

**CANADA, DEPARTMENT OF
MINES, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.
MEMOIR
91, NO. 14, ANTHROPOLOGICAL
SERIES, THE LABRADOR ESKIMO**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649140299

Canada, Department of mines, Geological survey. Memoir 91, No. 14, anthropological series,
The Labrador Eskimo by E. W. Hawkes

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in
any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented,
including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval
system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box
1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent,
re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or
binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition
including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

E. W. HAWKES

**CANADA, DEPARTMENT OF
MINES, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.
MEMOIR
91, NO. 14, ANTHROPOLOGICAL
SERIES, THE LABRADOR ESKIMO**

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
HON. P. E. BLONDIN, MINISTER; R. G. McCONNELL, DEPUTY MINISTER.
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MEMOIR 91

No. 14, ANTHROPOLOGICAL SERIES

The Labrador Eskimo

BY
E. W. Hawkes



OTTAWA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU
1916

No. 1637

157

1917

D. S. D.

JUN 13 1917

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Preface.....	ix
Historical sketch of the Labrador Eskimo.....	1
The Skraelings.....	1
Early relations with the French and English.....	2
Cartwright and the southern Eskimo.....	6
The work of the Moravian missions.....	10
Labrador: physical characteristics and distribution of population.....	14
Character of the country.....	14
Ancient distribution of Eskimo.....	16
Statistics of Eskimo population.....	19
Tribal divisions and place-names.....	22
Racial boundaries.....	24
Hunting territories.....	25
Climate.....	25
Ice.....	26
Snow.....	27
The Eskimo year.....	28
Names of stars.....	29
Food.....	29
Varieties of Labrador seal and other sea mammals.....	30
Land mammals.....	32
Minor foods.....	33
Berries.....	34
Medicinal plants.....	36
Clothing.....	38
Dicky's.....	38
Ornamentation.....	39
Trousers.....	40
Socks.....	41
Boots.....	41
Shoes.....	41
Dressing and making up of skins.....	42
Dressing deerskin.....	42
Smoking deerskin.....	42
Dressing and making of sealskin clothing.....	43
Boots.....	43
Vamps.....	46
Shoes.....	47
Waterproof stitching.....	48
Mittens.....	48
Waterproof mittens.....	50
Cap.....	52

	PAGE
Trousers.....	53
Cartridge bag.....	54
Men's tobacco-bag.....	54
Woman's tobacco-bag.....	55
Dicky.....	56
Houses.....	58
Snow-houses.....	58
Stone iglus.....	60
Whalebone houses.....	61
Camping houses.....	62
The summer tent.....	63
Transportation.....	64
The dog-sled and dog driving.....	64
The umiak.....	68
The kayak.....	71
Hunting and fishing.....	73
Hunting weapons.....	73
The equipment of the kayaker.....	73
Sealing harpoon.....	74
Lance.....	76
Seal-hook.....	76
Bird-spear.....	76
The bow and arrow.....	79
The bow-case.....	81
Hunting large game.....	82
Hunting small game.....	85
Traps.....	85
Snares.....	86
Fishing.....	87
Household tools and utensils.....	88
Lamps and kettles.....	88
Dishes and other receptacles.....	92
Scrapers.....	93
Knives.....	94
The drill.....	97
Pipes.....	98
Needle-cases.....	99
Art.....	100
Work in ivory.....	100
Work in wood.....	101
Work in cloth and fur.....	101
Work in basketry.....	102
Tattooing.....	105
Social organization and social customs.....	108
Punishment and murder.....	108
Headmen.....	110

Birth.....	111
Childhood.....	113
Marriage.....	114
Morality.....	115
Death.....	118
Burial	119
Games.....	120
Games of chance.....	120
Cat's cradle.....	121
Dolls.....	122
Music.....	122
Religion.....	124
Toringarssoak and Supergukssoak.....	124
The Inua and Tornait.....	127
The angekut.....	128
Divining.....	132
Head-lifting.....	133
Taboos.....	133
Fetishes and amulets.....	135
The life after death.....	136
Ceremonies.....	139
Whaling festival.....	139
The "sculpting" (skinning) dance.....	140
Mythology.....	141
The migration legend.....	142
The Tunnit.....	143
Tunnit houses.....	146
Tunnit boots.....	146
Interpretation of the evidence.....	146
The last of the Tunnit.....	148
Alasug and the giant.....	150
An Adlit tale.....	151
The girl who lived among the Adlit.....	151
Origin of man and the animals.....	152
Origin of the winds and rain.....	153
The heavenly regions.....	153
The regions below.....	153
The place where the caribou live.....	154
How the trout was made.....	155
The quarrel of the crow and the gull.....	155
The girl who married a whale.....	155
The story of the sun and moon.....	156
The story of the fox-wife.....	156
The son who killed his mother.....	157
The orphan boy and the moon man.....	158
The story of the lame hunter.....	159

