

**AN
ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY
OF
ROCK ART TERMS**

compiled

by

Frankie Harris

1992

Second revised edition 1996

FORWARD

The purpose of this work is to codify the many terms that have been and are being coined by researchers in Rock Art to explain their interpretations of Rock Art symbols. Too many times the meaning of these coined works is not clear to other researchers in the field. With the help of many people I have attempted to compile and bring some order to the subject. Where a term is followed by initials in parentheses this indicates the person that coined the phrase and/or the definition. A list of initials follows. Also in some cases roman numerals and page numbers are also given. These indicate the volume and page number of the URARA Symposium Papers where the term is used. This is an ongoing subject and it is hoped that with the publication of this work others in the field of Rock Art research will be encouraged to add their terms, with their definition and illustration where applicable, so that this dictionary may grow.

VB	Vern Bush
JC	John Curtis
CJ	Clay Johnson
NM	Nowell (Nal) Morris
CR	Clifford Rayl
JW	Jesse Warner

Frankie Harris

1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the many people that have contributed to this work and who kept encouraging me to finish it. Jesse Warner, Clay Johnson, Nowell Morris, Vern Bush, Steve Manning and Sarah Bush all helped me. If I have left anyone out I apologize as it most certainly was not my intention to do so. The idea for this dictionary began with the suggestion from the then president of URARA, Clifford Rayl, that I define a few words to be incorporated in VESTIGES the URARA newsletter each month. After careful consideration I felt that it would be more convenient having all of the definitions in one place rather than having them scattered through many issues of the VESTIGES.

A

Abrade	To rub or wear away by friction.
Abstract, Abstraction (JW)	A form that is geometric or reaches the final stylization process where the form of the sense of the object is often unrecognizable.
Addition (JW)	A later individual making an addition to an earlier element or panel to emphasize an existing concept or change the meaning of the original idea without modifying what was originally done.
Affinity	The relationship in meaning that one symbol has to associated symbols.
Almanactic Solar Interaction (CJ)	Tells when to plant; when birds and game leave or return; when fish spawn; when to harvest; when insects and snakes come out or leave; etc.
AMS Dating	Accelerator Mass Spectrometry radio carbon dating.
Anasazi	A major southwestern horticultural group centered in the higher elevations of the Colorado Plateau across southern New Mexico and Arizona having several divisions in time - Basketmaker II and III, Pueblo I, II, III, and IV. They built unit houses and kivas; pottery became well developed; used slip on their pottery; added cotton and beans to the crops grown; grew to large villages; developed the great kivas.
Animation (JW)	An action or state of movement portrayed in quadruped or human symbol by the addition of such features that the glyph may suggest movement.
Anthropomorph	Human shaped.

Anthropomorphic
Anthropomorphic (JW)

Having a human shape or human attributes.
A term often misused. Often believed to mean having a human shape or human attributes but really means giving gods the forms and attributes of man or non-human figures human attributes. In other words, if we call a figure anthropomorphic we believe the glyph maker believed it was a deity.

Apologist

One who defends by argument.

Archaeoastronomy

Determining if rock art or structural symbolism is associated with seasonal changes and/or celestial events, including astronomical alignments.

B

Basketmaker Culture

The first two divisions of the Anasazi, Basket Maker II and III. There is no Basket Maker I division. It was primarily found in the San Juan River drainage of Utah and Colorado. They build distinctive pit houses; grew corn and squash; had atlatl and curved throwing sticks; fine basketry; fine woven sandals. It was the foundation for the later pueblo cultures. From about 1 AD to 700 AD.

Bicephalic

Having two heads. (Sheep Pen Site).



Bimorphic

Any life form.

Bipolar Cephalic

A variation of the term "Bicephalic", usually meaning the heads are at either end of the glyph.



Bracket Panel (CJ)

The panel identifies a specific date (usually a solstice) by achieving culmination of significant alignment on dates equidistant on each side of the key date. This type of functioning is probably almost mandatory for solstice markers, as the declination of the sun (and thus its daily path) are nearly unchanged for several days at each solstice. It seems unlikely that this type of technology could design a feature to display only on the precise day of a solstice.

C

Calendrical Solar
Interaction

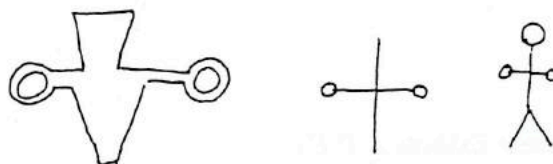
Sun and shadow interaction with a panel or glyph during equinox, a sun calendar.

Cation (cat ion)

A positively charged ion.

Circle Holders (JW)

Figures with balls or circles in each arm.



Cluster

A group of symbols pertaining to a given theme in a panel, purposely concentrated in one particular area in a manner most conducive to clarity of meaning.

