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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION—BUREAU OF
ETHNOLOGY.

THE CENTRAL ESKIMO.

BY

DR. FRANZ BOAS

BUREAU OF ETHNOLOGY SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT PL. II

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Images may come out slightly larger or smaller on your screen.

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THE CENTRAL ESKIMO.

By Dr. Franz Boas

INTRODUCTION.

The following account of the Central Eskimo contains chiefly the results of the author's own observations and collections made during a journey to Cumberland Sound and Davis Strait, supplemented by extracts from the reports of other travelers. The geographical results of this journey have been published in a separate volume.¹ A few traditions which were considered unsuitable for publication by the Bureau of Ethnology may be found in the *Verhandlungen der Berliner Gesellschaft für Anthropologie, Ethnologie und Urgeschichte*, 1887. The linguistic material collected during the journey will be published separately. Owing to unfortunate circumstances, the larger portion of the author's collections could not be brought home, and it has therefore been necessary, in preparing this paper, to make use of those made by C. F. Hall, 1860–1862 and 1865–1869; W. Mintzer, 1873-'74, and L. Kumlien, 1877-'78. Through the kindness of Professor Otis T. Mason, I was allowed to make ample use of the collections of the National Museum and have attached its numbers to the specimens figured. The author's collection is deposited in

the Museum für Völkerkunde at Berlin. I am indebted to the American Museum of Natural History; to Mr. Appleton Sturgis, of New York; to Captain John O. Spicer, of Groton, Conn.; and to Mrs. Adams, of Washington, D.C., for several figures drawn from specimens in their possession.

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AUTHORITIES QUOTED.

In citing the various authorities, I have used abbreviations as indicated at the end of titles in the following list of works consulted:

De | Martini | Forbisseri | Angli navigati | one in regiones occi | dentis et septen | trionis | Narratio historica, | Ex Gallico sermone in La | tinum translata | per | D. Joan. Tho. Freigivm. | [Design.] | Cum gratia & privilegio Imperiali, ciϩ. iϩ. xxc. [Colophon:] Noribergæ | Imprimebatur, in officina Ca | tharinæ Gerlachin, & Hære | dum Iohannis Mon | tani. Anno ciϩ iϩ xxc. (Cited, Frobisher.)

A | voyage of discovery, | made under the orders of the Admiralty | in | His Majesty's ships | Isabella and Alexander, | for the purpose of | exploring Baffin's Bay, | and inquiring into the probability of a | north-west passage. | By John Ross, K.S. Captain Royal Navy. | London: | John Murray, Albemarle-street. | 1819. (Cited, Ross I.)

Journal | of a voyage for the discovery of a | north-west passage | from the Atlantic to the Pacific; | performed in the years 1819–20, | in His Majesty's ships | Hecla and Griper, | under the orders of | William Edward Parry, R.N., F.R.S., | and commander of the expedition. | With an appendix, containing the scientific | and other observations. | Published by authority of the lords commissioners | of the admiralty. | London: | John Murray, | publisher to the admiralty, and board of longitude. | 1821. (Cited, Parry I.)

Journal | of a | second voyage for the discovery of a | north-west passage | from the Atlantic to the Pacific; | performed in the years 1821–22–23, | in His Majesty's ships | Fury and Hecla, | under the orders of | Captain William Edward Parry, R.N., F.R.S., | and commander of the expedition. | Illustrated by numerous plates. | Published by authority of the lords commissioners | of the

admiralty. | London: | John Murray, | publisher to the admiralty, and board of longitude. | 1824. (Cited, Parry II.)

The | private journal | of | Captain G. F. Lyon, | of H.M.S. Hecla, | during | the recent voyage of discovery under | Captain Parry. | With a map and plates. | London: | John Murray, Albemarle-Street. | 1824. (Cited, Lyon.)

A | brief narrative | of | an unsuccessful attempt | to reach | Repulse Bay, | through | Sir Thomas Rowe's "Welcome," | in | His Majesty's ship Griper, | in the year | 1824. | By Captain G. F. Lyon, R.N. | With a chart and engravings. | London: | John Murray, Albemarle street. | 1825. (Cited, Lyon, Attempt to reach Repulse Bay.)

Narrative | of a | second voyage in search of | a | north-west passage, | and of a | residence in the Arctic regions | during the years 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833. | By | Sir John Ross, C.B., K.S.A., K.C.S., &c. &c. | captain in the Royal Navy. | Including the reports of | Commander, now Captain, James Clark Ross, R.N., F.R.S., F.L.S., &c. | and | The Discovery of the Northern Magnetic Pole. | London: | A. W. Webster, 156, Regent street. | 1835. (Cited, Ross II.)

A narrative | of some passages in the history of | Eenoolooapik, | a young Esquimaux who was brought to Britain in 1839, in the ship "Neptune" | of Aberdeen. | An account of the | discovery of Hogarth's Sound: | remarks on the northern whale fishery, | and suggestions for its improvement, &c. &c. | By Alexander M'Donald, L.R.C.S.E. | Member of Cuvieran Natural History Society of Edinburgh. | Edinburgh: Fraser & Co. | And J. Hogg, 116 Nicolson Street, | 1841. (Cited, Eenoolooapik.)

