

ANCIENT CHINESE ROCK WRITINGS CONFIRM EARLY TRANS-PACIFIC INTERACTION

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Written in "Asiatic Echoes"

This paper documents and translates two sets of ancient, readable, and highly complex Chinese writings that were pecked into the rocks of Arizona and New Mexico approximately 2500 years ago. Here is the long sought and conclusive epigraphic evidence that Chinese explorers not only reached the Americas in pre-Columbian times, but that they interacted positively with Native populations, sharing both intellectual and cultural information.

Este trabajo documenta y traduce dos conjuntos de escritos chinos antiguos, legibles, y altamente complejos que fueron picoteados sobre rocas en Arizona y Nuevo México hace aproximadamente 2500 años. Aquí está la evidencia epigráfica largamente buscada y concluyente que exploradores chinos no solo llegaron a las Américas en la época precolombina, pero que interactuaron positivamente con las poblaciones nativas, intercambiando información cultural e intelectual.

The Written Record of an Ancient Chinese Offering

"John... You might perhaps, see the term Dà Jiǎ, A Shang ancestor!"

David N. Keightley, Ph.D.

In a remote region of Albuquerque's Petroglyph National Monument, high above a sandy trail frequented daily by joggers and dog walkers alike, is a very old and readable set of ancient Chinese script petroglyphs (Figures 1 and 2). Here, in public view, yet remaining unrecognized and miscategorized, are the ancient written Chinese symbols of: Xiàn (to offer in worship to the deceased ancestors); Quǎn (dog); Dà (great); Jié (to kneel down in reverence); Dà Jiǎ (the name of the third king of the Shang dynasty); and Gēng (the seventh Chinese Heavenly Stem).

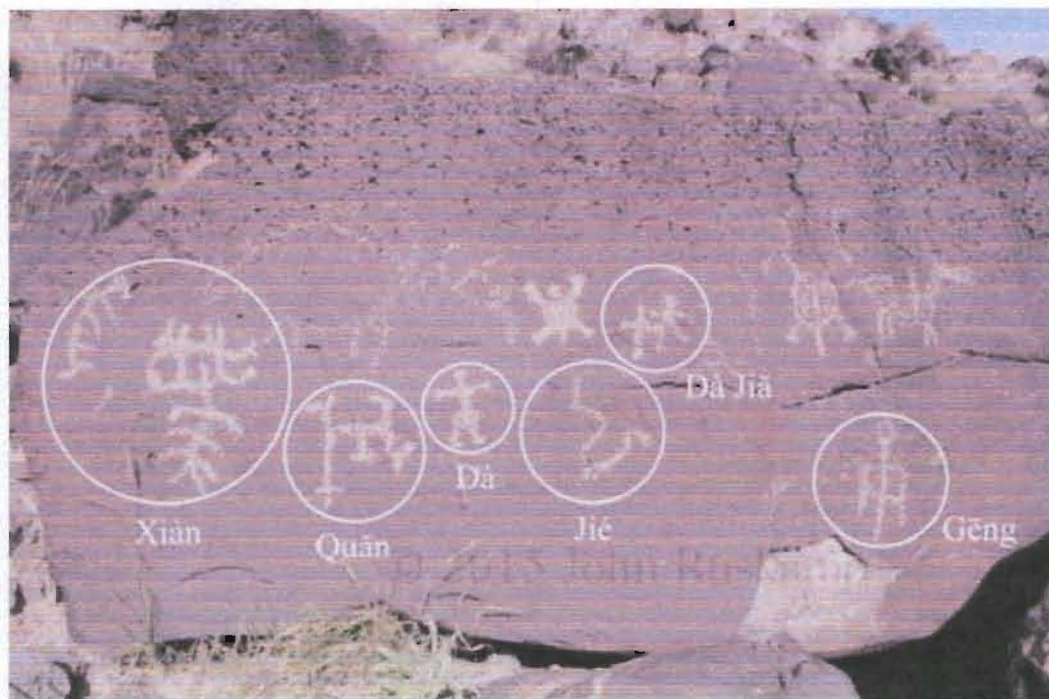


Figure 1. Ancient Chinese script petroglyphs in the Petroglyph National Monument



Figure 2. The boulder shown in Figure 1 with matching ancient Chinese pictograms inserted over their corresponding petroglyphs
 Images from: Chalfant, Fazzioli, and Sears

Independently, David N. Keightley, Ph.D., considered by many to be "the foremost analyst of oracle texts in the West" (Eno 2010:2), has confirmed that these petroglyphs have the form of Chinese scripts. In fact, Keightley was the first to recognize the name of the Shang king, Dà Jiǎ, upon this boulder, and communicated his insight with the following message: "John... You might perhaps, see the term Dà Jiǎ, A Shang ancestor!" (personal communication, May 11, 2013).

Additionally, Michael F. Medrano, Ph.D., Chief, Division of Resource Management for Petroglyph National Monument, personally evaluated the petroglyphs upon this boulder on November 13, 2013. With more than 25 years of experience working at the Monument with local Native cultures, upon viewing these figures, Medrano commented, "These images do not readily appear to be associated with local tribal entities," and "based on repatination appear to have antiquity to them."

The Recorded Message of the Pictogram-glyphs

Centrally located on this boulder, in the middle of a collection of discernable Chinese characters, is the serpentine Bronze era script figure Jié, meaning to kneel down in reverence toward a greater authority. The illustrated message of this symbol (Figure 3), an individual bowing towards a superior while holding aloft his half of an imperial seal (Wieger 1965:147 [1927]), may be understood as follows:



Drawing by Jennifer Mucha

Figure 3. A man kneeling before his superior holding his seal in his hand

The short vertical section atop this curvilinear drawing represents half of an imperial seal given to the man previously, as he displays it to his superior. From the bottom of this section, the line abruptly bends to the right, depicting the arm of this respectful individual. It then reverses direction and curves to the left forming the outline of the man's body,

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