Complimentary Date

Each date between Winter Solstice and Summer Solstice has a "complimentary" date between Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice when the sun's declination, and thus the interaction on a given panel will be approximately the same, i.e.: Autumn Equinox is the complimentary date for Vernal Equinox.

Compound Elements (JW)

Where two or more elements normally occurring as individual elements have been combined to create a composite or compound form.

Vol. III p 74, 83. Vol VIII sec. 4, p1.

Concept Association (JW)

Where a glyph has been placed on/in a context that helps identify the associated concept or the idea behind that specific application.

Vol. I p 42; Vol. III p 16, 19 23:
Vol. VII p 74; Vol. VII p 6; Vol.
VIII See 7 p 42.

Concept Lock (BS)

Where a concept becomes locked into a specific form.

Concurrent Panel

Sun or shadow alignments which begin and end at the same time on two or more panels, the alignments to specific features on one panel occurring in a "timed" fashion to specific features on another panel.

Construction

Is the use of a natural feature of the rock surface, the application of mud, etc. to a petroglyph or pictograph to aid in its meaning.

Context Extension (JW)

Going from the original meaning to a more abstract meaning; i.e. a fertility symbol to a hunting symbol to a shamanistic vision.

Vol. VII see 6, p 22; Vol. VIII see 7, p 42.

Convention (JW)

The hallmark of a style. The point when a motif reaches a wide degree of acceptance in a style. i.e. inverted bucket head variant of the Classic Vernal Style or the wide spread use of winged "U" brackets as an entrapment symbol. This process begins as an element, a single representation. It then goes through the stage of unique repetitions where unusual elements that would not normally be independently invented occur on separate panels or better at different sites. From there as it increases in popularity it becomes a motif. Then when it becomes popular (as manifested as a large percentage of occurrences) it then becomes a convention.

Conventionalization (JW)

The process where a motif becomes a convention.

Vol. III, p 72.

Cosmogony

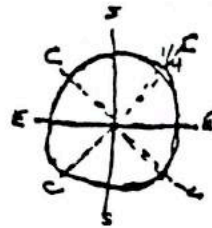
Any belief system regarding the creation or origination of the earth or the universe.

Cosmology

A branch of astronomy that deals with the origin, structure, and space-time relationships of the universe.

Cross Quarter Dates

Dividing the solar calendar quarters in half again thus dividing the year into eights with about 45 days per section. The Cross Quarter dates fall near the end of the first week in February, May, August and November.



S = Solstice
E = Equinox
C = Cross
Quarter
O = 365 days

Cryptogam

A plant form. It includes the algae, fungi, bryophytes, and most pteridophytes.

Cryptogram

A message written in code: intentionally or otherwise.

A.



... ..

... ..



A.

D

Date	(see panel Date)
Deduction	Conclusions obtained from the scientific compilation, analysis, and elimination of bulk material.
Desert Varnish	A Dark coating of manganese oxide deposited upon a rock surface, usually on sandstone forming a patina.
Determinative (JW)	An additional symbol or symbols used to clarify or classify the meaning of other symbols.
Dint Mark	A characteristic thumbprint of the tool that made the mark and that can be used for dating. 
Dint Pattern	This pattern can be loose (random) or dense; it can be shallow or deep; the line can be wide or narrow. This can also be used in stylistic differentiation and in dating. 
Direct Percussion	The use of only one stone to hammer the rock face in the making of a petroglyph.
Disconformity	A lack of agreement or conformity; an inconsistency.

Double Entity

An old or unnatural combination of human forms or appendages that are beyond what is expected of the human figure, i.e. two human figures combined in one or a human/animal in one figure.

Categories of double entities:

1 - Four (4) arms



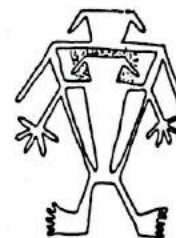
2 - Out of the head



3 - Out of another part of the body.



4 - A figure within a figure.



Double Entity (cont.)

- 5 - Head and upraised arms of the lower figure as the chest of an emerging figure.



- 6 - Reversible figures - just as logical upside down as right side up.



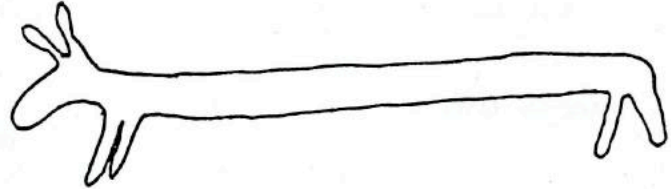
- 7 - Figures that incorporate "u" brackets.

- 8 - Figures that incorporate bisected circles.

E

Elastomorph (JW)

A stretched, extended form or one that can change its shape.



Element

A component, feature, or principal of something; a basic part. The human figure, its shape, its appendage position, the torso are all forms of an element.

Element Extension

Same elements in different contexts.

Eisegesis (JW)

In rock art - extracting from a panel an (often incorrect) interpretation that one has first read into it.

