

CHAPTER X

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF STRING FIGURES—A FEW INVENTED FIGURES—THE SCARAB—THE LOZENGE—THE SQUARE—VARIATION OF CORAL—TWO DOLPHINS—VARIATION OF THE CRAB—SECOND VARIATION OF TEN MEN.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF STRING FIGURES

FIGURES whereof the finished patterns are similar to the figures described in this book, but concerning the methods of forming which we have no information, are preceded by an asterisk.

Figures known only from the finished patterns are preceded by two asterisks. The names adopted for the figures described in this book are given first, the name by which it is known in another country, or tribe, is given below as a synonym. A synonym preceded by an asterisk indicates that a finished pattern is so labelled, but we do not positively know how it is formed. The method of making the few figures preceded by a dagger are known, but have not yet been published.

AFRICA.

BATWA PYGMIES, KASAI VALLEY, CONGO.
Pygmy Diamonds.
The Mouse.

WAJILI, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.
The Mouse.

ULUNGU, BRITISH EAST AFRICA.
The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.
Syn.: *Umuzwa*, a wooden spoon.

KABYLES, ALGERIA (introduced from France).
The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.
Syn.: "Cock's Feet."

AMERICA.

APACHES:
An Apache Door.
An Apache Teepee.
The Mouse.

CHEROKEES:

The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.
Syn.: "Crow's Feet."

CHIPPEWAS:

A Finger Catch.
The Mouse.

CLAYOQUAHTS:

The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.
Syn.: Sea-egg (Echinus) Spear.

ESKIMOS:

ALASKA.

A Cariboo, *tuktuk*.
The Mouth, *rote*.
Breastbone and Ribs, *grut*.
Porcupine.
Syn.: Wolf, *kulonik*.
Wolverine, *koitsick*.
The Mouse.

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AMERICA. ESKIMOS—Continued:

†A Ship, *umiakbuk*.
†Two Mountains and a Stream, *tituchtak*.
†Arms and Legs, *moguk-eruk*.
†Siberian House and Two Men, *kochlinee*.
†Little Boat, *kayak*.
†Sea-gull, *te-c-kyack*.
†Lake Fish, *namvumcheseah*.
†Stairs, *tutumukaligat*.
†Clothes-line, *iniarat*.
†Eskimo Rabbit, *makadok*.
Syn.: Bird Sitting on Eggs.
†Whale and Fox, *achruk-tezeuk*.
†Dog on Leash, *kaymuchta*.
†Nameless.
†Sealskin Carrying-bag, *aginuk*.
†Two Ptarmigans, *mugalonik okhozgiuk*.
†A Trap, *keezook*.

BAFFIN LAND.

A Cariboo, *tuktuqjung*.
The Circle, *ussuqjung*.
**A Hare, *ukaliaqjung*.
**A Wolf, *amaroqjung*.
**A Hill with Two Ponds, *qaqaqjung ses-inging*.

KLAMATHS:

(Some Modoc figures may be included among the following:)
Owl's Net.
Two Elks.
A Rabbit.
The Sun.
A Rattlesnake and a Boy.
Two Skunks.
Two Foxes.
Two Squirrels.
A Porcupine.
Two Little Boys Running Away.
A Little Fish that Hides in the Mud.
A Little Boy Carrying Wood.
A Brush-house.
Six-pointed Star.
Two Boys Fighting for an Arrow.

KWAKIUTLS:

Threading a Closed Loop.

