

Rock Art of the American Southwest

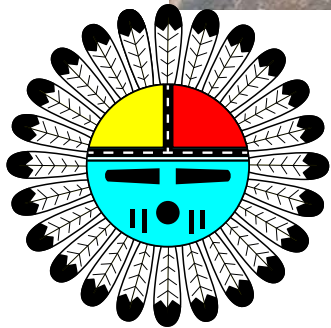
—— Petroglyphs Decoded ——



By Richard Gonsalves



Tewa the Hopi Sun God.



To the Puebloan people the god Tewa controls the weather. In this image note that what looks like his shoulders is in the form of an undulating rattle snake. The upward pointing tail has spikes to show sound, not rattles or beads. As water

runs down a mountain it makes a zigzag line like a snake, so images of snakes sometimes were used by the ancients to represent water. Here you can see rainwater running down from the body of the snake to water the earth.



The Emergence Panel

In the Hopi and Zuni legend of the Emergence their ancestors lived under ground in the Third World. Tewa, the sun god, invited them to come up and live in the Fourth World, our present world. Tewa promised to give them light and warmth. He would make the clouds rain to water their crops. So the ancestors of the Hopi and Zuni

climbed out of the hole in the Grand Canyon, called the Sipapú, on a bean stalk like Jack and the Bean Stalk. This petroglyph has the Sipapú with a bean stalk coming out of it and a trail marker. A trail marker is a stylized foot print with a wavy line. This trail marker has a hand print meaning they climbed out, not walked out.



Twin Stars Panel

For years I wondered what twin stars could mean. Then in 2020 there was a conjunction of planets (Jupiter and Saturn) close to Christmas that was called the Christmas Star. With some research I found there was a Conjunction of planets in 1226 CE. On Dec. 18th of that year Jupiter and Saturn came together. Then 8 days later on Dec. 26th Jupiter moved up in the sky and joined Venus. My

question is how did they know in 1226 CE that Saturn had a ring around it and Jupiter had a "spot?"

Sound as a wavy line. A man appears in the middle of this panel, beating a drum shaped like an "F". The two wavy lines below him are representing the sound of the drum echoing through the canyon.



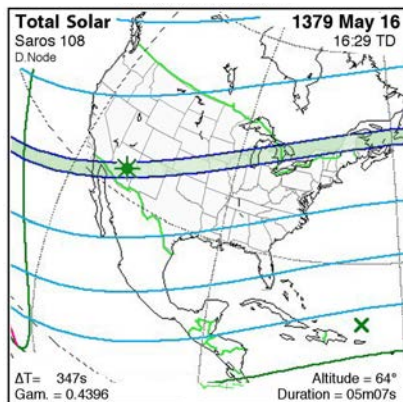
Ahayuta a Zuni God

One of the Zuni Twin Gods of War. He has lightning powers and is accorded special honor at the winter solstice ceremonies. Ahayuta has his head in the sky with the stars or sparks for his hair,

a large hand throwing Lighting bolts at the pottery design meaning rain clouds and a big fat wavy line in the sky meaning thunder.



Total Solar Eclipse Panel



What looks like the depiction of a sunflower near Show Low, Arizona is in fact the representation of a total solar eclipse. In 1379 CE a total solar eclipse passed over Show Low, AZ and a native American wrote it down. Reading from right to left there is a bright sun, then 3 dark suns followed by a dim sun then again a fully bright sun. A total solar eclipse!

Travis Walton and Richard Gonsalves stood in front of the petroglyph panel and observed the partial eclipse of April 8th 2024.



Ant People Panel

Richard Gonsalves with Clifford Mahooty a Zuni Elder and TV personality and a good friend. Clifford asked me if I knew of any petroglyphs that depicted "Ant People." I asked "What do Ant People look like?" He thought a second then said

"I don't know. We just call them Ant People." So with that I took him to see what I thought might be a depiction of Ant People. I know of images with triangular heads that have long straight antenna, triangular bodies, and arms that look like a sickle.



Serenade on an Ancient Prairie

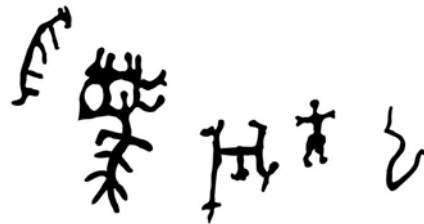
This panel is composed of images from different eras. Reading from right to left the wavy line ending in a spiral is the sound of the coyote yipping and howling. Then latter a chinese scribe, approx 3,000 years ago, saw this and added the

Oracle Bone script Lu3 meaning musical tone. Like the Rosetta Stone this rock art panel has two languages inscribed upon it. Ancient Chinese and ancient Native American, both communicating the same event.



Rinconada Petroglyph Panel

John Ruskamp Jr., found this panel at the Rinconada Petroglyph Park in Albuquerque, NM. It is a message of giving a sacrifice in honor to the emperor. It is written in the ancient Chinese script called Oracle Bone, dated 1,700 BCE to 1,046 BCE.



