



JAN JELINEK

TILIZAHREN, THE KEY SITE OF FEZZANESE ROCK ART

PART I — TILIZAHREN WEST GALLERIES

ABSTRACT. — *In this first part of the Wadi Tilizahren report only the Tilizahren West Galleries (TW 1, TW 2 and TW 3) are described together with corresponding pictures. In the second part which will appear in the next issue of this journal there will be described the three galleries from Tilizahren East and the whole analyses, dating, styles and meaning of this early Saharan rock art will be discussed.*

KEY WORDS: *Tilizahren — Sahara — Rock Art — Neolithic.*

INTRODUCTION

Wadi Berdjush in Fezzan, east of Murzuk, is well known to the students of Saharan prehistory through its famous rock art galleries described in 1937 by Leo Frobenius. Later two Italian scholars studied the site again (P. Graziosi, 1942, A. Pesce, 1967). All three of them reached Wadi Tilizahren although their contact with the latter was very superficial and cursory. Wadi Tilizahren is situated further north-west of Wadi Berdjush and runs roughly in the south-north direction. The lower (southern) part of the wadi was visited by F. Barth, L. Frobenius, A. Pesce and P. Graziosi. Graziosi and Frobenius also published some notes on the rock art to be found in the northern part of the wadi.

Wadi Tilizahren is a fairly long wadi and is a tributary to Wadi Berdjush. It is difficult of access, the southern part — mostly deep and rocky — can be reached by foot only. The northern part can be reached from Mathrmdush through a rough stony desert. In the north Wadi Tilizahren bifurcates into the eastern and western branch. Both branches are called Tilizahren. For convenience's sake we call

them Tilizahren West (TW) and Tilizahren East (TE). Both branches are roughly north-to-south oriented.

Outside the wadi there is a barren desert of rough stones (hamada). Inside the wadi we can find some scarce Saharan grass and sporadically also a few acacia shrubs or low trees. The vegetation is situated usually at the rock art sites, due to the fact that these sites are always in the vicinity of the deepest prehistoric water pool, i.e. now near the ground water level.

The zoologist or hunter can find in these places traces of jackals, desert hares, gazelles or barbary sheep (uaddan) and the presence of a large number of desert rodents and insectivores proves that these places are far from being lifeless.

TILIZAHREN WEST

We set north out from the bifurcation, followed the western branch of the wadi and after 4 km we found a group of rock cliffs with engravings. We saw some dispersed engravings already during our advance but the first large concentration of rock art

is in this locality that we call Tilizahren West, Location 1 (TW 1). South of the gallery we found 6 sites with rock engravings but in this gallery (TW 1) we studied and recorded 28 places with a large number of engravings. After proceeding further 4 km to the north we found another group of rock cliffs facing west (Tilizahren West, Loc. 2.) on the eastern bank of the wadi. Here is another rich gallery with 17 places with many engraved figures. Four km up the wadi there is a further gallery comprising 24 places of engraved figures. This gallery is 300 m long, is facing west and is situated on the eastern bank. We call it Tilizahren West, Loc. 3.

Most Tilizahren rockfaces are oriented to the north or to west so that during most of the day they are in comfortable shade. They form one bank of the riverbed where a deep guelta was formed with a reasonable water reserve even during the dry season. The opposite bank, a flat river terrace was suitable for campsite.

Starting in the south of the western branch of the wadi (Fig. 1) we find four places with few engravings before reaching Locality 1.

The first place — TW 0 — faces exceptionally east. On a big rock at its base there is the engraved

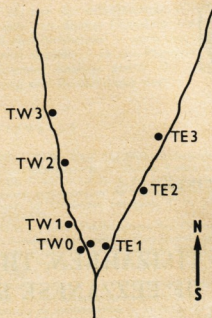


FIGURE 1. Schematic design of the upper part of Wadi Tilizahren with its six main galleries situated in the western and eastern branches.



FIGURE 2. Tilizahren West 0 (TW/0) locality with figures TW 0/3, 0/4 and 0/5.

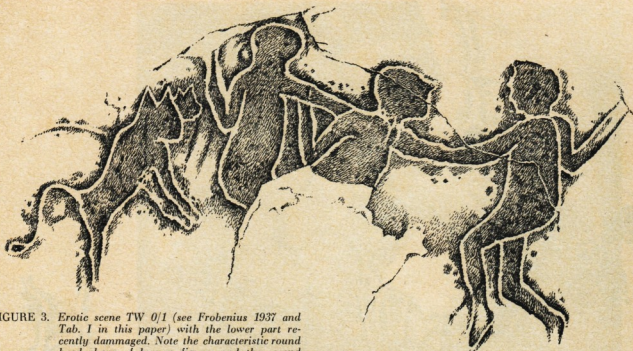


FIGURE 3. Erotic scene TW 0/1 (see Frobenius 1937 and Tab. I in this paper) with the lower part recently damaged. Note the characteristic round head shape of human figures and the second head of the animal which is a later addition. The size of the group is 100 cm.

scene TW 0/1 (Fig. 3, Tab. I). In a photograph and in a drawing by Frobenius (1937) we can see that in 1932 the engraving was still complete. This is not the case today. The right lower part of the rock with parts of the bodies of the human figures was broken off. This is the part of the design demonstrating a homosexual union and it is evident that the damaging was intentional, inflicted by man, and that it happened in the recent years. It is important that the picture is situated low near the riverbed and that the patina of the engraving is of the same colour as the natural rock face, i.e. it is black. The animal in the scene, judging according to its tail, body shape, head and pointed ears, is most probably a dog. The human figures have typical round heads. Erotic scenes in the bovidian style are not rare.

TW 0/2 (Fig. 4). Not far from this place there is a high rock face on the same cliff with several (6) engravings of different styles and ages. This rock face was also studied by Frobenius. The central figure is a 100 cm long beast, a large antelope. The head and the middle part of the body are ground. The light patina reveals that this picture is much younger than the previous one. Above the large antelope there is a simple and primitive ostrich figure pecked in a way characteristic of the post-neolithic horse period. Left of these figures we can see an interesting and rather sophisticated geometrical sign. It reminds of swastika and similar symbols. Lower on the wall we can find an ostrich and a human figure in superposition. Both are very geometrical and late, they come probably from the horse period. At the very bottom of the rockface there is another engraving, with similar horns as the principal figure. The execution of this picture

is much more primitive. All three figures are covered with a slight patina only. They are situated at the middle of the gallery's height.

A few hundred metres more to the north there are further rock cliffs on the right side (facing to west). Here the first picture TW 0/3 is a bovine, with horns in frontal view, the whole animal is in side view. Two distinct lines separate the front and hind parts of the body of an antelope. The picture is isolated, it is situated high in the gallery. It has only a light patina, which together with the mode and style of execution put this engraving into the horse period.

TW 0/4 (Fig. 5). Nearby there is a composite engraving of a bovine. The hind part of the body is strongly weathered and/or unfinished. Below we find the hind part of another bovine situated lower on the rock wall so that the back line of this lower animal forms at the same time the belly line of the upper animal. In this lower engraving only the back part has been conserved, the head and body are missing.

Next is another bull figure. Its patina is the same as that of the rock surface. Similarly as many other bull engravings this figure is in simple lateral view, its lyre-shaped horns are in frontal view and the head and neck are separated from the body by a collar line. Characteristic are two archaic style eyes. Above the animal there is a human figure looking as if riding the bull, it is probably a later addition. The execution of the figure is shabby. The riding of bulls is without doubt connected with process of their domestication and it frequently appears in the bovidian art of the Neolithic period (Tassili). The whole composition of these three cattle figures is 120 cm long.

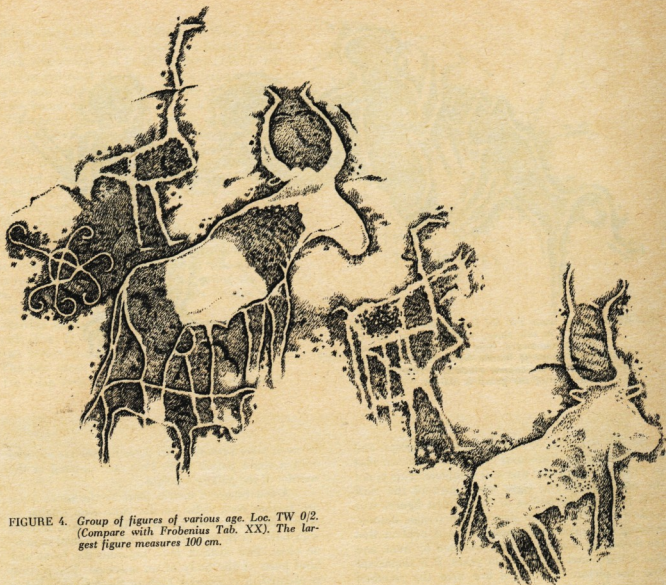


FIGURE 4. Group of figures of various age. Loc. TW 0/2.
(Compare with Frobenius Tab. XX). The largest figure measures 100 cm.