AMERICA—Continued. NAVAHOS:

An Apache Door.
Syn.: *Li-sis*, poncho.
Many Stars, *son ilani*.
An Owl, *nas-ja*.
A Second Owl.
A Third Owl.
Seven Stars, *dil-ye-he*.
Two-horned Star, *son-bi-tere*.
*Syn.: *So-bide-hulonni*.
Two Coyotes, *ma-i-at-sani-il-walli*.
*Syn.: *Mai-i-at-sa-yill-aghueli*.
Big Star.
North Star.
*Syn.: Big Star, *tsun-tsi*.
Carrying Wood, *chiz-jo-yet-li*.
Two Hogans, *naki-hogan* or *all-sa-hogan*.
Two Stars.
An Arrow, *ka*.
A Man, *hastine denné*.
A Bow, *all-ti*.
Lightning, *atsinil-klish*.
A Butterfly, *ga-lo-ki* or *ga-hi-ki*.
A Worm.
Twin Stars, *sono-tschu*.
A Lizard.
Syn.: *Nashoi-dichizhi*.
Storm Clouds.
One Hogan.
A Second Worm.
A Bird's Nest, *a-to*.
The Mouse.
†Navaho Breastbone and Ribs.
OMAHAS:
W.
M.
The Mouse.
Threading a Closed Loop.
ONONDAGAS:
The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.
Syn.: "Crow's Feet."
OSAGES:
Osage Diamonds.
Osage Two Diamonds.
The Mouse.
A Thumb Catch.

AMERICA—Continued. PAWNEES:

Threading a Closed Loop.

SALISH, THOMSON RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Dressing a Skin.

A Fish-spear.

Syn.: "Pitching a Tent."

TANANAS, ALASKA:

The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.

Syn.: "Crow's Feet."

†Bow String.

†Raven's Feet.

†New Mittens.

TEWAS, ISLETA, N. M.

A Brush House, *nathu*.

Six-pointed Star.

*Syn.: *Pah-rhu-la*, a star.

*An Apache Door.

*Many Stars.

*Lightning.

Syn.: *Vo-pi-ri-dai*, lightning.

ZUNIS:

*An Apache Door.

Syn.: *A-tso-no-no-nai*.*A Brush House, *pi-cho-wai*, *ham-pun-nai*.

*A Fish-spear.

*Carrying Wood.

*Twin Stars.

Syn.: *Pi-cho-wai*; *wai-lo-lo*, lightning.**Top Cross-beam of a Ladder; *tslem-pis-to-nai*; *pi-cho-wai-nai*.

AUSTRALIA. NORTH QUEENSLAND.

*A House.

Syn.: Canoe on the Water; also a Fish Net.

*Ten Men.

Syn.: A Turtle.

*Flint and Steel.

Syn.: A Deaf Adder.

*The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.

Syn.: Four-pronged Spear.

*One Chief.

Syn.: Giant Crane.

**Two Boys Carrying Spears.

**Two Women Fighting with Sticks.

**Four Boys Walking in a Row.

**Two Men Walking Down a Valley.

AUSTRALIA—Continued:

**Man Climbing a Tree.

**Kangaroo.

**Pouch; Kangaroo.

**Pouch; Wallaby.

**A Spear; A Kangaroo Speared.

**Bandicoot.

**Bat.

**Flying Fox.

**Two Rats Sitting Side by Side.

**Emu.

**Emu's Nest, with Egg.

**Cassowary.

**Eagle-hawk.

**Two Cockatoos Roosting.

**Two White Cranes.

**Duck in Flight.

**Bird's Nest.

**Water Snake.

**Snake.

**Crocodile.

**Crocodile's Nest, with Egg.

**Frog.

**Turtle.

**Tortoise.

**Turtle (II).

**Two Fish.

**Fish, Mullet.

**Mullet.

**Eels Carried on a Hooked Stick.

**Crab.

**Four Shrimps.

**Honey.

**Wasp's Nest.

**Hornet's Nest.

**Hollow Log.

**Tree.

**Palm-tree.

**Hole in Limb of a Tree.

**Zamia Tree.

**Zamia Nuts.

**Two Coconuts.

**Coconut.

**Yams (I).

**Yams (II).

**Sun, clouded over.

**Sun, with full rays.

AUSTRALIA—Continued:

**Sun, with full rays (II).

**Sun, setting.

**Moon.

**Star.

**Star (II).

**Clouds.

**Lightning.

**Rain.

**River.

**River (II).

Syn.: A Fish-hawk.

