

***Sintoko* (Lacquerware Storage Container)**

In a traditional Ainu home, the sacred window is on the far side of the dwelling, opposite the entrance. Next to it is the *iyoykir*, a shelf used to display the home's most precious objects. Among these are lacquerware containers called *sintoko*. These containers are used to store valuable tableware, but on important occasions they may be used to carry food. The lids of the *sintoko* are also used in rituals and songs. During the songs, women sit in a circle while rhythmically tapping the *sintoko* lids like a drum. Historically this lacquerware would have come from Honshu, Japan's largest island and part of the Ainu's extensive trade network.