Vol. VIII see 4 p 10.

Eisegesist (JW)

One who extracts from a panel an interpretation that was first read into it.

Equinox

Either of the two times each year when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are everywhere of equal length. Either of the two points on the celestial sphere where the celestial equator intersects the ecliptic.

Equinox - Day of

The twenty-four hour period, from midnight to midnight, during which the moment of equinox occurs.

Equinox - Moment of

The precise time when the center of the sun crosses the celestial equator. The Vernal Equinox occurs about March 21st and the Autumnal Equinox about September 22nd.

Esoteric

Understood by only a select few

Esoteric Symbolism

A symbol meant to be understood by a chosen few. A symbol that is difficult to comprehend.

Ethnocentric

A view of another culture based on the ethnological context of one's own culture.

Exegesis (JW)

A practical exposition of a panel's content based on a thorough understanding of the language and/or symbol system with which it was created and the world view of its creator.

Exegist

One who is a user of the above.

Exoteric

Understood by the public.

F

Form (JW)

The shape or outline of anything. Often specifically defined and thus can be defined to style.

Fremont Culture

A catch-all term covering a diverse people that lived in many different ecological settings in the area roughly bounded by eastern Nevada, western Colorado, southern Idaho and most of Utah having in common a distinctive thin walled, coiled grey pottery, one-rod-and-bundle basketry, moccasins made from the hock of a deer or desert bighorn sheep leg and a trapezoidal anthropomorph art style with hair bobs and necklaces.

The first of the two is the
fact that the system is not
yet fully operational.

The second is the fact that
the system is not yet fully
operational. The system is
not yet fully operational.
The system is not yet fully
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not yet fully operational.

G

Generic Terms (JW)

The term generic is derived from similar situations where terms from products like Kleenex and Xerox have been extended to other products. This type of term can express too many different things. With rock art generic terms are those with graphically restricted forms but broad concepts, those which impose interpretation and those which imply a universal meaning. Some examples of generic terms are candelabrum, wheel, ladder, menorah.

Geoform

A form created either by cutting into or building on the parent material. Usually of heroic proportions and best seen from the air.

Geoglyph

See "Geoform" above.

Glyph

In rock art a glyph is scratched, pecked or abraded in rock, rather than painted.

Also used as a generic term for single units of rock art (both painted and carved)

Glyph Maintenance (JW)

Where a later person re-pecks or re-paints a figure presumably for symbolic or ceremonial reasons. It is another term for "re-do".

Glyph Orientation (JW)

A glyph positioned in an unusual orientation. A deviation from the prime orientation may change the meaning not the identification of the element.



Glyphic Configuration

A number of glyphs that form a single conceptual idea.

Gnomon

An object that by the position or length of its shadow serves as an indicator.

A wood, stone or cleft pointer intended to control the cast shadow or light onto glyphs to indicate time or date, or to create form of light or shadow.

H

Hermeneutics (JW)

A philosophy of interpretation; to be distinguished from exegesis.

Hohokam Culture

A farming culture using irrigation and having a distinctive pottery found in the Salt River Valley of south-central Arizona. They came from Mexico; introduced cotton and barley and irrigation; had extensive irrigation systems. Occupation from approximately 300 BC to 1450 AD.

It is important to note that the
information is not complete.

A report was made by the
author of the study in 1961
that the results of the study
were not statistically significant.
The results of the study were
not statistically significant.

I

Icon

An image; figure; representation; picture. A religious symbol not a secular symbol.

Iconic Congruence (CJ)

Some natural feature or form of light that created or inspired the specific shape and placement of a glyph.

Glyph



Shadow

Ideogram

A symbol that expresses an idea or concept. An idea expressed in a symbol containing no phonetic elements.

Ideograph

A pictorial representation of an idea or object; and ideogram. Basically this is what rock art is.



Sheep

Ideoglyph

See "ideogram". Ideogram is the preferred usage.

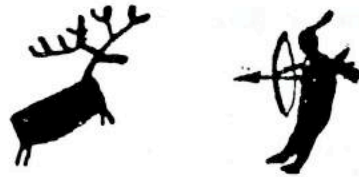
Incised

The making of a line by cutting into a surface with a sharp object.

Incorporation

Combining one or more figures to form a different or expanded idea.

Vol. I, p 10.



deer + hunter = hunting

May also indicate the usage of elements of parent material as part of design, i.e. existing hole, protrusion or crack in rock surface; perhaps the edge or change of plane in the rock surface.

Indicators (JW)

Different types of detail that has been used consistent enough to be used as a diagnostic indication of style.

Vol. I p 16; Vol. III p 87.

Interactive (CJ)

Refers to the fact that glyphs at a site have interactions with sun and shadow. Three types of interaction are possible:

Non-significant:

No alignment of shadow features with glyph elements. Although the alignment may be non-significant, the fact that a given glyph is dark, lit, or interactive at a certain time of year may be important.

