ALASKAN NATIVE ARTIST IDENTIFICATION

We have more information to share about this button shown in the September 2006 WRBA Territorial News.

Identification of the Alaska Native artist who created this button was made possible when Barbara Colvin, editor of the State Button Society bulletin saw the button. Thanks, Barbara! In the 1950’s, Barbara’s grandmother visited the region which is now the State of Alaska and brought back several buttons accompanied with an informational card. The card has the artist’s picture and a little information about himself and his art.

Two corrections regarding the polar bear button should be noted.

- First, the three marks ARE the signature of Arnold Kayutak. Arnold is from Wainwright, Alaska. Arnold Kayutak’s signature is the distinct three marks. The first two marks are nearly vertical and the third mark goes from the upper left to the lower right.
- Second, the walrus ivory is set in whale baleen. (His buttons have also been set in natural and stained cottonwood, spruce, and birch.)


Buttons by Arnold Kayutak. All Div III. Dall sheep set in cottonwood (below). Realistic mountain goat (bottom) NBS medium. Others are NBS large.