**Two Rocks.

**Hill.

**Boomerang.

**Canoe.

**Bark Canoe.

**Dilly-bag.

**Hawk's Foot.

**Wasp's Nest.

BORNEO.

The Real Cat's-cradle.

BRITISH NEW GUINEA.

KIWAI ISLAND AT THE MOUTH OF THE FLY

RIVER:

A Crab, *kokowa*.

CAROLINE ISLANDS.

NATIK:

Caroline Islands Catch.

Circles and Triangles, *bur-bur-ani-jau*.

Ten Men.

Variation of Ten Men.

Caroline Islands Triangles.

House of the Bloss-bird, *palangan-im-mun-blos*.

No Name.

Caroline Islands Diamonds.

UAP:

Carrying Money, *runi-ka-jei*.Three Stars, *dili-pi-tuf*.Coral, *melang*.Two Chiefs, *logaru-pilun*.A House, *naun*.One Chief, *pilun*.

A Turtle.

CAROLINE ISLANDS. UAP—Continued:

Ten Times.

Flint and Steel, *nifi*.

Torres Straits Lizard.

A Finger Catch.

Hanging.

Threading a Closed Loop.

CHINA.

The Real Cat's-cradle.

ENGLAND.

The Real Cat's-cradle.

Tallow Dips.

Threading a Closed Loop.

Osage Thumb Catch.

EUROPE.

The Real Cat's-cradle.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

*Osage Diamonds.

Syn.: *Ma-ka-lui* and *pu-kau-la*.

*Osage Two Diamonds.

Syn.: *Pa-pi-o-ma-ka-nu-i-nu-i*.***Hoo-ko-mo*.**Ace of Diamonds, *cke-ma-nu*.**See-saw, *ma-hi-ki*.**A Post, *pou*.**A Pump, *pau-ma-wai*.**Darkness, *po*.**Ace of Spades, *e-ke-pe-ki*.**Ace of Hearts, *e-ke-ha-ka*.***Ma-ka-u-pe-na*.***Ko-he*.**The Breasts, *wa-u-la-wa*.***O-ko-le-a-mo*.***Pu*.***Ha-le-ku-mu-ma-ka-a*.***A-ha-ma-ka*.**A Bird House, *a-na-ma-nu*.

INDIA.

A Dravidian Trick.

IRELAND.

Osage Diamonds.

Syn.: The Ladder; the Fence.

The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.

Syn.: Duck's Feet.

IRELAND—Continued:

Tallow Dips.
The Mouse.
The Real Cat's-cradle.

JAPAN.

The Mouse.
Threading a Closed Loop.
The Real Cat's-cradle.

KOREA.

The Real Cat's-cradle.

LOYALTY ISLANDS. LIFU:

A Well, *tim*.
Fence Around a Well, *sihnag*.

MARSHALL ISLANDS. NAURU:

**Hull of a Ship, *deimano*.
**Egona and Egameang Sitting on a Stone.
**A Butterfly, *ijewaioi*.
**A Woman, *Egattamma*.
**Nauru Woman of Rank, *Etima* and *Etowa*.
**The Woman, *Echeog* and *Edawaroi*.
**A Sea-snake, *iianibongo*.
**A Nauru Dandy, *tinamitto*.
**A Lady of Quality, *Egarawingo*.
**A Man, *ibunemun*.
**A Mat (I).
**A Mat (II).
**A Mat (III).
**A Mat (IV).

NEW ZEALAND.

*A House.

PHILIPPINES.

BAGOBOS:

Bagobo Diamonds.
Bagobo, Two Diamonds.
The Real Cat's-cradle.

PHILIPPINES—Continued:

LINAO MOROS:

Bagobo Diamonds.
Ten Times.
Hanging.
The Mouse.
The Real Cat's-cradle.

NEGRITOS:

Hanging.
The Mouse.

