



19 MAY, 2015 - 14:32 ANCIENT-ORIGINS

## New Evidence Ancient Chinese Explorers Landed in America Excites Experts

By Tara MacIsaac, Epoch Times

John A. Ruskamp Jr., Ed.D., reports that he has identified an outstanding, history-changing treasure hidden in plain sight. High above a walking path in Albuquerque's Petroglyph National Monument, Ruskamp spotted petroglyphs that struck him as unusual. After consulting with experts on Native American rock writing and ancient Chinese scripts to corroborate his analysis, he has concluded that the readable message preserved by these petroglyphs was likely inscribed by a group of Chinese explorers thousands of years ago.

On the fringe of archaeology have long been claims that the Chinese reached North America long before Europeans. With some renowned experts taking interest in Ruskamp's discovery, those claims may be working their way from the fringe to the core.

It doesn't mean our history textbooks will change tomorrow. Anything short of discovering an undisturbed early Asiatic relic or village in the Americas may fail to convince those archaeologists who have dogmatically rejected evidence of an ancient Chinese presence in the New World, said Ruskamp.

But, the disparate and widespread symbols he has found show many indications of authenticity. They have the potential to inspire a more serious investigation into early trans-Pacific interaction. To date, Ruskamp has identified over 82 petroglyphs matching unique ancient Chinese scripts not only at multiple sites in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but also nearby in Arizona, as well as in Utah, Nevada, California, Oklahoma, and Ontario. Collectively, he believes that most of these artifacts were created by an early Chinese exploratory expedition, although some appear to be

reproductions made by Native people for their own purposes.

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One of Ruskamp's staunchest supporters has been David N. Keightley, Ph.D., a MacArthur Foundation Genius Award recipient who is considered by many to be the leading analyst in America of early Chinese oracle-bone writings. Keightley has helped Ruskamp decipher the scripts he has identified. One ancient message, preserved by three Arizona cartouche petroglyphs, translates as: "Set apart (for) 10 years together; declaring (to) return, (the) journey completed, (to the) house of the Sun; (the) journey completed together." At the end of this text is an unidentified character that may be the author's signature.