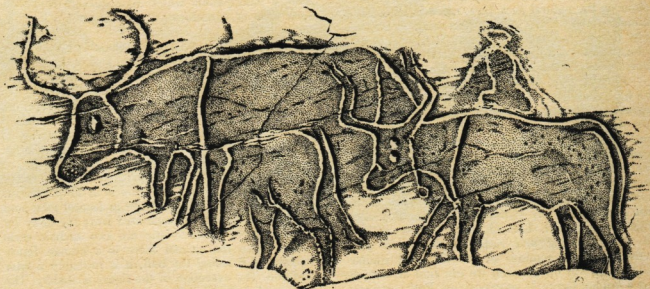


FIGURE 5. Cattle figures TW 0/4. Note the type of long horns accompanied by neck ornaments and archaic representation of eyes. The figure riding on the bull is later addition. The size of the group is 120 cm.



TABLE I. *Erotic scene (TW 0/1) recently damaged (compare with the Fig. 3).*



TABLE II. *Loc. TW 0/5. Two ostrich figures (left) and archaic circular sign (right). These figures are situated high on the rock. They are strongly weathered. The size of these three figures is 100 cm. Compare with the Fig. 6.*



TABLE III a. Two human figures (compare with Fig. 11). Note the oval signs and shorts-like costume in the first of them. TW 1/2.



TABLE III b. Detail of the two human figures (compare with Fig. 10). Note the horn-like head ornament and shorts with the larger figure and a circular sign in the raised hand of the smaller one. TW 1/2.

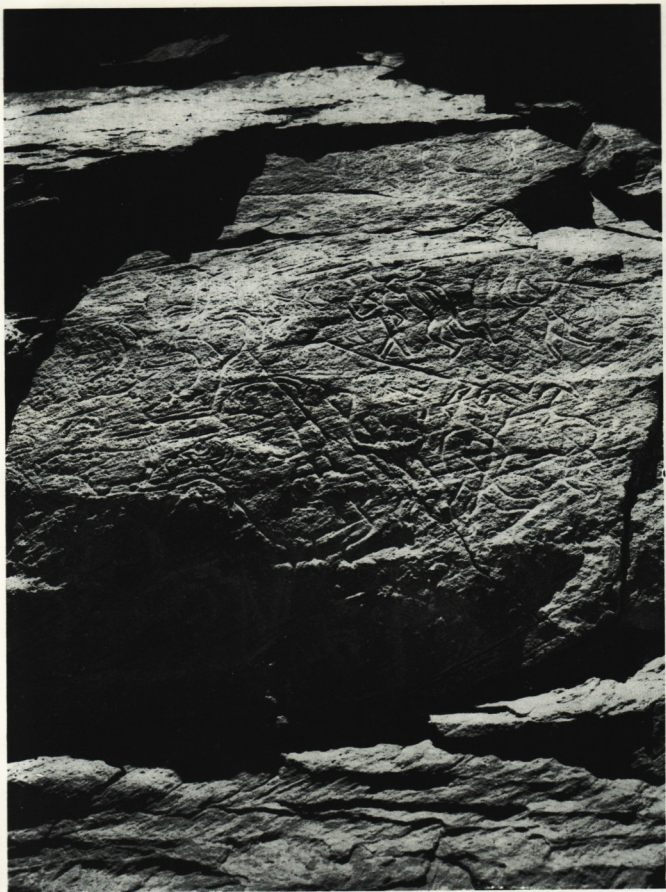


TABLE IV. TW 1/2. A whole group of bovidian cattle and human figures. Compare with the Fig. 12.



TABLE V. *A bubalus combat, TW 1/7. The size is 73 cm.*



TABLE VI. *A bull (TW 1/9) with an oval sign in front and two other — one with double outline — above the back line. All three oval signs are earlier than the bull which has a typical bovidian head with chignon and with deformed horns. The surface of the design is ground. The bull with the oval sign measures 91 cm.*



TABLE VII a. Cattle figures TW 1/23 in bovidian style. Note the long horns and the big bull with collar. (Compare with Fig. 17).



TABLE VII b. The front part of a frieze of bovidian cattle figures, note the characteristic composition, TW 1/22. (Compare with Fig. 21.)



TABLE VIII. An unfinished design of two lions (?) and of an archer. Note the costume reminiscent of shorts and the characteristic head shape with prominent nose. (Compare with the Fig. 24.)



TABLE IX a. Three bovidian archer figures in combat. Lower are four camels (camel period). TW 2/3.

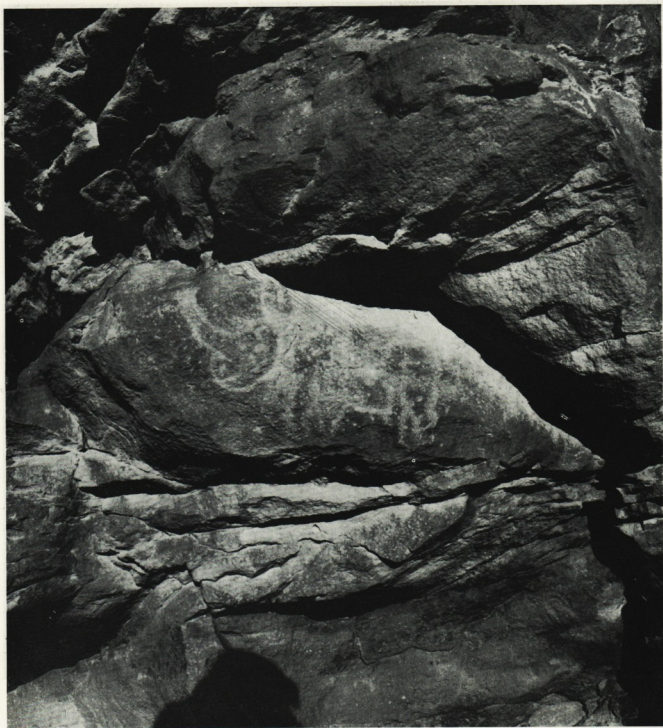


TABLE IX b. *A rhino figure 57 cm long with two pecked eyes. TW 2/4.*



TABLE X. 185 cm high group of three giraffes. Archaic decorative style. Unfinished. TW 2/10.



TABLE XI.
The situation of an antelope figure (right) (Fig. 35) of three ostriches (middle) (Fig. 34) and of a destroyed figure (left). It has been destroyed by Tuaregs for some moralistic reasons (possibly an erotic design). The broken rock bears a Tifinag inscription. TW 2/14.

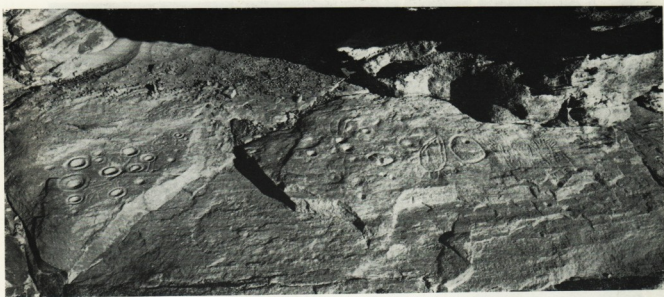


TABLE XII. *The disposition of signs and pits in front of the cave in TW 2/16. On the left there is a group of small pits with simple or double rim. Right is a group of signs.*



TABLE XIII a. *A puzzling design and a rhino in archaic decorative style. TW 3/2. In this view only the head of the rhino figure is visible. The first figure is 64 cm large.*