SCOTLAND.

The Leashing of Lochiel's Dogs.
Tallow Dips.

TORRES STRAITS.

Fighting Head-hunters, *ares*.
Sunset, *lem baraigida*, Murray Island.
Syn.: A Star, *dogai*, Mabuiag.
A Fish-spear, *baur*.
A Sea-snake, *pigi*.
Kingfish, *geigi*, Murray Island.
Syn.: The Dugong, *dangal*, Mabuiag.
A Well.
Syn.: Nest of the Ti-bird, *ti-meta*; a
Canoe, *gul*, Mabuiag.
A Trigger Fish, *nageg*.
Casting the Fish-spear.
A Man and a Bed, *le-sik*.
A Palm Tree, *u*.
A Canoe with Two Masts, *nar*.
Little Fishes, *tup*.
A Torres Straits Lizard, *monan*, Murray
Island.
Syn.: Intestines of a Turtle, *maita*,
Mabuiag.
The Mouse, *kebe-mokeis*.
Fly on the Nose, *buli*.
Will You Have a Yam, *lewer*, food.

A FEW INVENTED FIGURES—THE SCARAB

The first four movements are the same as the first four movements of the "Well." The strings in the centre of the figure cross so as to form a large X.

Fifth: Bend each thumb away from you into the former thumb loop (now hanging from the top straight string of the figure), and pick up, with the back of the thumb from the palmar side, the lower leg of the X, and pull it toward you through the hanging thumb loop.

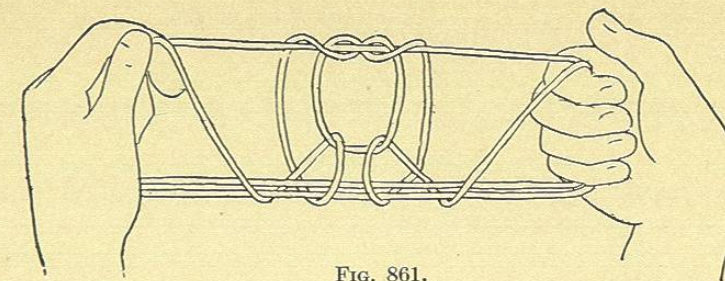


FIG. 861.

Sixth: The same as the *Ninth* movement of the "Crab."
Seventh and *Eighth*: The same as the *Second* and *Third* movements of the "Fence" (Fig. 861).

THE LOZENGE

First: Opening A.

Second: Pass each thumb away from you over the far thumb string and both strings of the index loop, and pick up from below on the back of the thumb the near little finger string, and return the thumb to its position.

Third: Bend each middle finger down into the thumb loops, and pick up from below on the back of the middle finger the lower near thumb string, and return the middle finger to its position.

Fourth: Let the upper thumb loops slip entirely off the thumbs.

Fifth: Pass each thumb away from you, close to the palm (thus taking the twist out of the thumb loop) under all the strings, and pick up from below on the back

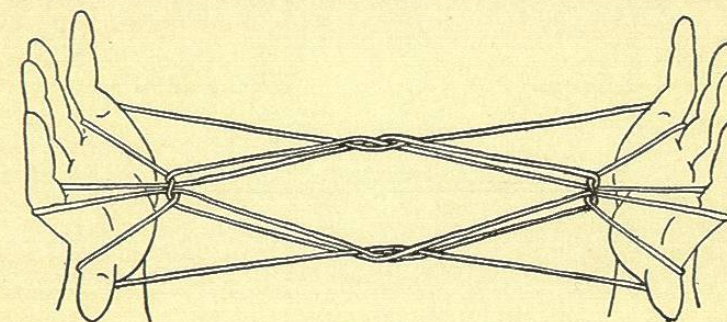


FIG. 862.

of the thumb the far little finger string, and return the thumb to its position, drawing the string toward you between the near index string and the far thumb string, the latter slipping off the thumb during the movement.