  
Xún  
Image: Sears

  
Jiū  
Image: Sears

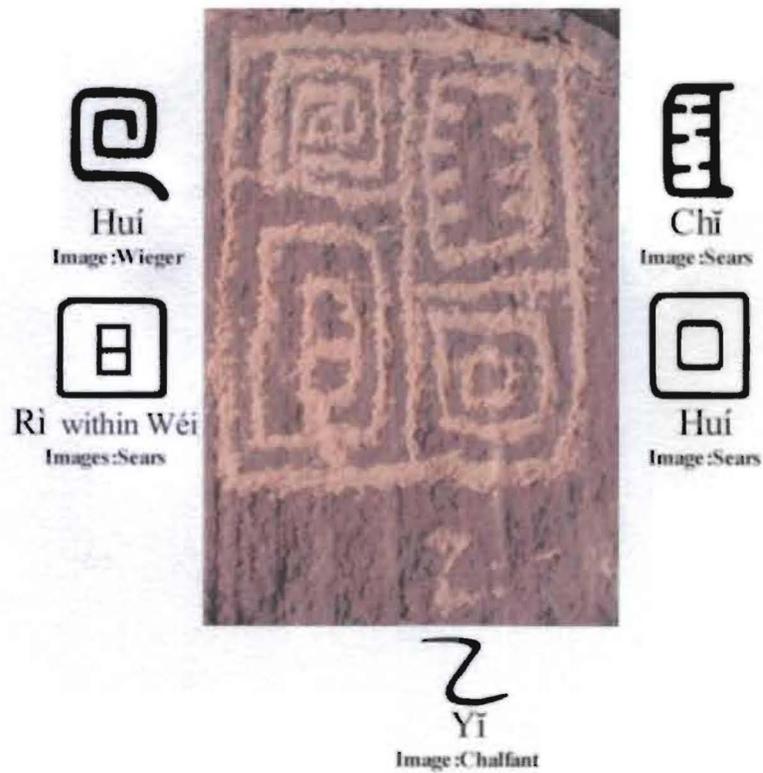


  
Yīn  
Image: Chalfant

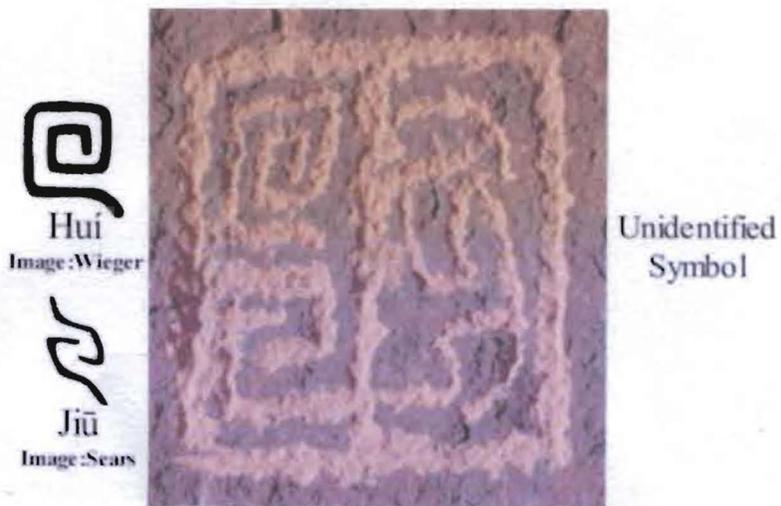
  
Jiū  
Image: Sears

  
Yī  
Image: Karlgren

*Cartouche 1, which reads "Set apart (for) 10 years together." (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)*



Cartouche 2, which reads, "Declaring (to) return, (the) journey completed, (to the) house of the Sun." (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)



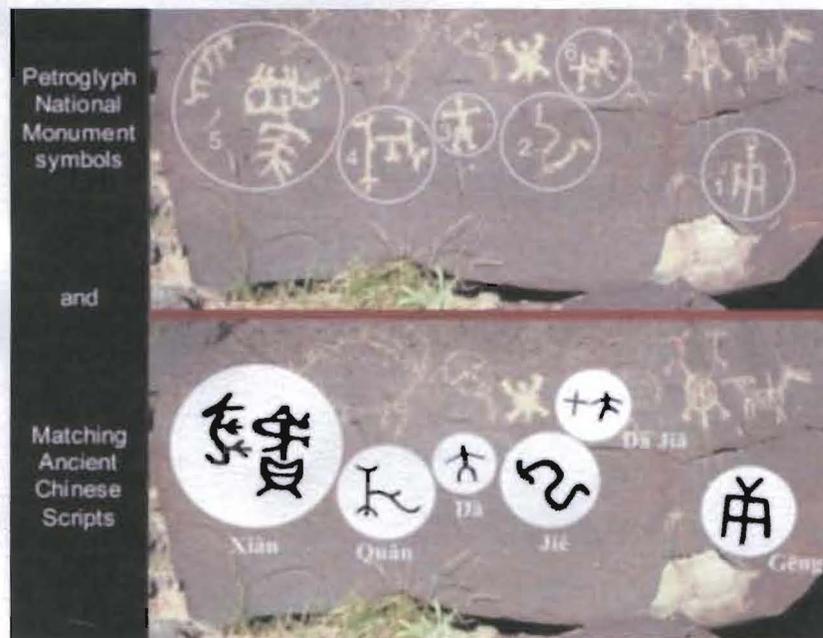
Cartouche 3, which reads, "(The) journey completed together." (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)



*The Arizona glyph site on what has always been, and still is, very private ranch property located miles from any public access or road. (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)*

The oracle-bone style of writing employed for creating a number of these ancient petroglyph scripts disappeared by royal decree from mankind's memory around 1046 B.C., following the fall of the Shang Dynasty. It remained an unknown and totally forgotten form of writing until it was rediscovered in A.D. 1899 at Anyang, China. Ruskamp thus concluded that the mixed styles of Chinese scripts found in these Arizona petroglyphs indicates that they were made during a transitional period of writing in China, not long after 1046 B.C.

Ruskamp gives the following translation for the Albuquerque petroglyphs: "Gēng (a date; the seventh Chinese Heavenly Stem); Jié (to kneel down in reverence); Da (great—referring to a superior); Quǎn (dog—the sacrificial animal); Xiàn (offering worship to deceased ancestors); and Dà Jiǎ (the name of the third king of the Shang dynasty)."



*Albuquerque petroglyphs (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)*

The Albuquerque petroglyphs use both Seal era and Bronze era Chinese scripts, suggesting they were also written during a transitional period in Chinese calligraphy, likely between 1046 B.C. and 475 B.C. The use of the title "Da" before the name "Jiǎ," suggests a date close to the end of the Shang Dynasty in 1046 B.C., as this appellation emerged during that time period and was replaced shortly thereafter.