	PAGE
The thinking image.....	159
Origin of the walrus and caribou.....	160
The owl and the raven.....	160
The origin of the sea-pigeons.....	161
How the caribou lost their large eyes.....	161
Eskimo incantation for game.....	162
Phonetic system.....	163
Bibliography.....	164

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Map 156 A, No. 1560. Eskimo tribes of the Labrador peninsula, northern Quebec.....	in pocket.
Plate I. A. Eskimo girl in duffle dicky and moleskin trousers..	167
B. Killinek Eskimo woman in cotton dicky and seal- skin trousers, back view.....	167
C. Killinek Eskimo woman, front view.....	167
II. A. Caribou skin dicky from Cape Chidley.....	169
B. Man's sealskin dicky from Cape Wolstenholme..	169
III. A. (a) Combination legging and boot from east coast of Hudson bay; (b) skin boot from Hamilton inlet; (c) skin boot from Davis inlet.....	171
B. Sealskin trousers from Cape Wolstenholme.....	171
IV. (a) Child's sealskin bonnet; (b) baby's fur cap; (c) hareskin cap; (d) birdskin cap; (e) squirrel- skin cap.....	173
V. (a) Beaded breast ornament; (b) fur "beads"; (c) pair of ear ornaments; (d) beaded band.....	175
VI. (a) Gut raincoat; (b) gut trousers.....	177
VII. (a) Slipper worn inside boot; (b) corrugated sole; (c) fur slipper; (d) child's shoe; (e) woman's shoe; (f) caribou moccasin.....	179
VIII. A. (a) Tobacco bag with pipe cleaner; (b) caribou skin bag; (c) cloth shot bag; (d) loonskin bag. B. (a) Sealskin waterproof mitten; (b) man's tanned deerskin mitten; (c and d) pair of embroidered cloth mittens.....	181
IX. (a) Bag made from leg of deer; (b) sealskin bag.....	183
X. (a, b, c, and d) Sealskin mittens.....	185
XI. A. Completed snow-house with boy sitting on key- block.....	187
B. Caribou skin tents of Eskimo fishermen, Cape Chidley.....	187
XII. Eskimos of Great Whale river, Labrador.....	189
XIII. A. Dog-team viewed from behind.....	191
B. Process of building a komatik.....	191

Plate XIV.	A. (a) Model of kayak, from Norton sound, Alaska; (b) model of kayak from Ungava bay.....	193
	B. (a) Model of komatik with seal load, from Cape Chidley; (b) wooden model of sleigh or komatik, from Labrador.....	193
XV.	(a) Model of kayak; (b) model of deerskin baidarka; (c) model of umiak or sealskin boat.....	195
XVI.	(a-c) Arrows from northern coast of Labrador; (f) bow from Labrador; (g) bow from east coast of Labrador; (h) bow from northern coast of Labrador,.....	197
XVII.	(a) Quiver; (b) ptarmigan snare; (c) sling.....	199
XVIII.	A. (a) Stone lamp from Cape Chidley; (b) large stone lamp with ridge, from Okkak, Labrador.....	201
	B. (a) Small stone lamp from Okkak, Labrador; (b) stone lamp from Cape Chidley; (c) model of soapstone lamp from Okkak; (d) soapstone lamp from Chesterfield inlet.....	203
XIX.	(a) Stone kettle from Cape Chidley; (b) large stone kettle from Okkak, Labrador.....	205
XX.	(a and b) Model of sealskin dish and bailer; (c) small kettle from Cape Chidley; (d) model of stone kettle from Baffin island.....	207
XXI.	(a) Large wooden spoon from Hamilton inlet; (b) wooden spoon from Hamilton inlet; (c) wooden dish from Hamilton inlet.....	209
XXII.	A. (a) Scraper made from leg bone of reindeer from Eskimo point; (b) ditto from Mistake bay; (c and d) "firestones" of pyrites; (e) bone scraper from Hudson bay.....	211
	B. (a) Ivory snow-knife with bone handle; (b) ulu or woman's knife; (c) stone knife.....	213
XXIII.	A. (a) Small whetstone from Cape Chidley; (b) beaver tooth knife for carving; (c) slate knife; (d and e) crooked knives from Cape Chidley; (f) whetstone from Cape Wolstenholme.....	215
	B. (a and b) Bow-drill (mouthpiece, drill, and bow); (c) caribou horn-handled awl or knife; (d and e) knives with horn handles, from Eskimo point.....	217
XXIV.	(a-f) Ivory needle cases; (g) ivory comb; (h) ivory pendant; (i) stone pipe.....	219
XXV.	(a) Ivory carving of man in kayak with hunting outfit; (b) ivory carving of Eskimo woman; (c) ivory carving of Eskimo man; (d and e) ivory sled and dog-team.....	221