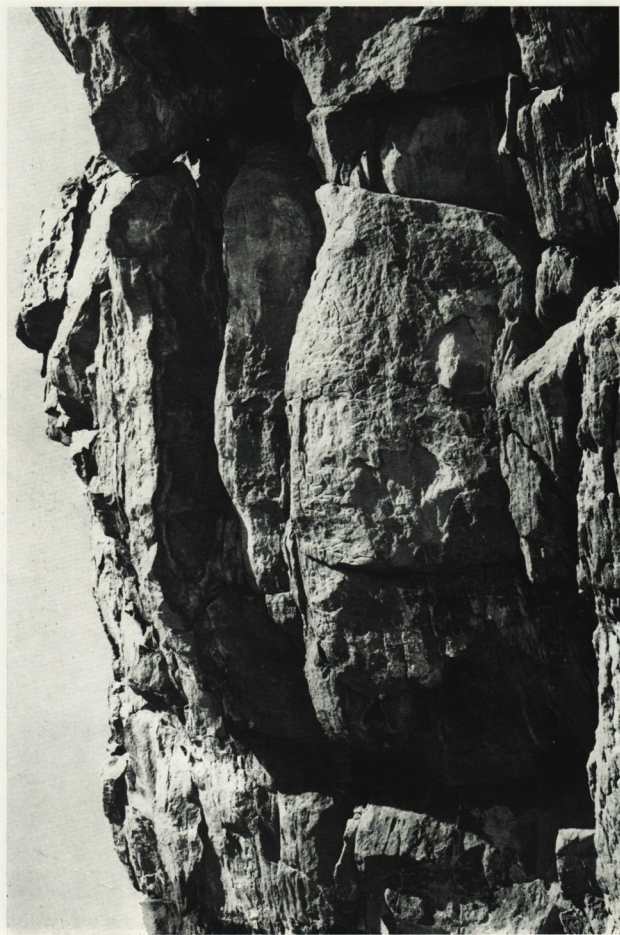


TABLE XIII.b. A damaged group of men carrying loads on their heads (stick figures approx. 35 cm high). In the middle of the frieze the rock has been broken off recently. TN 3/6.

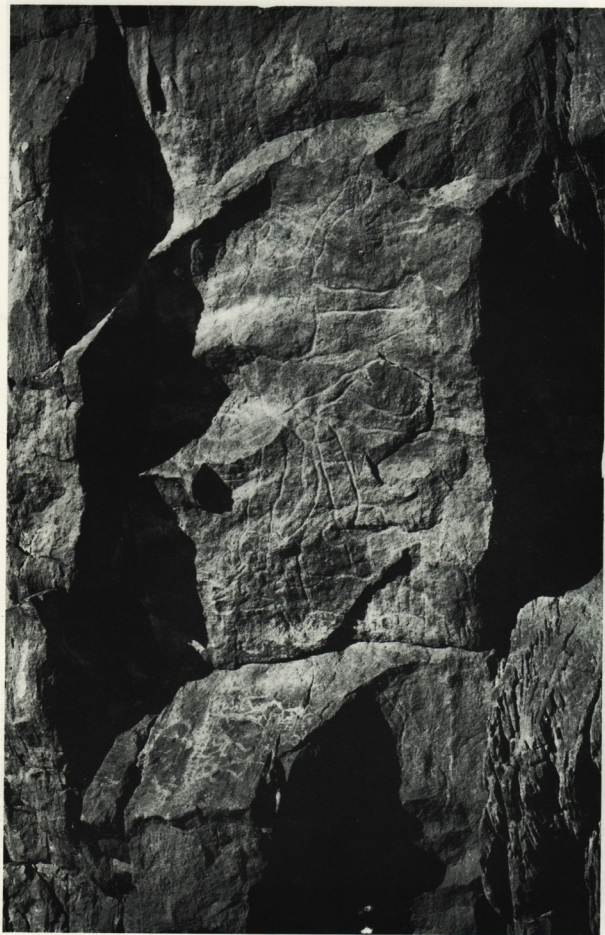


TABLE XIV.

A group of figures in erotic scene. A jackal man figure with erected phallus is approaching an elephant from behind. Another human figure (with bovidian characters; long elegant figure, cicadae sign) moches (also with erected penis) against the jackal man. The whole group measures 112 cm. TW. 37. Compare with the Fig. 49.



TABLE XV.
The northern rock face (TW. 3/12) with various figures: the large bull (size 85 cm) has pecked and ground back and head. Lower on the rock face are two human figures (unfinished) and one small (the head is ground). Behind the latter there are two human figures (archers). Low on the rock face there are two more outch figures and seven jacks (?). Compare with Fig. 55.



TABLE XVI.
An important hunting scene with a bull and two archers. The archer situated behind the bull has a characteristic apron which we can find also in Mathrudash (Jelincik, 1984a, Fig. 39, 37, 57a). This archer covers the older donkey and some other figures. We can recognize three ostrich figures. One above the bull's head, the second covered by the left foreleg of the bull and the third over the body of the bull. The third figure is definitely later (horse period) and the second is earlier than the bull. TW 3/14. Compare with the Fig. 56.

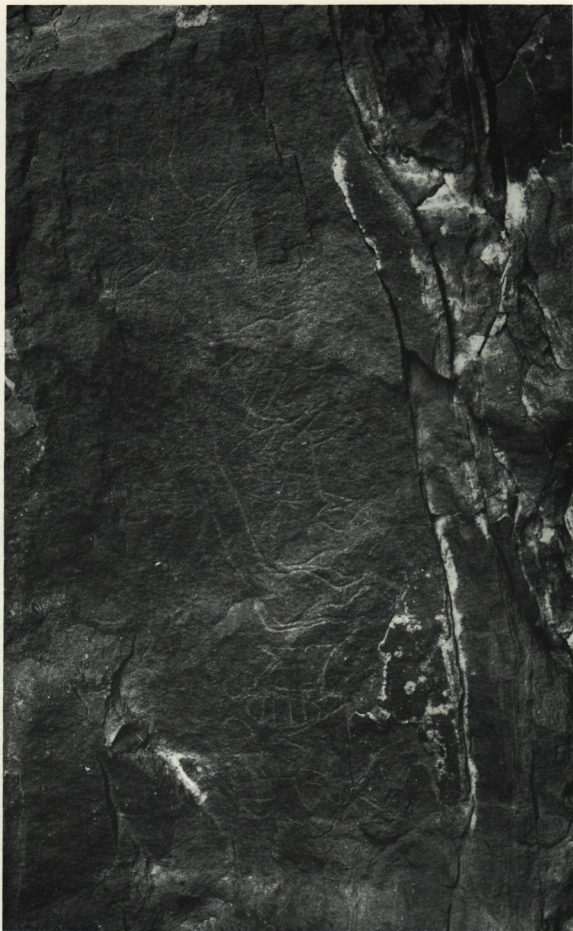


TABLE XVII.

A group of cattle with three human figures. The first human figure is in the middle of the group with the backlines of the cattle going over it. We can recognize three cattle figures with long horns. It seems that there were more of them in this highly weathered design. Two human figures follow the cattle, the first with a stick in hand and with a load on its back, the second with a load on its head and with a stick in his hand. Characteristic are their round heads (bovidum). The second figure has a beard. The figure with a load on its back is 27 cm high. TW 3/18.

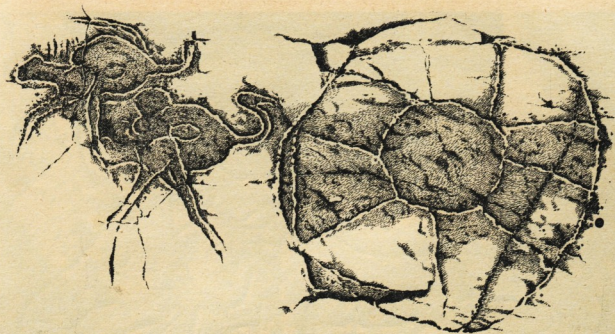


FIGURE 6. Two archaic ostriches and a circular sign, all strongly weathered. The group measures 100 cm. Loc. TW 0/5. Compare Tab. II.

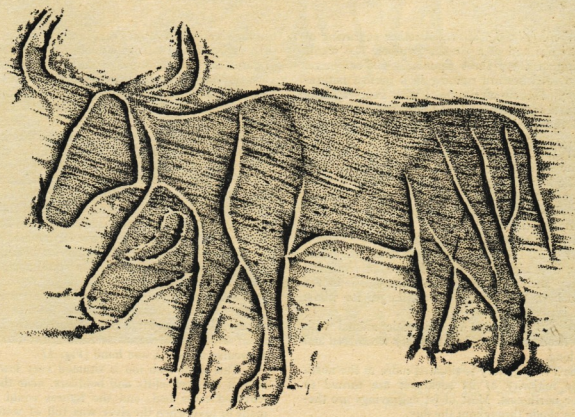


FIGURE 7. Two weathered cattle figures. The second is represented by the head only. Note the long horns and double collar-line in the first figure. Bovidian style. Loc. TW 0/6.