Suggestive:

Shadow shape suggests and overall shape for glyph or elements of the glyph at some time of the day or year. The alignment delineates one line or side of the glyph, but is not a series of sequential alignments.

	<p>Significant:</p> <p>Glyph elements are so placed and constructed that sun and shadow move across a panel in a series or sequence of alignments with glyph features on a particular day or days of the year, but not at other times, presumably to identify that particular day or days.</p>
Intaglio	An engraving or incised figure depressed below the surface of the parent material so that an impression from the design yields and image in relief.
Interactive Panel (CJ)	<p>Bracket see "Bracket"</p> <p>Concurrent see "Concurrent Panel"</p> <p>Normal see "Normal Panel"</p> <p>Precise see "Precise Panel"</p> <p>Seasonal see "Seasonal Panel"</p> <p>Solo see "Solo Panel"</p> <p>Span see "Span Panel"</p> <p>Spot see "Spot Panel"</p> <p>Intersected Circle see "P" Shield</p>
Interpretation	The expression of a person's conception of a rock art element and its meaning. The lowest level is identification; there are levels of more involved interpretation.
Ithyphalic	An erect phallus.

J

Juxtaposition

An instance of two or more objects being placed side by side.

K

Kachina

It represents a Hopi God itself; a human impersonator or the god; a doll that represents the god. A kachina is not something found outside the Hopi and Zuni culture. For instance a Fremont or Basketmaker figure would not be a kachina figure.

Kachina Cult Symbol

A glyph or painting on a rock that is identifiable with a particular Hopi Clan.

Katsina, Katchina

Variations of the term "Kachina".

Kokopelli

Within the Hopi pantheon of gods only Kokopelli approximates the form of the humped-back flute player petroglyph of the Southwest. The story of kokopelli indicates he is a kachina involved with reproduction through imitative sexual acts and not obscure symbolism. All humped-back petroglyphs are not necessarily either flute players or Kokopelli. They could represent burden carrying migrants or traders. There is most certainly a resemblance between the humped-back flute player and Kokopelli but he may not have any association with any Kachina and surely must have represented either mortal traders, migrants or clan symbols.

(Christy G. Turner in *Petroglyphs Of The Glen Canyon Region*)

L

Light Incorporation

A figure on the rock that incorporates light in its form and/or its meaning.

M

Metaphor

A figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them: figurative language.

Metaphoric

That which pertains to a metaphor.

Modification (JW)

The later changing of an element's feature from what was originally produced by another individual or group to express a difference from the original concept. Modified by pecking the line of patination out from between the horns and legs to make a two horned, four legged sheep into a one horned two legged sheep which stresses the importance of the differences in form.

Mogollon Culture (muggyown)

Found in southeast Arizona, southern New Mexico, northern Chihuahua and northeast Sonora. Hunting, gathering and agriculture were about equal. They practiced inhumation. Their pit-house entries were sloping ramps instead of steps. From about BC 300 to 1350 AD.

Motif

A repeated figure to establish a thematic concept.

A group of people in white robes
were seen to enter the temple
at the same time as the
priests of the temple.

The same group of people

The group of people in white robes
were seen to enter the temple
at the same time as the
priests of the temple.
The group of people in white robes
were seen to enter the temple
at the same time as the
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N

Knock Rock (JW)

The implement used in direct percussion.

Normal Interactive Panel

On a normal panel, the series of sequential alignments takes place over a period of minutes or hours on the same day. The culmination, or day of most precise alignments, is the significant interaction.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to the study of the properties of the function $f(x)$ defined by the equation $f(x) = \int_0^x f(t) dt$. It is shown that $f(x)$ is a constant function.

2. In the second part, we consider the function $g(x)$ defined by the equation $g(x) = \int_0^x g(t) dt$. It is shown that $g(x)$ is a constant function.

3. In the third part, we consider the function $h(x)$ defined by the equation $h(x) = \int_0^x h(t) dt$. It is shown that $h(x)$ is a constant function.

4. In the fourth part, we consider the function $k(x)$ defined by the equation $k(x) = \int_0^x k(t) dt$. It is shown that $k(x)$ is a constant function.

5. In the fifth part, we consider the function $l(x)$ defined by the equation $l(x) = \int_0^x l(t) dt$. It is shown that $l(x)$ is a constant function.

O

Ogam

A kind of writing used by the ancient Celts and Irish consisting of straight lines either perpendicular or slanted, to one side or the other of a long straight line.



