimming, 1877 November

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 4.75 x 2.5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Whale? Swimming in Water; \(Drawn by Cumberland Island Eskimo\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Whale? Swimming in Water; \(Drawn by Cumberland Island Eskimo\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08543000

Inscribed on verso: "Drawn by 'Wrichtau,' a Cumberland Island Eskimo. Nov 1877. L. Kumlien."

Soapstone lamps and boiling pot, 1877 November

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 6.5 x 4.75 inches)

[Image\(s\): Lamp, Soapstone Pot, Boiling: to Hang Over Lamp: \(Eskimo from Annanectu Harbor, Artist\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Lamp, Soapstone Pot, Boiling: to Hang Over Lamp: \(Eskimo from Annanectu Harbor, Artist\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08528800

Inscribed on recto: "Eskimo lamps made of soap stone; 1 boiling pot to hang over the lamp."

Inscribed on verso: "Drawn by a Gulf of Cumberland Eskimo. Annanectu harbor. Nov 1877. L. Kumlien."

Published in:

Hough, Walter. "The Lamp of the Eskimo," *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution...for the year ending June 30, 1896* Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1898. Plate 2.

Group of men hunting deer during summer with three tents in the foreground, 1877 December

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 9.5 x 7.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): Group of Men Hunting Deer During Summer; Three Tents In Foreground \(Eskimo from Cumberland Island, Artist\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08529000

Inscribed on recto: "Eskimo hunting deer in summer. Drawn by an Eskimo of Cumberland I. Dec 1877. L.K. a. toopiqs; b. hunters; c. deer."

An unidentified animal and two birds in a landscape with water, 1877 December

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 5.5 x 3.5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Animal and Two Birds in Landscape with Water \(Eskimo From Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Animal and Two Birds in Landscape with Water \(Eskimo From Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08528700

Inscribed on verso: "Drawn by a Gulf of Cumberland Eskimo. Dec 1877. Ludwig Kumlien."

Insect, 1877 December

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 4.25 x 2.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): Insect \(Kik Foigang?\), \(Eskimo from Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Insect \(Kik Foigang?\), \(Eskimo from Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08529300

Inscribed on recto: "kik-togang"

Inscribed on verso: "Drawn by a Cumberland Island Eskimo. Dec 1877. LK."

Two caribou, two caterpillars, and a spider, 1878 February

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 9.5 x 7.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): Two Caribou, Two Caterpillars, and Spider; \(Drawn by Cumberland Island Eskimo\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08543200

Inscribed: "Drawn by 'Wrichtau,' a Cumberland Island Eskimo. feb 1878. L. Kumlien."

Man outside a tent with a clothes rack; Hunter with a dog, 1878

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 5 x 4.75 inches)

[Image\(s\): Man in Costume Outside Tent with Clothes on Rack Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08528900

Inscribed on recto: "Drawn by a Gulf of Cumberland Esquimaux. 1878. LK."

Two women near a tent, 1878

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 9.5 x 7.25 inches)

[Image\(s\): Two Women in Costumes Near Tent \(Eskimo from Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

[Image\(s\): Two Women in Costumes Near Tent \(Eskimo from Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08529100

Inscribed on recto: "Drawn by a Gulf of Cumberland Esquimaux. 1878. L.K."

Five summer tents, 1878

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 4.75 x 9.5 inches)

[Image\(s\): Five Summer Hunting Tents, One with Painted Clan? Symbol; Man In Costume Outside Another \(Eskimo from Cumberland Gulf, Artist\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08529200

Inscribed on recto: "Drawn by a Gulf of Cumberland Esquimaux.
1878. L.K."

Seal swimming, undated

1 Drawings (visual works) (graphite; 9.5 x 7.25 inches)

Image(s): [Large Seal Swimming; \(Drawn by Cumberland Island Eskimo\) Drawing](#)

Notes: NAA INV 08543100

Inscribed: "Drawn by 'Wrichtau,' a Cumberland Island Eskimo. Ludwig
Kumlien."