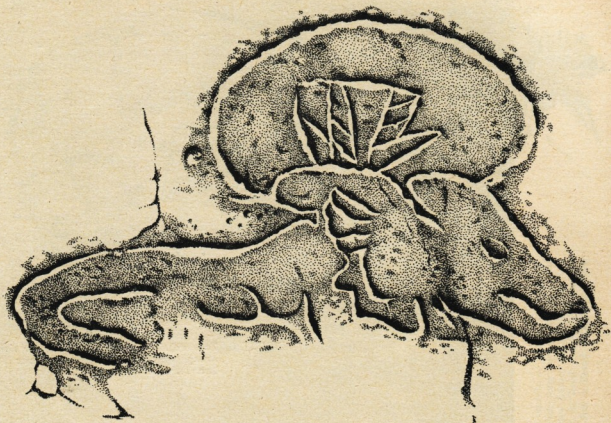


FIGURE 8. Enigmatic animal figure. Loc. TW 0/8.

TW 0/5 (Fig. 6, Tab. II). Another engraving of two ostriches and of a circular symbol. The whole engraving of these three figures is 100 cm large. The two ostriches are running in a perfect naturalistic way. The circular symbol with another circle and several segments inside is a very ancient symbol, one of the earliest types of engravings found in Fezzan.

TW 0/6 (Fig. 7). There is a large figure of a bovine — measuring 54 cm — high in the rock cliff. The head is separated from the body by two lines (possibly a collar). The horns are represented in frontal view, the rest of the picture is in lateral view. Below the head there is another one with a short horn curved down and forward.

TW 0/7. Further to the north, on the same cliff we find higher in the rock face an oval sign with very ancient patina of the same colour as the rock surface. The sign is 92 cm large. Its whole surface is pecked.

TW 0/8 (Fig. 8). An enigmatic animal with a large head ornament. It is strongly weathered and 26 cm long.

The TW 1 gallery is situated more to the north and the majority of its rockfaces are turned to north or north-east. Most of its engravings are therefore in shade throughout the day.

TW 1/1. It starts with a group of engraved human figures situated on a very low nearly horizontal rockface (Fig. 10). The engraving could not be made when there was high and permanent water

in the riverbed. It proves that in the Neolithic period the desiccation of Sahara was already advanced. The figures, all with the same patina as the rock surface, are tiny and some of them are round-headed. They are at least ten in number, some with evidently erotic meaning. The biggest of the figures (42 cm high) holds a double circle sign or object in one hand and a stick in the other. Around his waist we can see a belt holding his short skirt-like characteristic dress (Fig. 9).

TW 1/2. Several metres aside we find another big oblique stone slab with a large number of human figures (at least ten) engraved on it, all of them with the same patina as the rock surface. At the centre of the rockface there is an engraved bovine, in front of its head there are other two bovine heads, a composition frequently seen in the well-known Tassili bovidian paintings. The picture is engraved in lateral view, the body, the head and the forward curved horns as well (Tab. IIIa). Some human figures, usually 20—25 cm large have round heads, some of them with animal horns as head-dress. Some hold a circular object in one hand (Fig. 11).

This stone slab too is situated very low at the foot of the rock cliffs and boulders, near the sand-covered river bed, and the figures could not be made or used when the river was full of water. The main bull figure is 100 cm long (Fig. 12, Tab. IV).

TW 1/3 (Fig. 13). Advancing further up the wadi we come across a carelessly made engraving of three human figures and of a bull. The engraving

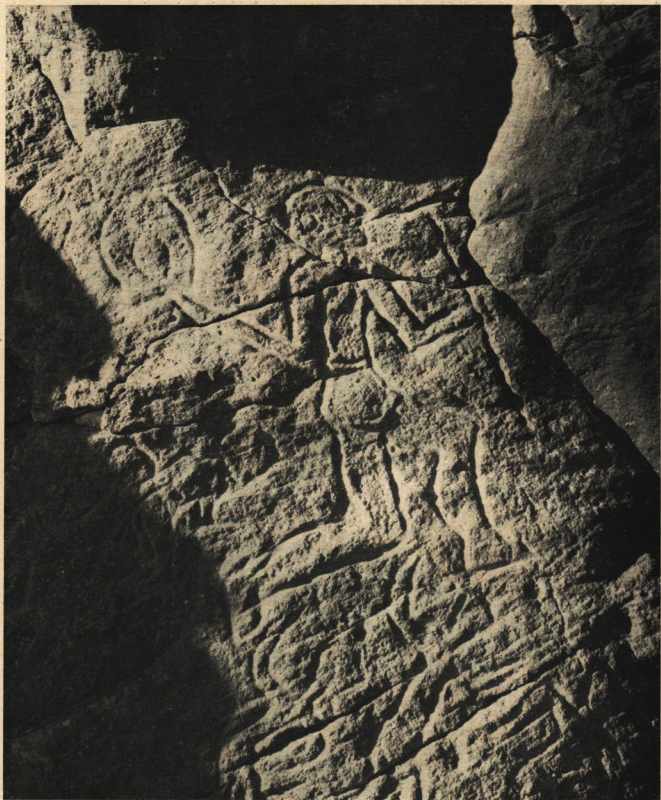


FIGURE 9. TW 1/1. A well designed bovidian figure with a stick and double oval. Note the prominent nose and chin and a short skirt or shorts. The figure is 42 cm high. Compare Fig. 10.

has not been finished, the individual figures are only slightly pre-pecked. It is a preliminary design to a not finished rock carving. This picture too is situated at the base of the rock gallery. All three persons have bows in one hand and the picture seems to represent a hunting story. The figures are roughly of the same size as in engraving TW 1/2 and they have round heads. The bull measuring 69 cm in length is pictured in lateral view, with a trap on its hind-leg and its head turned to the onlooker. It is interesting that there is nearly no patina here and the traces of pecking of the picture

seem to be fresh. This makes us to focus on the value of the degree of the patina when considering the age of the engravings. In our experience although it is true that the oldest engravings have very strong patina, often of the same degree as the rock face, and that engravings lacking patina are usually recent, the fact remains that the position of the engraving, the degree of protection against weathering can influence heavily the formation of patina.

TW 1/4. Few metres higher in the rocks we can see part of a fine engraving of two bull heads. The



FIGURE 10. A bovidian-style group of human figures. The biggest is 42 cm high. Loc. TW 1/1. Note the circular head in some of them. The uppermost figure is a male figure in erotic position. All the small figures have bare hands. Compare Fig. 9.



FIGURE 11. TW 1/2. Two small human figures with head ornaments and with characteristic double oval signs. The first one wears characteristic shorts (Compare with Tab. III a).

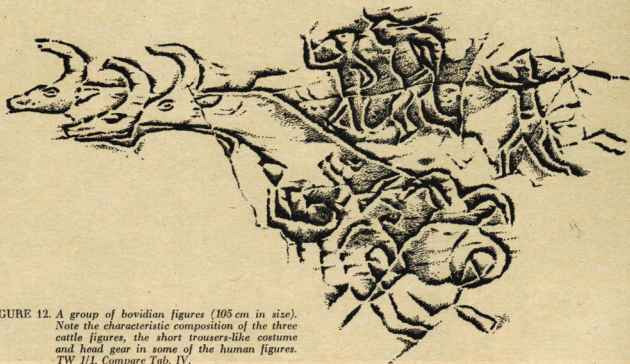
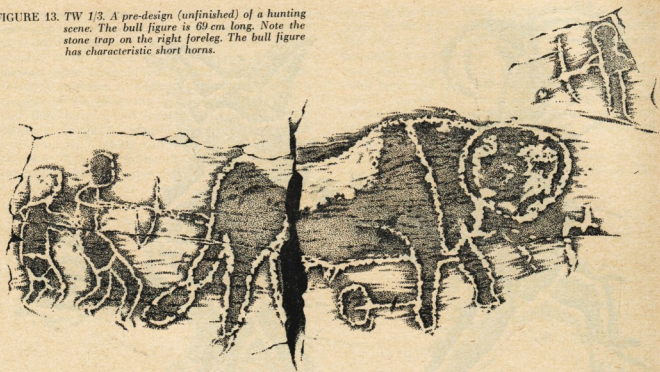


FIGURE 12. A group of bovidian figures (105 cm in size). Note the characteristic composition of the three cattle figures, the short trousers-like costume and head gear in some of the human figures. TW 1/1. Compare Tab. IV.

