

inability to comprehend the oral speech of surrounding tribes. Other gestures were peculiar to these natives because of the unique resources of their peculiar environment; and others again were highly interesting because of the concept being hidden in some old custom, shamanistic ceremonial, or individual practice of the person having recourse to a particular idea.

In a number of the records will be observed outlines of the human figure, with hands and arms, and sometimes the lower extremities, in curious and apparently unnatural positions. Such portrayals are attempts at illustrating gesture signs pictorially, and subjective ideas are thus indicated—a step very much in advance of the ordinary system of pictography as known to and practiced by most of the Indian tribes.

It is obvious, therefore, that in order to fully comprehend the intention of a pictographic record, it is necessary to know the artist's needs, his environment and resources, his beliefs and shamanistic observances, and as much of the gesture language as may be obtainable.

From a careful study of the pictographs of the several Indian tribes and the numerous petroglyphs and painted records scattered over various portions of the United States, it is safe to assert that a comparison of these with the various artistic materials of the Eskimo show the latter to be vastly superior to the preceding, especially in faithful reproduction of animal forms and delicacy of artistic execution.

The portrayal of the reindeer, in particular, serves as an illustration of the manner in which the Eskimo are close observers as to anatomical peculiarities, as well as in catching the expression indicated in various attitudes assumed by these animals in grazing, rising, running, and in the positions assumed to denote alarm, fear, etc.

In the portrayal of whales the Eskimo artist is also careful as to specific anatomical features. The peculiar elevation at the spout or blowhole of the "bowhead" is especially indicated, and is characteristic of the species, as that part of the mammal is used to raise and keep open the elastic "granular" salt ice for breathing holes or for spouting.

The smaller whale, designated also as the California gray, the "mussel digger," or "devilfish," is likewise specifically indicated by a more pointed head and sharp flukes, and I can only call attention to the sharp flukes and conspicuous fins of the "killer" to illustrate the result of observation given to it by the native artist in endeavoring to show graphically the part which, to him, is a specific identification of the animal.

In a few illustrations the walrus is very carefully engraved, and although the native result may appear uncouth and cumbersome, yet a comparison of the etchings with the illustration of that animal will at once serve to show strikingly careful imitation of the original subject. As to the portrayal of various other animal forms, they are, generally,