P

Panel	A culturally utilized rock surface separated from other panels by space, angles, cracks or a difference in style or technique, etc. Also: a symbol or group of symbols conveying a message complete in itself.
Panel Condition	<p>The basic condition of a panel (for a given time of year) can be:</p> <p>Dark: No direct sunlight on panel.</p> <p>Lit: E n t i r e panel receiving direct sunlight.</p> <p>Part: Direct sunlight on a portion of the panel, but not interacting with glyph elements.</p>
Panel Date	see "Date"
Panel Face	A term used on recording documents. It is the direction that the panel faces if your back is to the panel.
Panel Preparation	The smoothing of the rock surface prior to applying a glyph or glyph elements.
Path of the Sun (NM)	It is the solar course over the period of a day.
Patina	Coloration of a material by mineral deposition, oxidation or "varnishing".
Patination	<p>A natural process of mineral deposition by which the surface of a rock becomes darker over a period of many years.</p> <p>(see Desert Varnish)</p>
Performance	Method or type of glyph interaction with light and shadow. Glyphs may also perform through optical illusion.

Personation (VB) The wearing of masks or garments bearing symbols that are regarded as characteristic of those beings to be represented.

Petroglyph Symbols made upon a rock surface by means of pecking, incising, abrading or scratching.

Petroglyphology (JC) That branch of science which concerns itself with a study of inscriptions upon stone made by primitive people.

(see *Vestiges* December 1991 - No. 12)

Petrograph An outdated term. See "petroglyph".

Phallic Relating to the phallus.

Phallus A representation or image of the penis as the reproductive organ, worshiped as a symbol of generative power.

Phytomorphic A plant form.

Pictograph Picture writing in a painted form upon any material. Also, a picture representing and expressing an idea.

Pictoglyph An outdated term. See "Pictograph".

Polydactyl Having more than five digits.



Polymorph A figure that can take on more than one form.

"Pre" or "Post" Panel

The panel functions only before or only after a key date. Of course, due to the nature of the solar year, a panel which functioned after a date between winter solstice and summer solstice would function before the complimentary key dates between summer solstice and winter solstice. In other words, on two days equidistant on each side of the day of a solstice (for instance, 36 days before and 36 days after winter solstice) the shadow alignment on a panel would be the same. The term pre- or post- should be used in conjunction with a specific date to avoid confusion: pre-vernal Equinox, or post-Autumnal Equinox.

Precise Panel

A Precise panel is one on which the shadow line passes through a period of significant alignments in a relatively short period (perhaps one or a few days), presumably to exactly identify a date and separate it from the days immediately preceding and following it.

Precession of the Equinox

Motion of point of equinox caused by the precession of wobble of the earth's pole.

Prime Association (JW)

An association of symbols.

Vol. VI p 73.

Prime Form (JW)

Am element representing the most popular or common form.

Vol. III p 21, 70, 83; Vol. VII p 73, 75; Vol. VIII see 7 p 1, 9.

Prime Orientation

The orientation of a representation in its natural position.



P-Shield (JC)

The p-Shield is a round glyph with a straight line bisecting it and extending both above and below the circle.



Psuedoglyph

A naturally occurring stain or mark on a rock surface that has the appearance of a man made mark. A notable one being near the Rochester Creek panel that resembles a monogram "A".



Q

Quadruped

Having four feet. An animal with four legs or feet.

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R

Radiocarbon Dating

A method of dating prehistoric organic material through the amount of Carbon 14 remaining in the material.

Ratio Dating

The determination of a date by the ratio of cations in desert varnish.

Rebus Writing

A series of pictures combined to suggest words or phrases.



(I see)

Re-do

See "Glyph Maintenance".

Repatisation

The redeposition of manganese oxide over a rock art symbol. a figure may be relatively dated by the amount of repatisation over the pecked area as patination usually but not necessarily occurs at a fairly stable rate.

Representation

The source of the glyph is identifiable or understandable, i.e. not abstract or stylistic; a Bighorn sheep, deer, lizard, etc.

Representational (JW)

An obsolete term used with styles that were more naturalistic or identifiable in nature than abstract. Now it is felt that all elements represent something, tangible or not.

Ritual

A system of rites. A ceremonial act or action. An established form for a ceremony.

Ritual Obliteration

The apparent cultural efforts to deface or erase a glyph or element after it has been constructed.

Rock Art

Symbols, either petroglyphs or pictographs found upon a stone surface. By the term "Rock Art" it is not meant to imply that this form of expression is art (in the strict sense of the word "art" as in art for art's sake) or to be demeaning to Native Americans who used it as a form of "record keeping" and "communication".

Rock Incorporation

A symbol purposely placed in, on, or near any natural rock feature so as to incorporate such rock feature into the meaning of the message.

Vol. VI p 73, 80.



Existing hole
in rock

Rock Writing (JW)

Possibly a more accurate term for ancient inscriptions. However, this "form of writing" is not alphabetic, phonetic or syllabic. It is not rebus writing. It is a form of ideographic writing.

Rune

A type of writing used by the ancient Norse people.

F A H 7 1 X Y

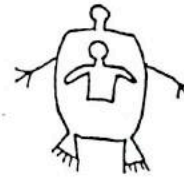
S

Sarcophagus

A stone coffin.

