

Inuit Contact and Colonization



What Inuit can Create from Beads

Translated by Mark Kalluak

Beads

Beads started being sold when the traders came and built their store. Inuit ladies liked them. Paallirmiut tribes were living around Churchill. It is said that traders in Churchill started selling beads right away. People living around Churchill and Nelson River (Kitigarmiut) discovered the use of beads from the Indians when they saw them wearing beaded garments. Inuit started decorating their their garments with beads. Amautit (women's baby pouched garments) started having beads. Even men's' garments started to be beaded. There were different ways of decorating women's' garments and men's' garments. Inuit and Indians co-existed in the same community but each had their own unique language. These people often acted as interpreters. Itqiliraujaq could speak Inuktut. Donald Ulibbaq could speak in Indian. Qablunaat traders were often given their Inuktut names. A gentleman by the name of Siutikittuq (nick named Tiny Ear) could speak both Indian and Inuktitut. They also had special needles for threading beads called nuvijirit (bead threader). Some ladies used to cry for joy when someone bought them beads. When they saw assorted colored beads, they became overjoyed. The beads were red, blue, white, brown, yellow, black, silver and the started selling them further north travelling along the shore. William Ulibbaq was one of the traders and in the Ahiarmiut (inland interior) territory Qiqut (or Qiquti'juaq) was a trader. Because they were both Inuuk, they knew exactly what Inuit would want to buy. So they sold beads and soon beads became more plentiful. They also had bigger beads we call kangit (ending beads) that you put on the end of small beads. They were often made into wrist band. People used to be very happy to receive them.

Inuit Contact and Colonization



What Inuit can Create from Beads

Translated by Mark Kalluak

