

Shaft drum

Drums with shafts are uncommon. Of the few shaft drums that are preserved, most have their origins in the Jokkmokk area. Scholars debate whether the drum type is as old as the bowl and frame drum or whether it is a later development, created during the time when drums began to be hidden away.

In the Ethnographic Museum's catalog of objects, you can read the following about how the exhibition's shaft drum has been used and who it has belonged to.

Inv.01.1.13 Divination (troll) drum, Meures (Read: Meoris af verbum Meuret conjure).

Purchased by Kajla in Jokkmokk in 1890, whereupon Kajla told in Norwegian-Swedish that the drum had been passed down in his family and had been used as far back as by his parents, who died 30 years ago.

The *nåjd* or shaman dressed in a *kirrik* and with a drum around his neck went among the reindeer and investigated if any reindeer had disappeared. As it happened, the thief was discovered and imprisoned by having his hands stuck in the nearest tree next to the place where he had slaughtered the reindeer. He could not free himself from the tree until the *nåjd* arrived there and untied him. Through the hole in the two "perkilar rings" the shaman could recognize dead Lapps (ghosts), who had gone from their graves to the Lapps villages. Such a visit is feared, as it predicts death. As soon as the *nåjd* sees such a ghost approaching, the hole is carefully barricaded.

To show their skill and strengthen the people's trust, the shamans used to make predictions that the following morning a buck would arrive from Norway with a jug of brandy; something that also happened at dawn. If a more severe case of illness occurs within Kajla's family, the sick person is raised in the upper part of the hut, after which strangers are invited and treated abundantly. While the guests are being invited, the *nåjd* burst into the hut and throw the rings at the guests. Whoever is hit by most of the rings gets sick and dies; the suspended, on the other hand, regains

health. To strengthen the effect of the sorcery, the shaman lets an eye or an ear of the reindeer's head boiling in the pot disappear.