Narrative | of | the discoveries | on | the north coast of America; | effected by the | officers of the Hudson's Bay Company | during the years 1836–39. | By Thomas Simpson, esq. | London: | Richard Bentley, New Burlington Street. | Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty | 1843. | (Cited, Dease and Simpson.)

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Narrative | of an | expedition to the shores | of | the Arctic sea | in 1846 and 1847. | By John Rae, | Hudson Bay Company's service, commander of the expedition. | With maps. | London: | T. & W. Boone, 29, New Pond Street. | 1850. (Cited, Rae I.)

Further papers | relative to the Recent Arctic expeditions | in search of |

Dr. John Franklin, | and the crews of | H.M.S. “Erebus” and
“Terror.” | Presented to both houses of Parliament by command of
Her Majesty, | January, 1855. London: | Printed by George Edward
Eyre and William Spottiswoode, | Printers to the Queen’s most
excellent Majesty. | For Her Majesty’s stationery office. | 1855.
(Cited, Rae II.)

Same volume: Observations on the Western Esquimaux and the country
they inhabit; from Notes taken during two years at Point Barrow, by
Mr. John Simpson, Surgeon R.N., Her Majesty’s Discovery Ship
“Plover.” (Cited, Simpson.)

The voyage of the ‘Fox’ in the Arctic seas. | A narrative | of the |
discovery of the fate | of | Sir John Franklin | and | his companions. |
By Captain M’Clintock, R.N., LL.D. | honorary member Royal
Dublin Society. | [Portrait.] | With maps and illustrations. | London:
| John Murray, Albemarle street, | publisher to the admiralty. | 1859.
(Cited, M’Clintock.)

Life with the Esquimaux: | a narrative of Arctic experience in search of
| survivors of Sir John Franklin’s | Expedition. | By | Captain
Charles Francis Hall, | of the whaling barque “George Henry,” |
From May 29, 1860, to September 13, 1862. | Popular Edition. |
With Maps, | Coloured illustrations, and one hundred wood cuts. |
London: | Sampson Low, son, and Marston, | Milton House,
Ludgate Hill. | 1865. (Cited, Hall I.)

Tales and traditions | of the | Eskimo | with a sketch of | their habits,
religion, language | and other peculiarities | by | Dr Henry Rink |
knight of Dannebrog | Director of the Royal Greenland board of
trade, and | formerly Royal Inspector of South Greenland | author of
‘Grönland geographik og | statistick beckrevest, ^B etc. | Translated
from the Danish by the author | Edited by | Dr Robert Brown |
F.L.S., F.R.G.S. | author of ‘The races of mankind,’ etc. | With
numerous illustrations, drawn and | engraved by Eskimo | William
Blackwood and Sons | Edinburgh and London | 1875. | All rights
reserved. (Cited, Rink.)

Eskimoiske | Eventyr og Sagn | oversatte | efter de indfødte fortælleres
opskrifter | og meddelelser | af | H. Rink, | inspektør i Sydgrønland. |
Kjøbenhavn. | C. A. Reitzels Boghandel. | Louis Kleins
Bogtrykkeri. | 1866. (Cited, Rink, Eventyr og Sagn.)

Eskimoiske | Eventyr og Sagn. | Supplement | indeholdende | et Tillæg om Eskimoerne | af | H. Rink. | Kjøbenhavn. | C. A. Reitzels Boghandel. | Louis Kleins Bogtrykkeri. | 1871. (Cited, Rink, Eventyr og Sagn, Supplement.)

Narrative | of the | second Arctic expedition | made by | Charles F. Hall: | his voyage to Repulse Bay, sledge journeys to the Straits [*sic*] of Fury | and Hecla and to King William's Land, | and | residence among the Eskimos during the years 1864-'69. | Edited under the orders of the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, | by | Prof. J. E. Nourse, U.S.N. | U.S. Naval Observatory, | 1879. | Trübner & Co., | Nos. 57 and 59 Ludgate Hill, | London. (Cited, Hall II.)

Als Eskimo unter den Eskimos. | Eine Schilderung der Erlebnisse | der | Schwatka'schen Franklin-Aufsuchungs-Expedition | in den Jahren 1878–80. | Von | Heinrich W. Klutschak, | Zeichner und Geometer der Expedition. | Mit 3 Karten, 12 Vollbildern und zahlreichen in den Text gedruckten Illustrationen | nach den Skizzen des Verfassers. | Wien. Pest. Leipzig. | A. Hartleben's Verlag. | 1881. | Alle Rechte vorbehalten. (Cited, Klutschak.)

Schwatka's Search | sledging in the Arctic in quest of | the Franklin records | By | William H. Gilder | second in command | with maps and illustrations | London | Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington | Crown Buildings, 188, Fleet Street. | All rights reserved. (Cited, Gilder.)

