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## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN SIBERIA (EARLY STAGE OF THE UPPER PALEOLITHIC)

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Music activities are an important part of sign behavior and characterize a complex culture and behavior of Modern humans. The total in Eurasia of what are interpreted as musical instruments (flutes, whistles, drums, rattles, ideofony...) is now more than 225 units. In Siberia, discoveries of musical instruments dating from the early Upper Paleolithic are unique.

In 1993, in the archaeological context of Kamenka, were found what the discoverers classified as whistle and fragments of whistle. Particular attention should be paid to a relatively large artifact 2.5 cm long and 1 cm in diameter found in a bone objects concentration (31 items on 1 m<sup>2</sup> in square A-2). It is made from fragments of a long bone of a goose with a flattening on one side. It is cut at both ends and its surface is slightly polished. There are two series of parallel cuts, perpendicular to the axis of the object, the first consists of two deep grooves (8 mm long), the second, the second is less deep. Its technological analysis revealed traces of its making and probable traces of utilization.

This object is part of a long bone, cut off with a relatively narrow tool, like a knife. Areas of polish at one end and the surrounding area could be the consequence of contact with a relatively soft, flexible organic material.

A similar artifact might be represented by two longitudinal fragments discovered in the cluster of bone objects. On the surface of one of them were made two series of cuts (4 mm to 3 mm long) perpendicularly to the axis. It comes from the same part of a long bone as the one above-mentioned, but the way it was cut off is difficult to determine precisely.

The exact dating of Kamenka complex A is problematic. At present, given the data series from natural sciences, from the discovery and study of chronologically similar complexes, we would favor the more ancient date for the cultural layer (35 000-40 000 BP).

Another example is a fragment of a flute discovered in a cluster with non-utilized objects in Khotyk, level 3 (32 000-38 000 BP). It is a piece from a bird bone (perhaps a swan), its length is 4.5 cm, and its diameter less than 0.5 cm. In its middle is a deliberately cut rectangular hole (figure). Microwear analysis revealed traces of production and of utilization. In particular, it was found to represent only a fragment of a larger initial object, because of the clearly visible traces of breakage at one of its extremities. The hole was made in several stages, as we can tell after studying linear micro traces on its surface, probably resulting from abrasive particles. In addition to these linear traces, there were traces of polish. The section and the surface of the bone has a natural, slightly "gritty" polish, which might indicate prolonged contact of the bone with a soft organic material, possibly with the hand of man.



Transbaikal, Russia: fragment of a flute on a piece of bird bone (perhaps a swan) 4.5 cm long and 0.5 cm in diameter.  
A rectangular hole was deliberately made in its middle.

The whistle and fragments of such objects in Kamenka A are broadly similar. Others are known in Kostenki 14, Denisova cave (layer 11), the Aurignacian layer of the Spy cave. The Khotyk artifact, fairly confidently identified as a fragment of a flute, can be considered as the oldest musical instrument in Siberia. Nearly identical others were found in the Aurignacian layers of Hohle Fels, Vogelherd and Geissenklösterle (Aurignacian, 36 800 BP) in Germany, as well as at Isturitz in the French Pyrenees (17 subjects, interpreted as flutes; 35 000 BP).

Also, in Transbaikalia, on the Podzvonkaya-site, was found an object similar to others found in a number of early Aurignacian complexes in Europe: a phalanx of an animal (possibly a gazelle) with obvious holes drilled on one side.

Modern humans in North and Central Asia thus made and used musical instruments at a very early date, which complements their accomplishments.





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