FIGURE 13. TW 1/3. A pre-design (unfinished) of a hunting scene. The bull figure is 69 cm long. Note the stone trap on the right foreleg. The bull figure has characteristic short horns.



upper one represents the front part of an animal with a complex sign or structure between its frontally situated horns. In front of its forelegs there is another bovine head with its horns in lateral view. The rear part of the first animal is missing as the rock has broken off at that place. The patina of the engraving is similar to that of the natural rock surface. The two engraved animals are 90 cm high.

TW 1/5 (Fig. 14). Medium-high in the rocks we find a slightly pecked bubalus picture covered by slight patina. The bubalus picture turned to north seems to be well protected against the adversities of the weather. The animal is 65 cm long. The pecking is unfinished, starting the relief of the head and horns, typical of the decorative style.

TW 1/6. In the very vicinity of the above-mentioned bubalus engraving there are three animal figures. Most important of them is a 37 cm long fine donkey engraving, with its body in characteristic position and the head with well represented mane.

In front of the above-mentioned donkey engraving there is another donkey, but it is not so clear and perfect, and the third figure, an African buffalo, is uncompleted. Its hind part has not been preserved.

TW 1/7 (Tab. V). A wonderful fighting scene of two bubaluses. The patina of this engraving is the same as that of the rock surface. The picture is situated 2 m above the sand of the wadi on an oblique rock face. The rock in the vicinity of the horns is pecked in such a way that the horns form a relief. The whole picture is 73 cm large. Parallels to the picture of the fighting bulls can be found in few other north African (Algerian) sites. The interesting thing is that on the front of both beasts we can see a small asterisks. The horns of both animals are crossed.

TW 1/8 (Fig. 15). Next to the previous engraving we can see on the horizontal rock face a fine 70 cm long engraving of a bull with unusually long horns in lateral view. Above the horns there is engraved



FIGURE 14. An unfinished bubalus figure. The cutting and pecking method of a relief is well visible. Two forelegs and two hindlegs are represented. TW 1/5.

FIGURE 15. A bull with extremely long horns. Note the oval sign covered by the horns. The figure is of bovidian style, partly ground. TW 1/8.



FIGURE 16. A group of archers and a donkey head. TW 1/11. The middle figure is 22 cm high.

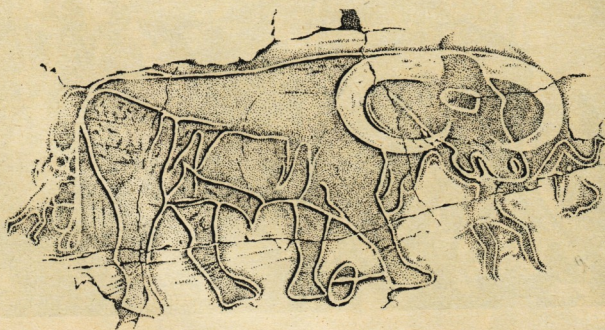


FIGURE 17. A 192 cm long group of bull with three human figures. (The second one is later addition). The bull has short type of curved horns. Its leg is in a trap showing that this is a trapped wild animal. One human figure touches its tail. Another is in front of the bull turned with its back to him. The third figure is designed so that its head is simultaneously the mouth of the bull. TW 1/10.

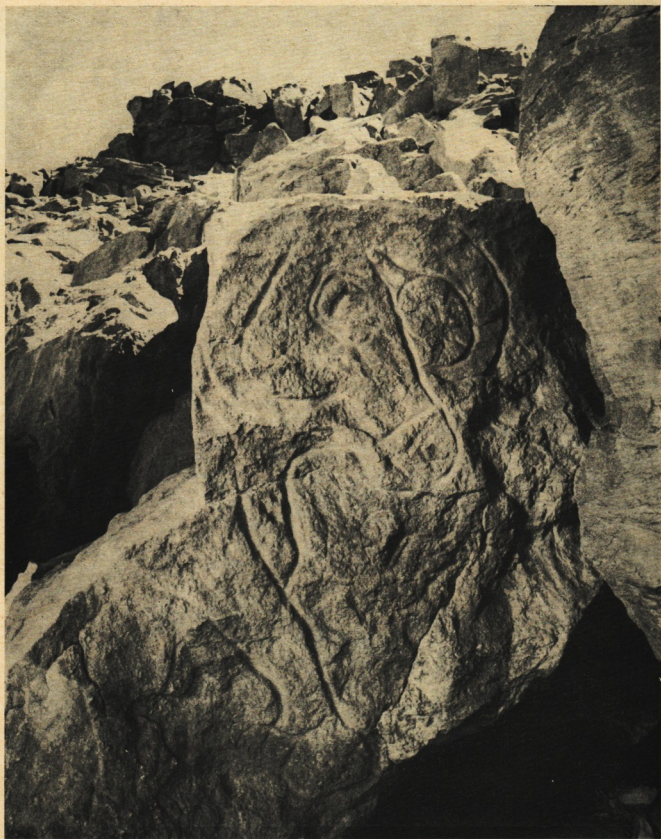


FIGURE 18. Part of the bull figure TW 1/17. Note the way how the eye is represented, the short type of horns and three small pits on the chest. The height is 126 cm.

the upper half of an oval sign respected by the horns of the bull. This means that the sign was engraved earlier than the bull. In front of the bull there is another oval sign — a complete one. The bull and both oval signs have the same patina as the rock face. In the vicinity of the engraving there are some other very old and heavily weathered engraved lines and some oval signs — some of them isolated, the others two-and-two together. Their patina differs greatly, indicating that they are of different ages.

TW 1/9 (Table VI). Middle high in the rock cliff there is a 91 cm long engraving of a bull with its horns curved down, represented in lateral view. In front of the bull there is an oval sign earlier than the bull figure which was pecked and ground. The engraved lines are deep and their patina is of middling hue. Above the back line of the animal there are the remains of two earlier oval signs.

TW 1/10 (Fig. 17). It is a 192 cm large engraving of a deeply engraved buffalo surrounded by three human figures. The buffalo has a pecked and ground back part and horns. There is an oval object, a trap, attached to one of its forelegs. The human figure behind the animal holds its tail. It has a circular symbol on the head. The head and raised arms of one of the human figures in front of the animal form at the same time the muzzle of the buffalo. The third human figure is less clear, it is in lateral view and is holding a stick, presumably an arc (bow). The second human figure was made later than the buffalo as secondary addition.

TW 1/11 (Fig. 16). On the upper part of the same rockface but inclined in a different direction there is another group of figures. Two men hold one

stick (exchange of a gift?). The third figure is probably a donkey very badly conserved. Then follows an animal figure, most probably a wild donkey (big head and long ears).

TW 1/12. At the same height of the following rock face there is a group of small (20–30 cm high) human figures. Several of them are holding bows. The whole group of engravings measures 69 cm.

TW 1/13. The next engraving is 24 cm high and 26 cm wide, it is a human figure (a bowman) and an animal. Perhaps it is the picture of a hare (long ears, small body size). The engraving has the same patina as the rock-face.

TW 1/14. Lower on the rock there is an animal figure with five human figures. The uppermost one is a bowman, the lowermost two figures have outstretched legs and have erotic meaning. The scene is 68 cm high.

TW 1/15. At the same height we can see three human figures on the following rock face. The first one is the biggest among them, 112 cm high. It is an unique picture, with all details of the head, with a sharp narrow nose and with a beard. The head is covered with a cap, head-dress or with an ornament inclined forward (compare Fig. 34 Mathrndush, Jelinek, 1984a). The figure holds a bow in one hand. Down behind the figure there is an engraved sign of unknown meaning. The following human figure is smaller (51 cm high), with a round head and with a special hairdress. One hand of this figure is stretched forward, the other is raised. The broad belt girding the figure is well visible. The third human figure is the smallest (34 cm high). It is dashing forward, with both hands raised and holding a circular object in one of them. All these figures and

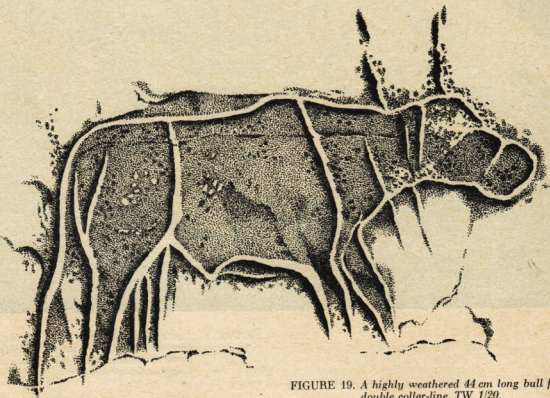


FIGURE 19. A highly weathered 44 cm long bull figure with double collar-line. TW 1/20.