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Eskimoisches Wörterbuch, | gesammelt | von den Missionaren | in | Labrador, | revidirt und herausgegeben | von | Friedrich Erdmann. | Budissin, | gedruckt bei Ernst Moritz Monse. | 1864. (Cited, Wörterbuch des Labradordialectes.)

In the following two items, umlauts (äöü) were printed as a small "e" above the letter.

David Cranz | Historie | von | Grönland | enthaltend | Die Beschreibung des Landes und | der Einwohner &c. | insbesondere | die | Geschichte | der dortigen | Mission der | Evangelischen | Brüder | zu | Neu-Herrnhut | und | Lichtenfels. | Mit acht Kupfertafeln und einem Register. | Barby bey Heinrich Detlef Ebers, und in Leipzig | in Commission bey Weidmanns Erben und Reich. | 1765. (Cited,

Cranz.)

Bruchstücke | eines Tagebuches, | gehalten in | Grönland | in den Jahren
1770 bis 1778 | von Hans Egede Saabye, | vormaligem ordinierten
Missionar in den Destrikten Claushavn | und Christianshaab,
jetzigem Prediger zu Udbye | im Stifte Fühnen. | Aus dem
Dänischen übersetzt | von | G. Fries, | beabschiedigtem königlich
dänischen Capitaine. | Mit einer Vorrede des Uebersetzers, |
enthaltend einige Nachrichten von der Lebensweise der |
Grönländer, der Mission in Grönland, samt andern damit |
verwandten Gegenständen, und einer Karte | über Grönland.
Hamburg. | Bey Perthes und Besser. | 1817. (Cited, Egede.)

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und 1884 ausgeführten Forschungsreise. | Von | Dr. Franz Boas. |
Mit zwei Karten und neun Skizzen im Text. | (Ergänzungsheft No.
80 zu »Petermanns Mitteilungen«.) | Gotha: Justus Perthes. | 1885.
(Cited, Baffin-Land.)

Die Amerikanische | Nordpol-Expedition | von | Emil Bessels. | Mit
zahlreiche Illustrationen in Holzschnitt, Diagrammen und | einer
Karte in Farbendruck. | Leipzig. | Verlag von Wilhelm Engelmann. |
1879. (Cited, Bessels.)

Contributions | to the | Natural History of | Arctic America, | made in
connection with | the Howgate Polar expedition, 1877-'78, | by |
Ludwig Kumlien, | Naturalist of the expedition. | Washington: |
Government Printing Office. | 1879.

Report | of the | Hudson's Bay expedition, | under the command of |
Lieut. A. R. Gordon, R.N., | 1884.

Traditions indiennes | du | Canada nord-ouest | par Émile Petitot |
Ancien missionnaire. | Paris | Maisonneuve frères et Ch. Leclerc, |
25, Quai Voltaire, | 1886.

The following is a list of the papers published by the author on the
results of his journey to Baffin Land and of studies connected with
it. The ethnological remarks contained in these brief
communications have been embodied in the present paper. The
method of spelling in the first publications differs from that applied
in the present paper. It was decided to use the latter after a
conference with Dr. H. Rink.

- “Reiseberichte aus Baffin-Land.” Berliner Tageblatt, August 4, October 28, November 4, November 25. 1883; September 28, October 19, November 2, November 9, November 16, November 23, December 28, 1884; January 4, April 3, April 27, 1885.
- “Unter dem Polarkreise.” New-Yorker Staats-Zeitung, February 1, February 22, March 2, 1885.
- “The configuration of Ellesmere Land.” Science, February 27, 1885.
- “A journey in Cumberland Sound and on the west shore of Davis Strait in 1883 and 1884, with map.” Bull. Am. Geogr. Soc., pp. 241–272, 1884.
- “Die Wohnsitze und Wanderungen der Baffin-Land Eskimos.” Deutsche geogr. Blätter, p. 31, 1885.
- “Cumberland Sound and its Esquimaux.” Popular Science Monthly, p. 768, May, 1885.

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- “Die Eskimos des Baffin-Landes.” Verh. des V. deutschen Geographentags zu Hamburg. Berlin, 1885.
- “Reise im Baffinlande, 1883 und 1884.” Verh. der Ges. für Erdkunde zu Berlin, 1885, Nos. 5, 6.
- “Die Sagen der Baffin-Land Eskimos.” Verh. der Berlin, anthrop. Gesellschaft, 1885, p. 161.
- “The Eskimo of Baffin Land.” Transactions of the Anthropological Society of Washington, Vol. 3, pp. 95–102.
- “Sammlung aus Baffin-Land.” Original Mittheilungen aus der ethnol. Abtheilung der Kgl. Museen zu Berlin, 1886, p. 131.

ORTHOGRAPHY.

In the spelling of Eskimo words the author has adhered as closely as possible to Kleinschmidt's orthography, as he did not deem it proper to introduce a linguistic alphabet after so much has been published in another and almost sufficient one.

Accents and lengths have been marked where it seemed to be desirable. In quotations Eskimo words are spelled according to this system where it is possible to recognize their meaning and derivation. In other cases the original spelling of the authors has been retained. The alphabet used in this paper is as follows:

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