Sarcophagus Figures (JW) (J,P,M)

A figurine form nested within another figurine form. What has later been described as a figure within a figure.



seasonal Panel

A Seasonal Panel presents a somewhat static display or a continuing alignment over a period of weeks or more. An analogy is that when one begins seeing Santa Claus pictures everywhere, that doesn't mean it is the day of Christmas, it merely means that it is the Christmas season.

Secondary Percussion

The using of one rock for a chisel and another for a hammer stone.

Shaft of Light

Another term for arrow of light.

Shield Figure

An anthropomorph figure with a round shield covering the body.



Shield Figure - Fremont

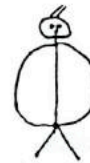


Shield Figure - Ute



Painted

Shield Figure - X-Ray



The figure shows through the shield

Shield Holder (JW)



A figure that holds a shield

Sign

Any symbol or emblem which prefigures, typifies, or represents an idea.

Significant Interaction	Glyph elements are so placed and constructed that sun and shadow mover across a panel in a series or sequence of alignments with glyph features on a particular day or days of the year, but not at other times, presumably to identify that particular day or days.
Site	The official site number of record, or and accurate location for a site that has not been officially recorded.
Solar Altitude (NM)	This is the angle of the sun above the horizon where the horizon is at zero degrees and the zenith is at 90 degrees.
Solar Azimuth (NM)	If you place polar north at zero degrees and you then rotate clockwise so that you complete a full rotation back to the north, then east will equal 90 degrees, south will equal 180 degrees, and west will equal 270 degrees. The angle of the sun's location in the sky on that scale is the solar azimuth.
Solar Function	The interaction of the sun with specific glyphs on a panel.
Solar Bearing (BS)	The amount of sunlight and the periods that the panel receives the most sunlight.
Solar Noon	The time of day that the sun reaches it zenith.
Solo Panel	Indicates an interactive panel acting alone.
Solstice	the point in the elliptic at the greatest distance from the Equator, at which the sun appears to stop or cease to recede from the Equator. In the Northern Hemisphere June 21st and December 22nd.
Spalling	The flaking off of a stone surface due to the action of rain, wind, ice, or other natural causes.

Span Panel

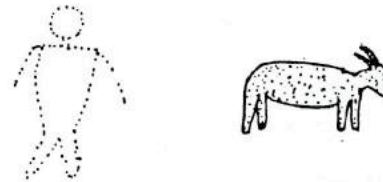
A Span Panel acts as both a pre and post indicator for a key date. In other words, as a bracket panel for a date other than a solstice. This is accomplished by designing for a period of alignments which precede and follow the spanned date, but without one particular day's alignment being separable as more exact than the others.

Spot Panel

On a Spot Panel, the interaction is defined at panel sunrise or sunset, and the series of alignments involves the changes in shadow position on sequential sunrises or sunsets rather than on sequential time periods on the same day.

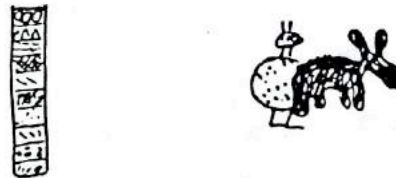
Stipple

Course pecking pattern of individual pecks separated by an unpecked surface.



Stratigraphy

The arrangement of archaeological remains in identifiable layers of undisturbed material. In Rock Art the superimposition of one figure over another is a form of stratigraphy.



Strike

A geological term used in the recording of a site. It is the direction of the line formed by intersection of the plane of the face of the panel with the horizontal plane.

Style

Rock Art that is distinctive to a technique. This technique may be associated with a given people or culture or location.

Style - Anasazi

Varies greatly both in time and geographical area.

Style - Archaic

An abstract style consisting of circles, triangles, agglomerations of circles, wavy lines and curving and meandering lines tied together haphazardly.

BC 1000 - 1500 AD.



Style - barrier Canyon

Characterized by anthropomorphs that are elongated, tapering without arms painted in dark pigments in alcoves or overhangs. Usually pictographic, but can be found in petroglyphic form.



Style - Basketmaker

Varies greatly both in time and geographical area.

Style - Cave Valley

Painted figures in black, red, yellow, green, white or pink having triangular bodies, flat heads with legs and arms that are usually triangular.



Style - Fremont

Broad shouldered humanoid figures with a tapered torso and elaborate headgear, with hair bobs, necklaces and sashes. Finger, if shown, are splayed. many have small shields. They usually have "bucket" heads.



Style - Glen Canyon Linear

Bodies of both animals and humans have large bodies and small extremities all deeply dented in outline.

Style - Mogollon

Varies greatly both in time and geographical area.



Style - San Juan Basketmaker

numerous hand prints with large broad-shouldered anthropomorphs in rows.