	Modern after AD 220	Seal era 221 BC - AD 220	Bronze era 1050 - 221 BC	Oracle-bone 1700 - 1050 BC
Xiàn	獻	𩇑	𩇑	𩇑
Quǎn	犬	𩇑	𩇑	𩇑
Dà	大	大	大	大
Jiǎ	甲	甲	十	十
Gēng	庚	庚	𩇑	𩇑
Jiè	卩	卩	卩	Unknown

A comparison of scripts over time. (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)

Michael F. Medrano, Ph.D., chief of the Division of Resource Management for Petroglyph National Monument, studied the petroglyphs at that location upon Ruskamp's request. He said that, based on his more than 25 years of experience with local Native cultures, "These images do not readily appear to be associated with local tribal entities," and "based on repatination appear to have antiquity to them."

It is difficult to physically date petroglyphs with absolute certainty, notes Ruskamp. Yet the syntax and mix of Chinese scripts found at these two locations correspond to what experts would expect explorers from China to use some 2,500 years ago.

For example, the Arizona ranch petroglyphs are divided into three sections each enclosed in a square known as a cartouche. Two of the cartouches are numbered; one with the Chinese script for "one" placed beneath it and in a similar manner the second cartouche has the ancient Chinese script meaning "second" inscribed beneath it. Together these numeric figures indicate the order in which these images should be read. Importantly, the cartouches are thus shown to be read in the traditional Chinese manner, from right to left.

The first two cartouches are rotated 90 degrees to the left of vertical and the third is rotated 90 degrees to the right. "The deliberate rotation of these writings, both to the left and right of vertical by an equal number of degrees, endorses their authenticity, for the rotation of individual scripts by Chinese calligraphers is well-documented," wrote Ruskamp.

Some of the symbols found in the petroglyphs are common to both Chinese script and ancient Native American writing. For instance, "The Chinese petroglyph figure of Jiu conveys the idea of "togetherness," in much the same manner as the Nakwach symbol is now, and has been in the past, understood by the Hopi," wrote Ruskamp.



Left: Hopi Nakwach symbol. Right: Chinese petroglyph figure of Jiu. (Sears; Courtesy of John

Ruskamp)

Another similarity is the use of a rectilinear spiral to convey the concept of a "round-trip journey."



*A rectilinear spiral similarly used by the Chinese and the Hopi to convey the concept of a "round-trip journey." (Wieger; Courtesy of John Ruskamp)*

Though these similarities could be conceived as supporting a Native American origin for Ruskamp's petroglyphs, Ruskamp stated: "The extensive Chinese vocabulary evidenced at each location advocates against the authorship of the figures evaluated in this study being credited to Native Americans. None of the more complex Chinese figures identified in this report are known to have any Native tribal affiliation."

The conclusion of his paper titled "**Ancient Chinese Rock Writings Confirm Early Trans-Pacific Interaction**," reads: "In contrast to any previous historical uncertainty, the comparative evidence presented in this report, which is supported by both analytical evaluation and expert opinion, documenting the presence of readable sequences of old Chinese scripts located upon the rocks of North America, establishes that prior to the extinction of oracle-bone script from human memory, approximately 2,500 years ago, trans-Pacific exchanges of epigraphic intellectual property took place between Chinese and North American populations."

He published the paper on his website, [Asiaticechoes.org](http://Asiaticechoes.org), in April and it is currently under peer review. Last October, he began presenting his findings in speaking engagements, including most recently to the Association of American Geographers in Chicago. He will next present at a meeting of the Little Colorado River Chapter of the Arizona Archaeology Society in Springerville, Arizona, on May 18. The editors of the journal *Pre-Columbiana* have confirmed they will soon publish Ruskamp's article. The journal is edited by Professor Emeritus Stephen C. Jett, Ph.D., University of California–Davis, with the assistance of an editorial board of distinguished professional scholars, and is dedicated to exploring Pre-Columbian transoceanic contact.

A retired educator, statistician, and analytical chemist, Ruskamp pursued his study of petroglyphs as a hobby—little expecting to find what may lead to a great shift in how we view both American and Chinese history.

*Featured image: Arizona cartouche petroglyphs. (Courtesy of John Ruskamp)*

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