

sufficiently true to nature to admit of ready identification. The imitation of the specific construction of the kaiak and the umiak is usually excellent, as also the various forms of dog sledges peculiar to certain localities in Alaska and faithfully represented in a number of etchings. For the purpose of further comparison between the Eskimo portrayal and the manufactured vehicle, several illustrations of the latter are reproduced in figures.

The Eskimo is not an expert in portraying the human form. It is certain that in various instances man is indicated by linear outlines or incisions very much in imitation of that of the Shoshonian tribes, the head being a mere circular spot, from which is suspended a line terminating below in two legs, and beneath the head being attached two lateral lines for arms. These extremities may be drawn in various attitudes, but apart from the attitude no further notice would be given to them. This forms a marked contrast as compared with the same idea as portrayed by various Algonkian tribes, notably so the Ojibwa, who devote much artistic attention to the head, dress, and ornaments of the character intended to represent a human being.

The peculiarity of Eskimo graphic art as compared with that of other peoples will be treated of farther on. The subject forms the basis of the present paper, and was made possible through the courtesy of Doctor G. Brown Goode, Director in charge of the United States National Museum, and my indebtedness to Professor O. T. Mason, Curator of Ethnology, is hereby gratefully acknowledged for his valuable suggestions and for placing at my disposal every facility for the careful examination of specimens in his custody, not all of which, however, were deemed of sufficient importance to illustrate, as such a procedure would have resulted in considerable duplication.

THE ESKIMO.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.

The Eskimauan, or Inuit,¹ linguistic family occupies the greater portion of the coast of Arctic America, Greenland, the Aleutian Islands, and a small area of the Chukche Peninsula of Siberia. The extreme points are about 3,200 miles apart, though to follow the shores would necessitate a journey of 5,000 miles.

The interior portions of the continent are occupied by various Indian tribes, belonging to several conspicuous linguistic families, but the Eskimo, under various designations, have always apparently confined themselves to the seashore and the country adjacent thereto, not exceeding 50 miles inland, except in following various river courses in pursuit of game.

The easternmost branch of the Eskimo is that represented by natives

¹ Although the term Inuit is frequently employed, and may be linguistically proper, the writer employs the more popular term, viz: Eskimo.