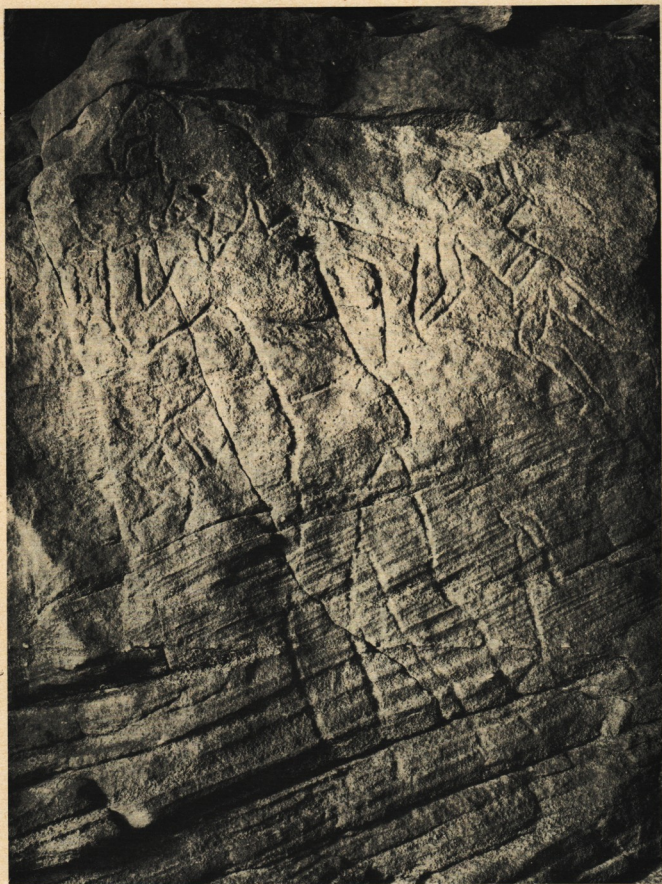


FIGURE 20. A 112 cm high figure of a man with prominent nose and beard and with a characteristic head-dress. TW 1/15.

the rockface have the same degree of patina. If the patina signals here the same age of the three figures then the small round head figure (bovidian style) is contemporary with the big, clumsy non-negroid figure. Furthermore the big clumsy figure is executed in simple outlines and has clear non-negroid features. Other possible explanation of the engraving of three different figures is that the patina is not a reliable clue for determining the age of the engravings. In spite of showing the same degree of patina the three figures can be of different age. The author prefers the first solution. (Fig. 20.)

Between engravings No. 15 and No. 16 there are three simply engraved dashing human stick figures, each of them carrying a stick- or bow-like implement. The interesting thing is that they have some ornament, probably a feather, on their characteristic heads. The three figures are 50 cm broad and the first of them is 31 cm high. They are in a definitely different style than other engraved figures in this gallery.

TW 1/16. Down at the base of the rocks in a boulder fallen from above, i.e. in a secondary position and difficult of access, there is an engraving of a bull measuring 52 cm in length and covered with archaic patina. The horns of the bull are represented in frontal view and are connected with a slightly pecked transversal line. It is obvious that the engraving was made when the boulder was in a different position.

TW 1/17 (Fig. 18). In a similar position, on a large separated block we can see part of a large engraving of a bull. Only its head and one leg have been fully preserved. The horns are curved down and ground. The eye is made in detail, in relief. The muzzle of the bull is separated by a double line. Below its head on the breast there are three small hollowed cups of unknown meaning. The front leg, engraved in detail and in a perfect way is stretched forward. The engraved lines are deep, with medium-old patina. The rock with this part of the engraving was originally in a different place. It has broken-off and fallen down. The picture is 126 cm high.

TW 1/18. It is an isolated circular sign situated low in the gallery. As usual, there are two concentric circles with the space in-between divided into seven segments. The diameter of the outer circle is 52 cm. At the centre there are poorly visible remains of some very old engraving. The question is whether this engraving was only imperfectly executed and is contemporary with the circular symbol, or whether it is older, additionally circumscribed with the circular symbol. The second case seems to be more plausible, as we can see also other poorly visible engraved lines nearby.

TW 1/19. At medium height of the gallery is a perfect engraving of a wild bull, measuring 60 cm only. Its down-curved horns are deeply engraved so that they form a slight relief. The patina is of average degree.

TW 1/20 (Fig. 19). Lower on the same rock wall there is an engraved figure of a 44 cm long bull. As in many other engravings the prolonged lines of the hind- and forelegs divides the body into

segments. The head too is separated by two collar (?) lines.

TW 1/21. The highest engraving on the same rock wall is a giraffe. Its head is too high and thus it was impossible to engrave it properly. The neck, body and legs are well-made and the tail forms a slight relief. Parallelly with the neck we can see another neck of an unfinished giraffe. The second figure has no head and no body. Only its perfectly engraved legs have been preserved. Their width is 64 cm.

TW 1/22 (Fig. 21, Tab. VII b). The next group of engravings is somewhat lower, medium high in the gallery on a big boulder under an overhanging rock. On its outer face we can see a group of cattle heads. Some are hornless, some have forward curved strong horns, only one has normal back-curved horns. The composition is the same as in the bovidian paintings known from Tassili. The whole cattle herd is 62 cm long and 58 cm high.

TW 1/23 (Tab. VII a). This is an engraving of two bulls adjoining the previous engraving on the same rock. The horns of the upper bull are in lateral view. On its neck there is a halter strap. The horns are asymmetric — this feature is regarded as a character of domestication. The horns of the lower bull are in frontal view, and both eyes are represented, side by side. This is the usual way in the archaic style. The head of the animal is separated by two lines and in the body (on the vertical rock face) we find two hollowed cups. The whole engraving measures 90 cm. The two bull figures seem to be of the same age. If this is so than the rope round the neck and the asymmetric horns in the upper bull, as well as the archaic style of the eyes in the lower bull are especially important. Next to the horns of these two bulls we can see some other horns of other figures of the herd.

TW 1/24 (Fig. 22). On the same rock, on the side facing the rockface of the overhang there is an engraving of an ostrich superimposed over an older engraving of a cattle figure. Superimposed over the cattle figure and most probably contemporary of the ostrich is also a small human figure, a Bowman wearing a horned animal mask. The ostrich engraving is 63 cm high and all three figures measure 52 cm together. Their patina is of mean degree.

TW 1/25 (Fig. 23). An unique engraving of three donkeys. The picture measuring 86 cm in length comprises a donkey (head, neck and body without legs), the head of another donkey and the very long ears and the head of the third donkey. These engravings show mean patina, they are perfectly executed, with fine details of the heads showing that the prehistoric artist was an excellent observer.

TW 1/26. Low at the foot of the cliff there is another rock fallen from some higher place. On its oblique face we can see the engravings of four human figures forming a 70 cm long scene. Some of the figures have their buttocks characteristically exposed, evidently having some erotic meaning. Unfortunately the picture is heavily weathered. It has roughly the same patina as the rockface.



FIGURE 21. The whole frieze TW 1/22, 23. The two large cattle figures measure 62 cm. Note the various types of horns and hornless heads in one cattle group. Also the various eye representations and three collars.

FIGURE 22. The ostrich and a masked human figure which cover an older cattle figure. Bovidian style. TW 1/24. The size is 52 cm and the ostrich is 53 cm high.





FIGURE 23. TW 1/25. 86 cm long design of three equids.
Note the long ears of one of them (donkey).

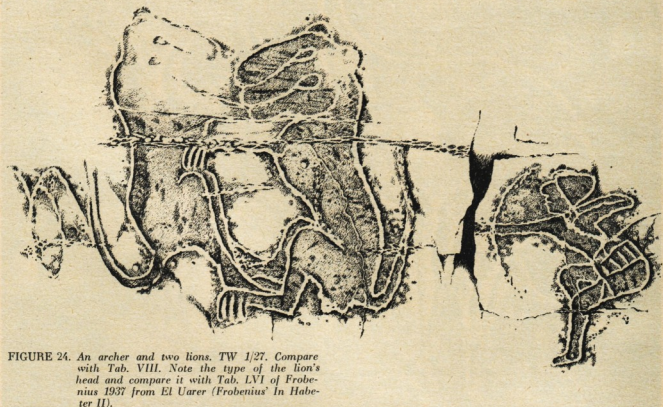


FIGURE 24. An archer and two lions. TW 1/27. Compare
with Tab. VIII. Note the type of the lion's
head and compare it with Tab. LVI of Frobenius
1937 from El Uar (Frobenius' In Habeter II).



