

Qulliq

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Set of cooking vessels: a semicircular oil lamp (qullinnguaq), two rectangular cooking pots (ukkusinnguaq), a round bucket (qattannguaq), a triangular container (?) used to collect the oil oozing under the lamp and 4 legs (caribou antler) for a base (missing) used to raise and hold the qulliq in position.

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Period 20th century

Materials antlers, caribou, stone, soapstone, tendon, caribou

Measurements 7 x 3 x 3,3 cm

Historical context

Shown here are scale models of five soapstone vessels used for qulliq, the traditional seal oil lamp. These include a small semicircular oil lamp (qullinnguaq), a small rectangular pot (ukkusinnguaq) with a thick top rim, and another puristic pot with hanging ropes. Also of note are a small round bucket (qattannguaq) also fitted with a suspension rope made of sinew, a triangular container used to collect the oil oozing under the lamp and four supports (caribou antler sticks) for a base to raise and hold the oil lamp in position during use. Soapstone, also known as “soapstone”, is referred to in the Inuit language as qulliasajaq, meaning “lamp-making material”.

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