Style - Ute

this style is characterized by the presence of horses, historic style european clothing, peace pipes, war bonnets, war clubs, tomahawks and trains. The portrayal of owls and eagles is common.



Style - Vernal



This style has large anthropomorphs having elaborate headdresses, necklaces, breastplates and very often holding shields. It also has an elaborate type of shield figure. Typical figures of this type are found at McKee Springs and the McConkie Ranch, both in the Vernal, Utah area.

Style Profile (JW)

A series of criteria used to compare one style with another. If consistent, use can show a percentage of occurrence that provides a profile line showing marked similarity or differences between styles.

Stylistic Indicator (JW)

(see Indicators)

Stylization (JW)

A symbol progressing from natural and identifiable to a point where it becomes unidentifiable, therefore become an abstraction. The meaning may change or remain the same. The more stylized an element becomes the greater the chances are that it no longer represents that object but concepts associated with that object. In other words it implied or associated concept will be extended beyond what the form implies. (see Extended Concepts)



anatomic
heart



stylized
heart

I ♥ Utah

heart meaning
to love

Suggestive Interaction (CJ)

Shadow shape suggests and overall shape for glyph or elements of the glyph at some time or the day or year. The alignment delineates one line or side of sequential alignments.

Sun and Shadow Shapes (CJ)

Any standard shape catalog will surely need room for additions, but we can list the most common shapes. Each shape can come in either sun or shadow versions.

Angle: A line including a clearly defined angle of 90 to circa 170 degrees. Usually natural. Similar to arrow function. (See below)

Sun Angle Shadow Angle



Arrow: A wedge shape with included angle of less than 90 degrees. Can be natural, or easily created culturally, sun arrow or wedge gnomon is generally a notch. Shadow arrow or wedge gnomon is generally a protruding wedge shape. Alignment is normally apex of arrow with glyph element. Eye, mouth, crotch, or hand alignments are common. Wedge is now included in this term rather than being a separate designation.

Sun Arrow Shadow Arrow



Box: A cup which has three angled sides rather than being a semicircle. Can be natural, sometimes created culturally. Sun box gnomon can be a flat bottomed notch in a rock edge. The box generally surrounds a glyph element on three sides, often without quite touching. Boxes often surround circular elements which appear more likely candidates for a cup. Sun boxes seem the most common.

Sun Box



Shadow Box



Cup: A rounded, semicircular indentation in a line, which precisely conforms to or "cups" a glyph element, usually a spiral, circle, or "shield". The result of a curving projecting gnomon, or a slightly curved shadow line projected on a curved panel surface, and augmented by the technique employed in pecking the glyph element. Common.

Sun Cup



Shadow Cup



Dagger: A wedge shape totally enclosed on all sides. Often the result of an arrow projected on a curved surface of a panel. Daggers may function like a knife passing through a point, or dagger tip may align with a glyph element. Sun daggers seem more common than shadow daggers.

Sun Dagger



Shadow Dagger



Edge Lighting: A technique in which one side of a glyph line on a panel roughly parallel to the path of the sun's rays is relieved at intervals, allowing the sun to strike the other side of the glyph line in a series of brightly lit beads. Often occurs on panels for which a usable gnomon is lacking on a key date.



Highlighting: Using the effect of the sun on a naturally ripple marked surface to emphasize a figure or element.

Highlighting

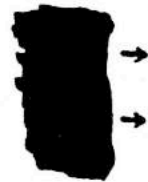


Line: A somewhat linear shape, often containing areas having features such as cups, nubbins, angles, boxes, etc. lines often connect two or more elements symbolically related to each other

Sun Line



Shadow Line



Mouth: A cup from which the line recedes on both sides, giving the impression of the silhouette of a fish head with mouth open. Functions like cup; also often "eats" glyphs without precisely cupping any element.

Sun Mouth



Shadow Mouth



Nubbin: A deep, narrow, rather test tube shaped protrusion of a line. Shadow nubbin gnomons are natural small pillar-like protrusions, or a gnomon can be culturally created by removal or rock, leaving a pillar or peninsula. sun nubbin gnomons are narrow, flat or round bottom notches.

Sun Nubbin



Shadow Nubbin



Patch: A random shape totally enclosed on all sides. Usually caused by light striking an irregular panel, rather than by light passing through a hole. Often used to highlight a specific, detached glyph element.

Sun Patch Shadow Patch



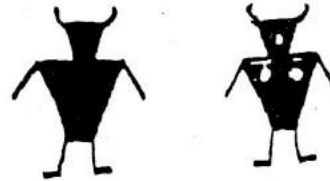
Shadow Figures: Natural zoomorphic or anthropomorphic shadow shapes, usually large in relation to glyph size, usually touching a glyph or a portion of the figure interacting with the glyph, but the figure itself not coinciding with figures on the panel. The ones at McKee and at least on other site happen on Equinox. Shadow figures identified to date include canine, feline, ursine, and female anthropomorphic shapes.