Sixth: Release the loops from the little fingers, transfer the middle finger loops to the little fingers, and extend the figure (Fig. 862).

THE SQUARE

First, Second, and Third: The same as the first three movements of the "Apache Door."

Fourth: The same as the *Fifth* movement of the "Apache Door."

Fifth: Opening A, taking up the single lower palmar string only.

Sixth: Pick up from below on the back of each thumb the near index string,

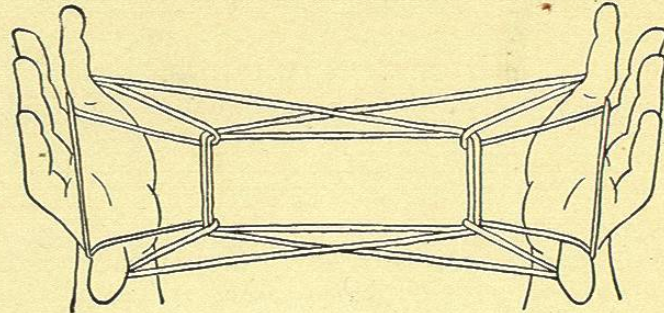


FIG. 863.

return the thumb to its position and slip the two lower thumb loops over the upper loop (the one you have just taken on the thumb) and entirely off the thumb.

Seventh: Pick up from below on the back of each little finger the far index string, return the little finger to its position, and slip the two lower little finger loops

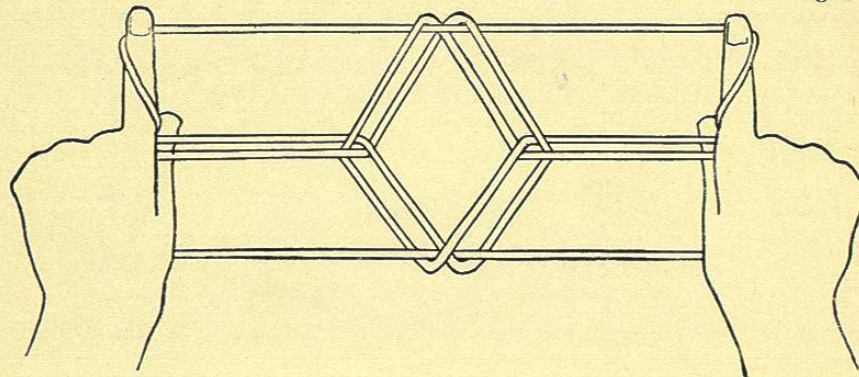


FIG. 864.

over the upper loop (the one you have just taken on the little finger) and entirely off the little finger.

Eighth: Insert each thumb and little finger from below into the index loop of the same hand, withdraw the index, separate widely the thumbs and little fingers, and draw the strings tight (Fig. 863).

VARIATION OF CORAL

First: Opening A.

Second: Exchange the loops on the thumbs, putting the left thumb loop on the right thumb and then the right thumb loop on the left thumb.

Third: Now go through all the movements of the "Coral," beginning with the *Second* movement (Fig. 864. Compare Fig. 359, and pl. x, 1, page 383).

TWO DOLPHINS

First and Second: The same as the first two movements of "Many Stars."

Third: Bend each middle finger down toward you over the index strings, and take up from below, on the back of the finger, the far thumb string, and return the middle finger to its position.

Fourth: Separate the thumbs widely from the other fingers, and laying the figure on the knee, withdraw the thumbs gently, and pick up through the thumb

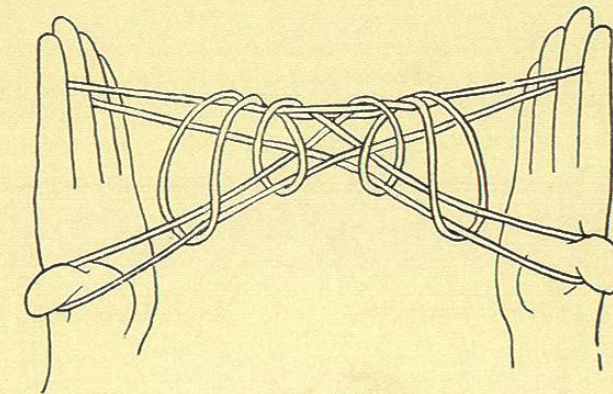


FIG. 865.

loop, on the back of the thumb, the far little finger string. Take the figure from the knee and draw the strings tight.