Reading the bottom line from right to left it reads, a man on his knees holding his title over his head, to the Emperor with fancy pants on, a sacrificial dog, is given as a sacrifice. The Shang Kings Dà Jiǎ and Gēng are also mentioned on the panel.

Serenade on an Ancient Prairie:

Sound is Represented as a Spiral and/or Wavy Line in Petroglyphs.

By Richard Gonsalves
May 12, 2023

I have lived in the American South West all my life and I have always loved to hike in the outdoors. Living in Northern Arizona and seeing petroglyphs is a normal thing but what do they mean? Sure some are lizards or snakes. Some are coyotes or elk but what could some of the other symbols or drawings be?

Dating petroglyphs is highly speculative. They can't be dated with a great deal of accuracy. An attempt to date them can be made by examining the erosion of the rock face or the patina covering them, but dates can vary greatly by the type of rock and the exposure to wind, water and sun. A petroglyph panel may have petroglyphs from different eras, made by different peoples with different customs and even different languages. All making it harder to know the original author(s) meanings.

The spiral and wavy line have always interested me. I believe they may have more than one meaning. I have been told they are snakes, migrations or the passage of time. Some definitely are. If the spiral or wavy line has a head on it, it is probably a snake. If there is a group of four spirals it may be the legend of the four migrations.

In my area of the American Southwest, what I have found is the spiral, wavy line and sometimes concentric circles may all illustrate sounds. The following images are a good representation that show that the sounds that animals make and other sounds can be depicted by a spiral and/or a wavy line.

Page



101 - Near Snowflake, AZ



102 - Petrified Forest, AZ



103 - Near Zuni, NM

The yipping and howling of a coyote as a wavy line and a spiral.



104 - Near Snowflake, AZ

The bugleing sound of an elk as a spiral and a wavy line.

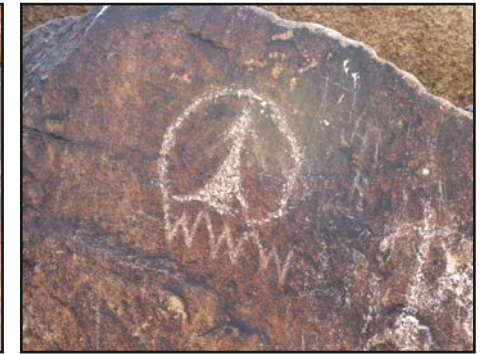


105 - Near Snowflake, AZ



106 - Near Snowflake, AZ

Big Horned Sheep and a wavy line.



107 - Near Grapevine, NV

The howl of a coyote.



108 - Rinconada, NM

The singing of a bird.



110 - Near Snowflake, AZ

The beating of a drum as a double wavy line. Echo.



111 - Near Springerville, AZ

Ahayuta throwing lightning and thunder as a thick wavy line.



112 - Sipapu Bridge, NM

Meteor or UFO with a sonic boom as a wavy line.

Is there any additional evidence that illustrates the relationship between a petroglyph and sound? In a surprising way, there is. John Ruskamp Jr., author of the book "Asiatic Echoes", and I have been collaborating on rock art illustrations that show ancient Chinese script in North American that date back 2,500 to 3,500 years. Such a date is very near the beginning of the Chinese writing system. In 1899 in China they began finding bones with writing on them now known as Oracle Bone. These Oracle Bones are the oldest surviving form of

early Chinese writing and scholars are still trying to translate them. The Oracle Bones have been dated by radiocarbon dating to between 2500 BCE to 1500 BCE. Finding petroglyphs of spirals and wavy lines together with Ancient Chinese Script with a similar meaning reconfirms that the spiral and wavy line represent sounds and also proves that Ancient Chinese Script is found in the Americas. It also gives a relative date for the petroglyphs.

Rock Art Sounds and Ancient Chinese Script Re-enforce Each Other.

Lu3 the 3,000 BP (before present) Chinese script for musical tone was added to the Petroglyph panel to show that the spiral and wavy line was the yipping and howling of the coyote.

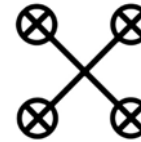
Lu3
(musical
tone)



101 - Near Snowflake, AZ

Lei2 the 3,000 BP Chinese script for thunder or echo was added to show the double wavy lines as drum beats echoing through the canyon.

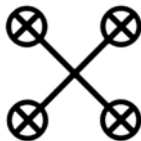
Lei2
(thunder
or echo)



110 - Near Snowflake, AZ

Lei2 the 3,000 BP Chinese script for thunder has a spiral added to it to re-enforce the meaning of the Chinese script. Loud thunder.

Lei2
(thunder
or echo)



113 - Near Oracle, AZ

Here a Big Horned sheep has a spiral coming out of his rear end showing the sound of passing gas. Someone with a sense of humour has added Lu3 the 3,000 BP ancient Chinese script for music.

Lu3
(music)



114 - Indian Petroglyph Park, NV