

WADI MATHRNDUSH, FEZZAN, LIBYA 1967 - 1977 - 1997

Friedrich BERGER

On the basis of photographs taken at visits in 1967, 1977, and 1997, and taking into account the publication from the Frobenius expedition of 1932 (first published 1937, reprint 1963) changes at some petroglyphs in Wadi Mathrndush can be observed.

The changes include natural destruction by weathering (thermal/mechanical forces), chalking, and destruction by graffiti and shooting.

The Frobenius expedition recorded the most important petroglyphs in 1932 by tracing and, after enhancing the contours with chalk, by photographs. The chalk was not visible any more in 1967. In 1977, however, a number of petroglyphs was found chalked again. By 1997 the chalk had disappeared.

As an example, in Fig.1 a part had fallen off between 1932 (Frobenius, 1963:Tafel LVIII) and 1967.

Figure 2 shows a rhinoceros in 1967. In 1977, it had been chalked (Fig. 3).

Figure 4 demonstrates the traces of shooting.

In Fig. 5, an Arabic inscription has damaged some giraffes.

All photos by the author.

REFERENCES

Frobenius Leo, 1963., Ekade Ektab. Die Felsbilder Fezzans. Graz: Akademische Druck- und Verlagsanstalt.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

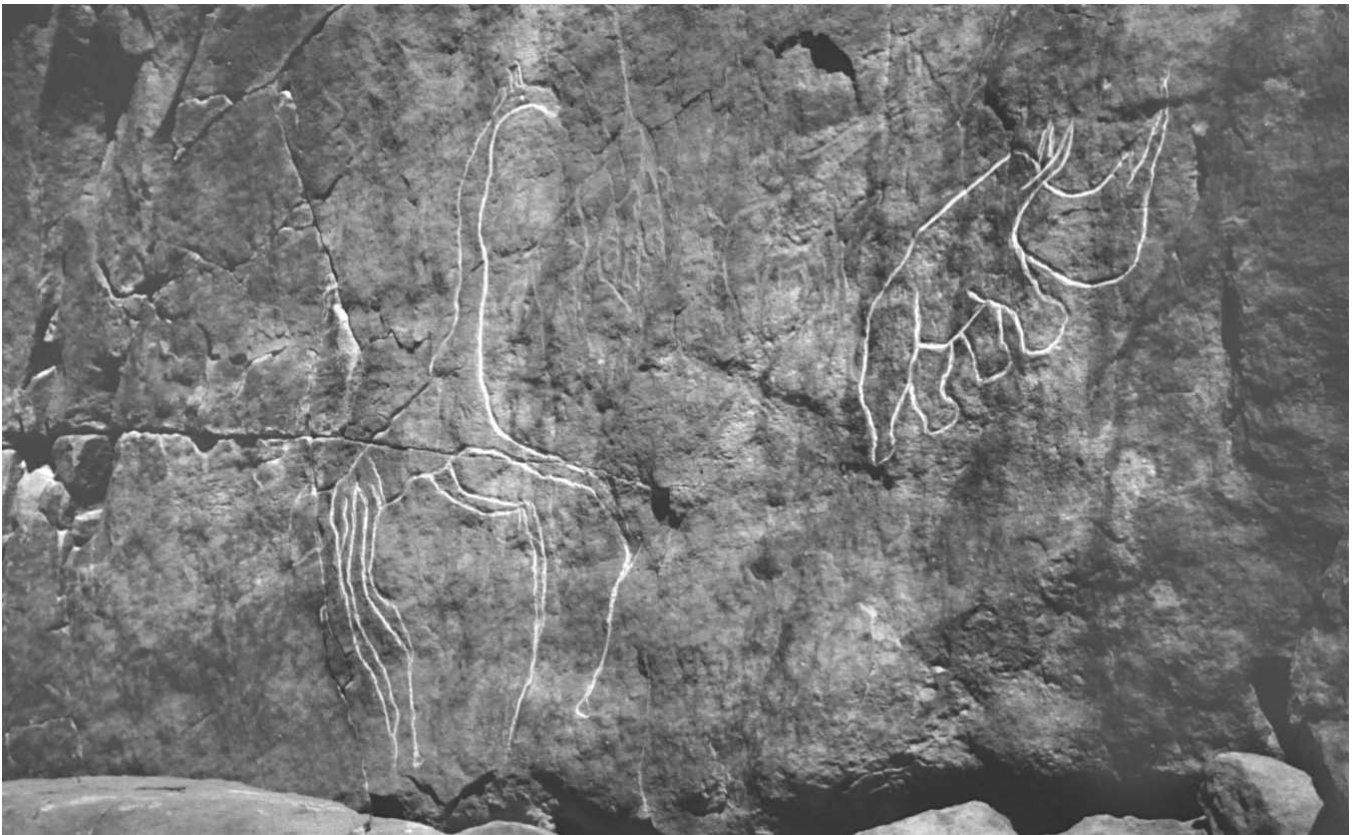


Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5