



Delicate Shaman Wayne County, UT 10-30-16

By Dave Manley

Located in an alcove and placed on a prepared surface, this 17cm figure is a tiny masterpiece. Having some experience working stone, I understand the delicate touch needed to create the undulating lines and small details. Someone was on their knees for hours, intently focused and with metered breathing to keep the tool steady. I really don't know what type of available material would have produced these fine lines, my best guess would be an obsidian or chert awl that was constantly sharpened. As I lay on my back

looking at this etched jewel, neck straining to hold my head up, I wondered, why here? There was nothing interesting or special about where this figure was placed in the alcove. You had to be in a very specific area to view the glyph but nothing about its placement spoke as to why this section of rock was selected over any other place in the alcove. These types of questions will never be sufficiently answered, only speculation to fuel discussion. After 10 minutes of fighting to hold my head up at the proper viewing angle, I retreated into the warm fall sun. How many people had visited this place and missed this little gem? Very easy to do if you're not looking intently, only the few square inches of abraded surface gave a clue to human presence. These simplistic, well rendered glyphs convey a tremendous amount of talent and determination possessed by the creator of this glyph. To prepare and execute this figure from start to finish took a few hours but it's endured over a thousand years. Who among us can claim to have created anything that will stand the test of time as this small, intense figure has?