FIGURE 25. Locality TW 2. General view.

The gallery at its middle height and bottom part is covered with engravings. In the upper part of the gallery there are no engravings. The prehistoric artists evidently preferred places easy of access. On the opposite side of the riverbed, on the gravel terrace we can find plenty of stone tools. When there was more vegetation and trees offering shade, it was a very suitable living site without doubt.

Some 400 m further up the stream we can see another interesting rock engraving high up in the rocks and facing east.

TW 1/27 (Fig. 24, Tab. VIII). It is a 20 cm high engraving most probably a pre-design of bowman and of two beasts, probably lions. The bowman is about to shoot them. He has some kind of shorts on and there is something hanging from his belt, probably a quiver. Compared with the body the head is relatively big and is covered with a cap. Interesting is his protruding nose of non-Negroid type. The two lions of this scene are 49 cm high and are facing each other in sitting position. Although the patina and the degree of weathering of this unfinished picture is weak, its style and comparable similar engravings suggest that it is of considerable age. It is an excellent example of the patina depending without doubt on the degree of protection of the engraving against the adversities of the weather, mainly of the Saharan sun.

1 km further to the north we reach another gallery situated on the rock cliffs on the east bank and facing west. The gallery is 300 m long. Similarly as in the other galleries there is a dry guelta in front of it and a gravel terrace suitable for camping site on the opposite bank.

TW 2/1 (Fig. 26). This gallery stretching from south starts with a 38 cm high human figure pecked slightly into a black stone. The outlines of the picture are careless and of rosy colour as the patina



FIGURE 26. An archer with a head-dress. TW 2/1. The height of the figure is 38 cm.

of the engraving is weak. The rock cliff is in this place only several metres high, further to the north it is higher. The figure has a relatively big round head with a large ornament or symbol on it. It holds a bow in one hand.

TW 2/2 (Fig. 27). The next engraving is the picture of a bull reproduced already by Frobenius (Frobenius 1937, Tab. XLIII). The figure is 67 cm

long and has a composite structure between its frontally designed horns. Without doubt it is part of the well-known circular sign frequently found in the Fezzan galleries. The style of the head with two nostrils is archaic. Interesting and important character of this figure is the use of archaic circular sign with a characteristic bovidian bull figure. In front of this animal there is another unfinished engraving

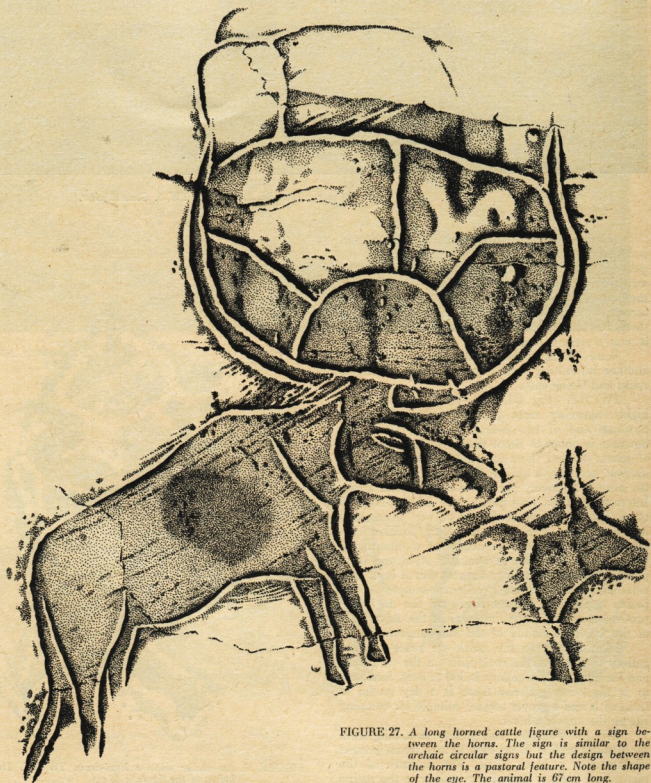


FIGURE 27. A long horned cattle figure with a sign between the horns. The sign is similar to the archaic circular signs but the design between the horns is a pastoral feature. Note the shape of the eye. The animal is 67 cm long.

of a bovine. The patina is of intermediate degree. Similarly as the above-mentioned engraving (No. 1) this one is situated also low at the foot of the rock.

TW 2/3 (Tab. IX a). Next we find a 80 cm wide engraving of two human figures facing each other, with bows in their hands. The scene represents without any doubt a fight. The left figure has some unidentifiable object on its head. The engraving is situated similarly as the previous one at the foot of the rock. Lower more to the right there is a third similar, fairly weathered figure. In the lowest part of this rockface there are very simple camel figures and evidently fairly recent animal and human figures.

TW 2/4 (Tab. IX b). A 57 cm large engraving of a rhino with two eyes engraved in the archaic way. The picture is situated vertically on an overhang. Below it there are six round pits, 2–3 cm deep and 5–8 cm in diameter. Their meaning is not known.

TW 2/5 (Fig. 28). Adjoining the above engraving from the north there is a round circular symbol superimposed by a later engraving of a giraffe. The circular symbol has a very ancient patina of the same colour as the rockface. The giraffe pecked over the circle has a very slight patina only. Stylistically it belongs to the horse period. It is 100 cm high.

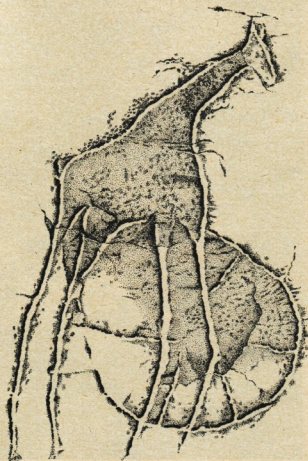


FIGURE 28. A 100 cm high pecked horse-period giraffe figure designed over an archaic circular sign.

TW 2/6 (Fig. 29). Low on the rock face there are symmetrically situated two giraffe engravings with their entire surface pecked, as we often see it in horse period. In front of the right giraffe there is a human figure, probably an archer. Due to the slight patina all figures are rosy in colour. The whole engraving has a combined width of 118 cm.

TW 2/7. In the vicinity of the above giraffe figures there is a poorly visible engraving, most probably a circular sign. Lower on the rock wall there is a 23 cm long engraving of an animal. It has pointed ears and a long tail with a characteristic tassel at the end. It is difficult to say what kind of animal is represented here.



FIGURE 29. Two pecked giraffes of horse period and a small human figure in front of the right one. The group is 118 cm wide. TW 2/6.

TW 2/8. Close to each other there are two engravings situated low on the rock cliff. The first is a circular symbol measuring 45 cm in diameter, with a very archaic patina of the same degree as the natural rockface. The next engraving has also very strong weathering. It is situated on an oblique rock face low on the rock cliff. It is a 42 cm high oval with animal face reminding of an owl (with longitudinal line). (Fig. 30).

TW 2/9. A 38 cm high engraving of a 44 cm long quadruped with a long tail.

TW 2/10 (Tab. X). Low on the cliff there is a large (185 cm high) giraffe engraving. The body and the lower part of the giraffe's neck are deeply ornamented — the ornaments simulate the pattern of the hide. The upper part of the neck and the head is only slightly designed. Parallely to this impressive deep engraving there are two other unfinished slightly engraved giraffe figures.

TW 2/11 (Fig. 31). A 38 cm high engraving of an isolated ostrich of excellent design.

TW 2/12 (Fig. 32). A group of two bull figures and several bull heads in a typical composition of bovidian paintings as we know them from Tassili. The whole composition is 160 cm large. The first figure has its horns in frontal view, the second in lateral view. In some bull heads there are beautifully reproduced eyes.

TW 2/13 (Fig. 33). A group of ostriches (?) and of a bull. All figures are in simple lateral view. The body of the bull is divided by several vertical lines. The patina is very old, it is of the same colour and type as the patina of the rockface. The figure of the bull measures 70 cm.