Shadow Figure



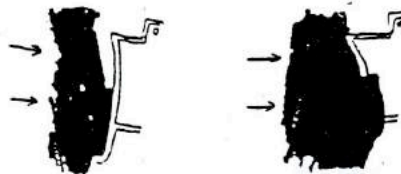
Sculpting: Technique in which the interior of a solidly pecked element or figure has been differentially pecked as to depth so that sun and shadow create the appearance of interior detail or features for the glyph on a key date.

Normal Appearance Appearance on Key Date

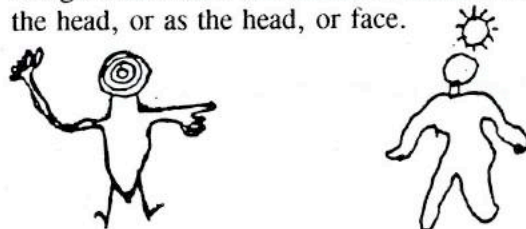


Stepped Line: A shadow line with a step or setback in it, one portion lining up with part of a glyph line, followed by the next, or stepped portion lining up with the remainder of the glyph line.

Stepped Line, phase one Stepped Line, phase two



A figure that has a sun above or attached to the head, or as the head, or face.



A glyph drawn or pecked over an older glyph.



Sunheaded Figure

Superimposition

Superposition

A figure placed above another figure but being a component part of the total meaning. The word "superposition" is often misused for the term "superimposition".

Supplicator (JW)

Figures with arms reaching out towards another figure or to the sun.



Symbol

Any depiction or drawing used in pictography to convey any type of meaning. One of the characters, combinations, incorporations, or units of pictography. To represent or treat something figuratively.

Symbol Diffusion

The expanding use of a symbol by others from its point of origin.

Symbol Extension

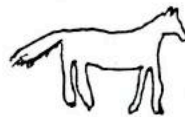
Additional and related meanings naturally derived from or suggested by the basic concept of a symbol. An extended symbol may not have meaning related to its original purpose.

Symbol Incorporation

Two or more basic symbols embodied in one symbol in such a way that features of both share common sections of the same symbol.

Symbol Suggestiveness

The resemblance of a symbol's shape to its meaning.



Horse



Corn

Symbolic Solar Interactions

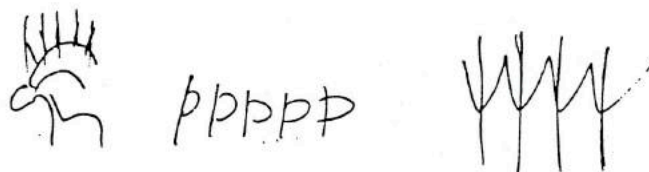
Any interaction that incorporates symbols into a calendric panel. Its main purpose is to say something beyond marking time, i.e. speaking with light; fertility symbol; double vision; etc.

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T

Tick Marker

A panel or element consisting of several matching or similar marks, usually connected, usually in a row or line, usually simple lines, dots, or triangles, on which successive marks achieve alignment on successive days or in succession on the same day. Tick markers are found as pre- and post- indicators for a date, but may also function concurrently with alignments on another panel. If the tick marker is actually a concurrent panel, it is likely that the panel with which it is aligned will reach culmination on a day when the alignments on the tick marker can pass through their entire sequence, rather than a portion of it.



Transformation

The belief in the ability to change one's shape in the shamanistic sense from human to non-human. To major areas where transformation are expressed are in man to animal and man to bird.



Twinkle Panel (CR)

These are panels drawn on the underside of an overhang or the roof of a cave. In most instances they consist of sunray symbols or figures that reach out toward the front of the cave or overhang.

U

Unique Repetitions

A distinctively shaped glyph that is found in two or more widely separated places. It is the kind of glyph that would not normally be invented independently in different areas.

Unit

A distinct symbol constituted in its make-up of both symbol combination and incorporation. A combination or incorporation of many symbols.

V

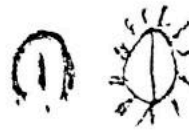
Vegimorph

A plant-like glyph.



Vulva

A representation or image of the female reproductive organ, worshiped as a symbol of fertility.





W

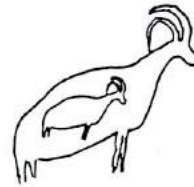
Wombed Anthropomorph (JW)

An anthropomorph in an enclosed area suggestive of a womb.



Wombed Zoomorph

An animal figure enclosed within the body of a larger animal suggestive of a pregnant animal.



The following is a list of the
 names of the persons who
 were present at the meeting.



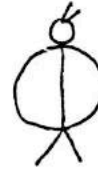
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X

X-Ray Figure

Figures shown with shields in front of them and their body showing through the shield, or with skeletal features showing within the outlined form.



It is not known whether the
first part of the text is
the same as the second part
of the text.

Y

Z

Zoomorphic

An animal form.





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