

Hopi Watchtower Petroglyph: 'Battle in the border trees'

Stuart L. Harris, December 2011

The Hopi Watchtower at Desert View in Grand Canyon National Park exhibits a petroglyph retrieved from a nearby ruin with an inscription in Old European, drawn so that part of it resembles the Hump-backed Flute Player associated with Hopi culture. In perfect condition, the pecked inscription anchors the left balustrade of the stairway that ascends the watchtower.

The scribe describes the tragic slaughter of his family, with an enactment of the scene. It reads left to right, top to bottom, as does each composite character. A bow emphasizes killing, a man raises a weapon, two long wavy lines attack a heart, a figure falls to the right, and two figures lie bent and broken on the ground.

Translation

Old European: SO RA PU. MI LY NE, LY TU, KA I. PU-SE VI 10, RI RO.

Finnish: Soa rajan puut. Miehen lyöpi neiet, lyöpi tuoma, kaa'oi ihan. Puitse vien 10, rii'i rouhi.

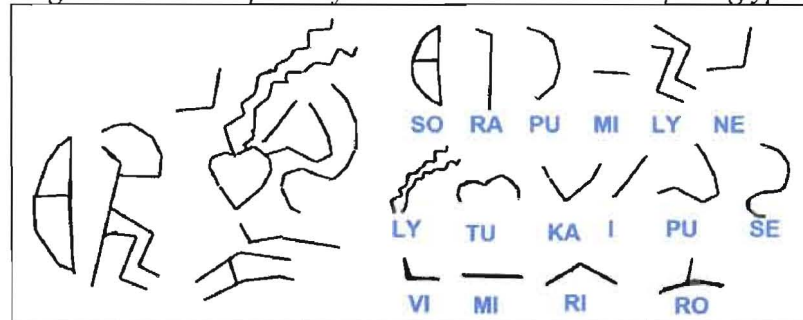
English: A battle in the border trees. A man struck the maidens, he struck the offspring, he killed all. Through the trees I carry 10, broken and smashed.

Image and Transcription

Figure 1: Image and inscription of the watchtower staircase petroglyph.



Figure 2: Transcription of the watchtower staircase petroglyph.



You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about these or any other inscriptions at PO Box 60281, Palo Alto, CA, 94306; Stuart.Harris -at- sbcglobal.net; 650-888-1859