In Mother’s Hood: Inuit Packing Dolls of Taloyoak
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9 September, 2010, to August 3, 2011

Annotated Bibliography
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Basic How-To Manual, good to get an idea of how Mukluks are made.


Excellent book that presents short vignettes of almost every conceivable aspect of contemporary Inuit women’s lives.

“Collector’s items for someone special.” Up Here, October/November, 1985.

Short description of the “Famous Spence Bay Packing Dolls.” Also includes the prices for the dolls in 1985 ($80-90).


Presented in poem form, these myths are short and concise and are from the Netsilik region, which is where Packing Dolls come from.


Very detailed description of moccasin and Mukluk making across north American and the Circumpolar North.

Tongue-in-cheek article on how you can make your own Taloyoak packing doll. Hint: Go to Taloyoak and get the un-sewn kit. It explains how the dolls were made in 1998 and the importance of the Packing dolls economically to the women who make them.


Lee examines the role of the Alaska Federation of Natives crafts fair for Native women. The fair is a forum for women to meet each other and be involved in political activism that is necessary to protect lands necessary for them to maintain their livelihood of craft making regardless of living in urban or rural centres. Lee also discusses the significance of wearing native dress to the craft fair she explains that it represents an unequal structure with the Native vendor at the bottom and the non-native customer at the top.


This is a catalogue from an exhibit put on by the University Of Alaska Museum. It provides not only images of a vast array of different Inuit dolls, but also some portions of transcripts of interviews with some of the doll makers. This gives a voice to the makers and exposes the importance of the dolls and how they were traditionally made. Other than the broader introduction and preface, it may not be particularly relevant to research on packing dolls since this is more focused on traditional Inuit dolls, not dolls produced for southern consumers.


This newspaper article from the Ottawa Citizen is more focused on the artisans of Cape Dorset and more specifically male soapstone carvers. However, it does provide a good look at art co-ops which are an important connection between northern artists and their southern customers.


Including beautiful prints, these myth were transcribed by an Oblate priest in the north. They are stories from the Copper Inuit who live west of the Netsilik.

This book, full of beautiful prints by Agnes Nanogak are translations by Father Maurice Metayer who collected legends from the Copper Inuit.


This text is a compilation of legends both told to Norman as well as from other sources such as Knud Rasmussen, Edward Sapir, Waldemar Bogoras to name a few. This will provide the basic legends for some of the packing dolls. Its weakness is in its transcription of legends by white visitors into a text format, which is not the way these stories are told. Also, it does not introduce the crucial context of the legends both culturally and spiritually. The legends therefore feel fragmentary in comparison to when they are told in a community setting.

Oakes, Jill. *Inuit Annuraangit/ Our Clothes: A Travelling Exhibition of Inuit Clothing*. N.d.

Short book that includes images and descriptions of traditional parkas for Inuit across northern Canada.


Phillips provides an important analysis of the role of souvenirs. She argues that the role of crafts produced as souvenirs do not deserve their place as ‘inferior’ to ‘authentic’ crafts (that is to say pieces created by First Nations people uninfluenced by European culture). Philips argues that specific designs chosen by Aboriginal artists were not dictated by the dominant culture nor were they unmotivated and blind to change, instead artists chose images that, “while innovative, “made-sense” within both indigenous and Euro-North American signifying systems.” This is a highly theoretical work that utilizes very tangible items and attempts to make sense of the “contact zone” between Euro-Americans and Aboriginal people.

This book is a crucial for understanding how trade souvenirs play into the relationship between Indigenous and Euro-Canadian people. Instead of dismissing trade souvenirs as insignificant, they make up a large portion of profit made by Indigenous artists. Raibmon’s focus, however is on early trade until 1900s, in the North East USA and Southern Ontario and Quebec. However, it sets up a useful paradigm in which to study Packing Dolls.


This brief page describes how the packing dolls are made and emphasizes the uniqueness of ever packing doll through the signature of the creator embroidered on the doll and the way that they are made by each artist ensures that they are different from anyone else’s work. This book was created for bear collectors to gain information of what the packing doll is and where they can find them to purchase.


This useful article describes the origins of the packing doll with Peeteekoootee and lists the original set of dolls. The article also describes a few of the artists and where they do their work (at home) and why they make the packing dolls. It also notes that Strickler and Aloopke were writing a book on Inuit dolls.


This is a children’s book published in 1981. It describes a version of the legend of Sedna (Nuleeaut), one of the characters depicted by the packing dolls. This one is a happier version than many of the version of Sedna’s story and may have been changed by the author (a professor of children’s literature) in order to better appeal to American children (or their parents). The illustrations are also very interesting. Sedna and Mattak (the bird-spirit who she married) are obviously white and not Inuit at all.


This book will be a useful guide for the exhibit. It describes legends and presents Inuit sculpture that relate to those legends. It has transcribed legends from a variety of sources, but focuses on the legends transcribed by Knud Rasmussen. This integration of legend with art will be useful for our integration of legend with the packing dolls. One weakness is the legends are mostly from Copper Inuit and Greenlandic Inuit who have different legends from the Nattilik Inuit of Taloyoak.


This is a brief description of the Taloyoak packing dolls, where they are made, the importance of doll-making for Inuit women and the origins with Peeteekootee and the arts-and-crafts cooperative.


This article in the second bulletin of the Arctic Society describes the creation of the packing dolls as well as the role of “fairy tales” in the choice of dolls. Furthermore, the article describes the process of creating the different designs as well as the materials used. It also explains the importance of the colours of the parkas and how it fits directly to the specific animal. This is also a useful article because it has very detailed drawings of the original dolls. This could be useful to compare them to the more modern versions of the packing dolls.


Alookée, one of the original makers of the Spence Bay packing dolls, assists Strickler in this text about the Inuit dolls of Taloyoak. Alookée felt that the old ways of doll-making were dying and now the only dolls that were being produced were dolls for southern collectors, such as the packing dolls. This book was written in order to depict the old ways of making dolls. The close connection between the packing dolls and this book, through Alookée, will be useful in
better understanding the thoughts behind the packing dolls. The book only shows a few packing animal “prototypes” designed by Peeteekootëe, but none of the dolls that are actually sold in the south. This may be significant in itself because it may demonstrate the place the packing dolls hold as nothing more than an economic source for the Taloyoak women instead of a toy or an object for young girls to learn important skills for their adulthood.


Small How-To manual on how to finger weave. Fingerweaving, originally from the Habitsants in Quebec, moved West with the Metis. It was brought up north with missionaries. Fingerweaving belts are made for the Packing Dolls.


How-To guide for moccasins and mukluks.


Beautiful photographs of carvings made in the Netsilik regions as well as short descriptions make this book useful for understanding another important art form for the Inuit in Netsilik. These carvings are also made for southern consumption.


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