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## Rock Art in Malaysia

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con éxito la primera excavación sistemática en territorio antártico abriendo como acertadamente lo escribe F. Barbiero, "un nuovo capitolo delle ricerche archeologiche".

Rubén Stehberg  
Programa Arqueología Antártica  
M.N.H.N. - INACH - Santiago, Chile

#### YOUR MEMORIAL FOR THE PROGRESS OF CULTURE

I have often thought of the difficulties for research caused by the lack of funding. The results of archaeological discoveries are continually enriching our culture and our imagination, and yet many of us do so little in our lives to support such an important aspect of our heritage.

If one believes that this common enrichment of humanity is worth being supported, one should consider making a bequest to the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici.

Could the Centro name a research project, an excavation, or a discovery, after a donor?

Letter signed  
Glasgow, Scotland

*The Centro would certainly wish to satisfy the requests of donors in any appropriate manner, as their contributions would be a valuable and appreciated support to scientific research. In fact, as the Centro is a non-profit institution, gifts or legacies would be tax-exempt. We would be glad to see that you have set an example and that others may be inspired by your generosity.*

#### ON HAR KARKOM

Ever since I first read about the walls of Jericho falling outwards in repeated earthquakes at the end of the EB period, followed by a vast nomadic invasion, I have been investigating the possibility that this event reflected in fact the Hebrew conquest of Canaan described in the Bible. The evidence for it only seems to increase: your findings at Mt Karkom has added another link in the chain.

I am writing briefly to beg you not to dismiss totally the possibility that the Exodus took place at the collapse of the

Old Kingdom of Egypt — which involves taking seriously the striking parallels between Ipuwer and the description of the Plagues (for example, in both, the Nile is turned to blood). In this period there is a freak occupation of the Negev, first investigated by Nelson Glueck and now by you. This occupation occurs in relation to the invasion of Canaan by a people with tribal burial customs (K. Kenyon). Shortly afterwards the Sinatic Script (the proto-Hebrew alphabet) was introduced into the land and, apparently, the Hebrew-speaking West Semites are established in Canaan from then on.

I realise that this scheme is fraught with difficulties, but it has many strong points. The parallels between the rise and fall of the West Semite people and the events described in the Bible cannot be ignored indefinitely, even though there are awkward implications.

Tom Chetwynd  
London, England

#### ROCK ART IN MALAYSIA

Very little is known to the scientific world on the rock art of Malaysia. It might therefore be worthwhile reporting on a site in the state of Perak, just outside of the town of Ipoh. The rock is limestone, and there is a quarry about 1/8 of a mile down the hill from the paintings. Flaking of the cliff wall and limestone excretions have badly damaged the paintings; rain also falls directly on the paintings. As far as we know, the site has never been adequately documented.

The four photographs enclosed demand some comments:

- 1) The large painting which stands out here appears to be a catfish or perhaps a dugon. In the lower right some wonderful "X-ray" paintings may be noted. A pregnant animal reveals the baby inside. These are strangely similar to Australian rock paintings of Arnhem Land. In the extreme lower left there is an unusual stick figure with facial details. The large painting in the lower center appears to be an "X-ray" creature as well.
- 2) Notice the painting in the far upper right — any ideas on what this might be? Also interesting is the line drawing of a man, above the central animal figure. I am told that when you visit this site in person, you can see all of the details



- which do not reproduce in these photos.
- 3) Here there are numerous white line drawings, along with the red-brown paintings.
  - 4) Superimposed abstractions (?).

As one can see, preservation is a real problem with this site. It should be documented, and, we suspect that there are other sites in the area. The museum in Malaya knows about this sites, but we do

not think that anything has been done with it.

We would appreciate suggestions about how to increase interest in this site as well as in others. This site is quickly deteriorating.

Paul Faulstich and  
Suzanne Hashim  
Los Angeles, California

*Figgs. 5-6-7-8  
Rock art in Malaysia (see description in  
text).*