A Case of Access: Inuvialuit Engagement with the Smithsonian MacFarlane Collection
What is the MacFarlane Collection?
The Inuvialuit Smithsonian Project

Fort Anderson, from Émile Petitot

Chief Factor Roderick MacFarlane, 1887

Glenbow Archives NA-1010-33
A Visit to Washington DC:
The Participants & the Workshop

L to R: Dave Stewart, Stephen Loring, Karis Gruben, Cathy Cockney, Natasha Lyons, Helen Gruben, Kate Hennessy, Mervin Joe, James Pokiak, Freda Raddi, Shayne Cockney, Albert Elias, Chuck Arnold; Missing: Maia Lepage, Brett Purdy
What did we learn?

L to R: Mervin Joe, James Pokiak, Albert Elias, Cathy Cockney, Karis Gruben, Freda Raddi, Dave Stewart
What will we do with that knowledge?

Passing the knowledge on to Inuvialuit youth: Karis Gruben & Mervin Joe study an object together
What will we do with that knowledge?

Documentary film produced by the Inuvialuit Communications Society for broadcast on APTN
What will we do with that knowledge?

Left: moccasins from the MacFarlane Collection; Right: moccasins made from this pattern by Freda Raddi of Tuktoyaktuk
Community Outreach: Learning more

James Pokiak shows how to use a spear-thrower
Community Outreach: Learning more

Chuck Arnold, Albert Elias, and Cathy Cockney in Inuvik, June 2010
Community Outreach: Learning more

Cathy Cockney presenting the project to school groups in Inuvik, June 2010.
Next Steps

Albert Elias shows the motion of a bow & arrow, Nov. 2009
Next Steps

Interviews about the collection with Inuvialuit Elders, Oct.-Dec. 2010
Next Steps
Next Steps

Curatorial research: a collaborative process
Next Steps

Curatorial research: opportunities for discovery
Next Steps

Curatorial research: opportunities for discovery
Reciprocal Research, documentation, and relationship-building
Use the RRN to continue and expand a process that began in the Smithsonian Museum Support Center...
Use the RRN to continue and develop a process that began in the Smithsonian Museum Support Center...

- Visual Access to objects (but visual rather than tactile)
- Continue to generate knowledge about objects
- Documenting knowledge of the objects
- Connecting elders and youth
- Connecting researchers, curators, and community
- Transmitting intangible knowledge related to the objects
- Recreating objects at home
Making Connections:

THE MACFARLANE INUVIALUIT COLLECTION

Next Steps – save for Chuck?
Community media, outreach, documentation, communication…

NEWS

**JAN. 18, 2010**
Elder Albert Elias made a presentation to the Inuvialuit school children about his visit to the Smithsonian and what seeing the artifacts for the first time was like for him. Watch a video of Albert’s presentation... [Read more...]

**NOV. 20, 2009**
Inuvialuit delegation of elders and youth travel to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History to view the MacFarlane Collection. [Read more...]

COMMUNITY MEDIA

What was it like for Shayne Cockney to see the artifacts in the MacFarlane Collection and learn about them from her elders? [Watch the video she made...]

Community media, outreach, documentation, communication...
Acknowledgements

- We thank the Inuvialuit community for their interest in this project.
- We also thank our generous sponsors:
  - IPinCH
  - National Museum of Natural History
  - Canadian Heritage/ The Museums Assistance Program
  - Canadian North Air
  - Government of the NWT
Thank you

We are looking for your questions, knowledge, comments & ideas!