Fifth: Wrap the far middle finger string once around the little finger, turning the string away from you and then toward you. Slip the lower, original, little finger loop over the upper loop and off the little finger. Repeat on the other hand.

Sixth: Transfer the index loop to the thumb; slip the lower, original thumb loop entirely off the thumb.

Seventh: Release the loops from the little fingers and draw the hands quickly apart (Fig. 865).

VARIATION OF THE CRAB

First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth: The same as the first five movements of the "Scarab."

Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth: The same as the *Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth* movements of the "Crab." Push the loop which passes

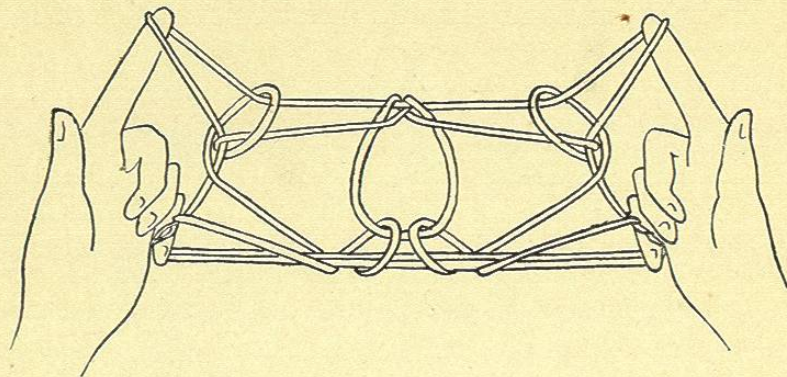


FIG. 866.

around the vertical string running from the index to the little finger, well up, away from the little finger loops.

Eleventh: Keep the index loop well up on the tip of the finger, and pass each

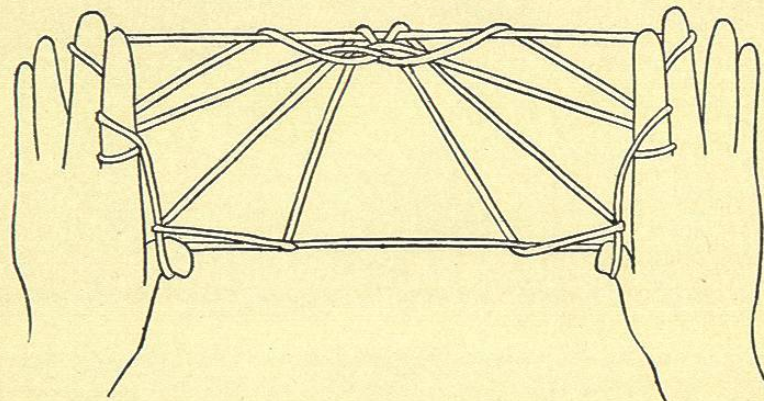


FIG. 867.

thumb away from you, and, picking up on the back of the thumb, draw toward you the lower diagonal string of the loop passing around the vertical string which runs from the index to the little finger.

Twelfth: Now complete the "Crab," beginning with the *Eighth* movement and going through to the very end (Fig. 866).

To put an additional ring around the index loop, repeat this figure, from the *Eleventh* movement to the end. This may be done any number of times.

SECOND VARIATION OF TEN MEN

The first eight movements are similar to the first eight movements of the "Variation of Ten Men." Then begin at the *Ninth* movement of "Ten Men," and complete that figure (Fig. 867).