TW 2/14. A large antelope bull (Fig. 35). It measures 67 cm (length), is presented in lateral view, with its horns in frontal view. Next to the animal there are three ostriches (Fig. 34). The first of them is 33 cm high. Compare with Tab. XI.



FIGURE 30. An oval design with an owl-like face (42 cm). TW 2/8.

TW 2/15. Approximately at the middle of the gallery height there is a large cave, difficult of access. Just below it, at the foot of the rock there is the engraving of a 41 cm high oval (Fig. 36). Next to it there is a 45 cm long figure of a bovid in simple outline and with its horns curved downwards (Fig. 37). Both engravings are covered with a very ancient black patina.

TW 2/16 (Tab. XII). On climbing to the cave situated at the middle of the cliff's height we find a group of 14–15 hollowed pits on the horizontal

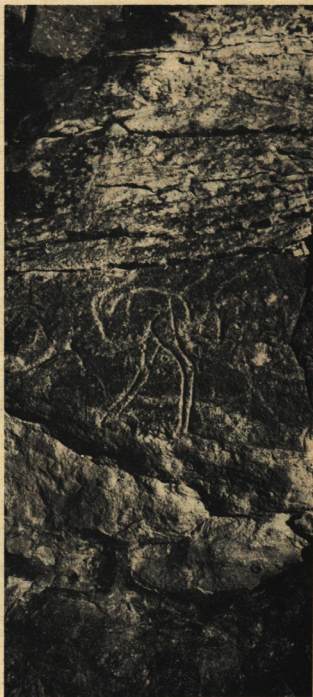


FIGURE 31. A 38 cm high ostrich figure. TW 2/11.



FIGURE 32. A typical 'bovidian' group of cattle figures.
160 cm large. TW 2/12.



FIGURE 33. Three ostriches (or bustards?) and a cattle
figure (70 cm large). TW 2/13.

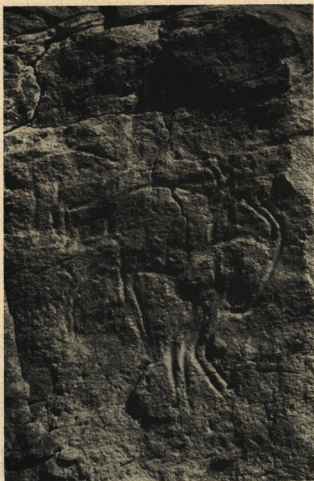


FIGURE 34. Three ostrich figures. The first one is 33 cm high. TW 2/14.

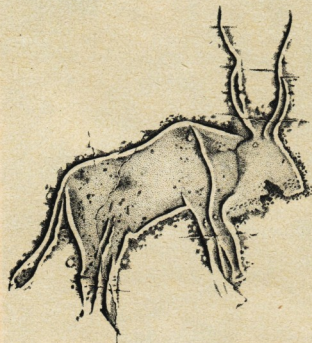


FIGURE 35. A perfectly ground antelope figure measuring 67 cm. TW 2/14.



FIGURE 36. A pecked, 41 cm high oval sign. TW 2/15.

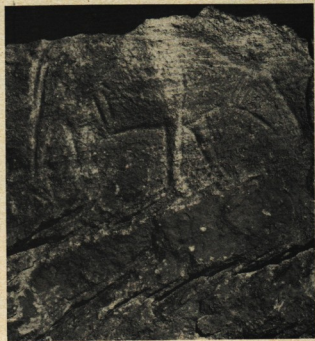


FIGURE 37. A 45 cm long cattle figure with double collar line. TW 2/15.

floor in front of the cave on the southern side. Some of them measure 13 to 15 cm in diameter with doubled or even tripled rim. Their meaning is not clear. Next to them there is a heavily weathered unclear carving and a round sign with a small notch in its lower part. The same sign is used in some prehistoric European cultures for vulva, very probably the sign here has the same meaning. Next to it there is another, 36 cm high geometrical sign looking like a necklace. Then follows a 22 cm high oval symbol with a point-like sign in its upper part. This again can be an erotic symbol. Then follow two sets of engraved lines looking like stylized hands or trees (Fig. 38).

TW 2/17. A group of carvings low in the gallery. It starts with a donkey head engraved over an older circular symbol measuring 66 cm in diameter. Next there are two human figures with round heads. Then comes a 37 cm large bull figure. Below it there are two round-headed human figures and two are in front of the bull. Then comes a couple — one figure inclined forward and the other with raised

arms. The picture represents most probably a couple in coitus. The last engraving is half of a figure with animal head pictured head down (Fig. 39). It is 25 cm high. All these engravings represent an important scene, the centre of which demonstrates some ceremony round a bull. Fertility or erotic meaning also plays an important part here (Fig. 40).

TW 2/18. A 38 cm large engraving of a giraffe from the horse period according to its style an slight patina.

TW 2/19. An interesting engraving of a bull. Its foreleg and hindleg are bound to a pole in the ground. Below the belly of the bull we see a human figure. The length of the whole engraving is 62 cm. Higher above the bull there is an engraving of an oval symbol and next to it there is a stick figure of definitely later age (Fig. 41).

TW 2/20. A 36 cm large bull figure with form. (Fig. 42).

TW 2/21. A jackal-man figure. Note its costume. (Fig. 42).

If we continue our advance to the north, after



FIGURE 38. Horizontal group of signs. A neckless, a vulva sign and two other signs representing trees or hands. This is a unique example of the communicative role of these signs. The neckless sign is 36 cm high. TW 2/16.



FIGURE 39. A figure with animal head in head-down position. Size 25 cm. TW 2/17.

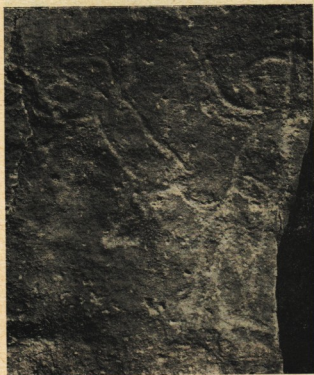


FIGURE 40. Two small figures (30 cm high) in an erotic scene. TW 2/17. The first figure has animal-like head.

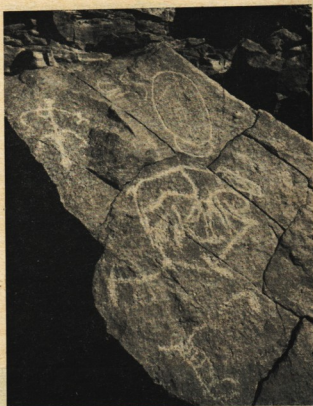


FIGURE 41. A group of five various figures. Interesting is the fairly late oval sign (horse period?) and the bound cattle figure (size 62 cm). TW 2/19.

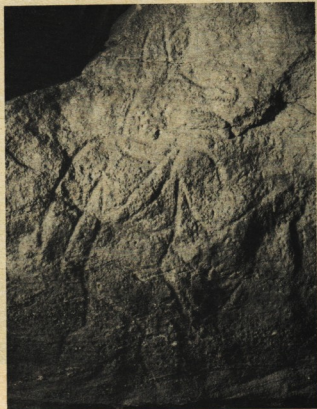


FIGURE 42. An interesting jackal-man marching figure. TW 2/21.

walking a distance of 4 km we come to another rock gallery (Fig. 43). It is again situated on the eastern bank and is facing west. The engravings are situated medium-high, or low at the foot of the cliff. There is not a single picture in the higher part of the gallery. We can say in general that the pictures are again in places of easy access. When we start from the southern end we shall find the following engravings:

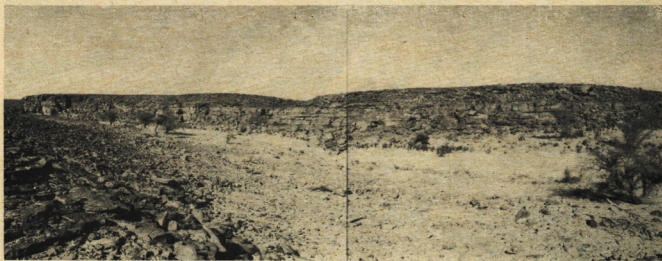


FIGURE 43. The rock art site TW 3. General view.

TW 3/1 (Fig 44). A shaggy and shallow engraving pecked on the vertical rockface on rock below the gallery. It is a pre-design of a 55 cm high rhino with a human figure (55 cm is the combined height of the two figures).

TW 3/2 (Tab. XIII a). On the same rock there is another rhino engraved in a narrow space between two rocks. It is now partly covered by sand. Just aside there is a weathered engraving of two

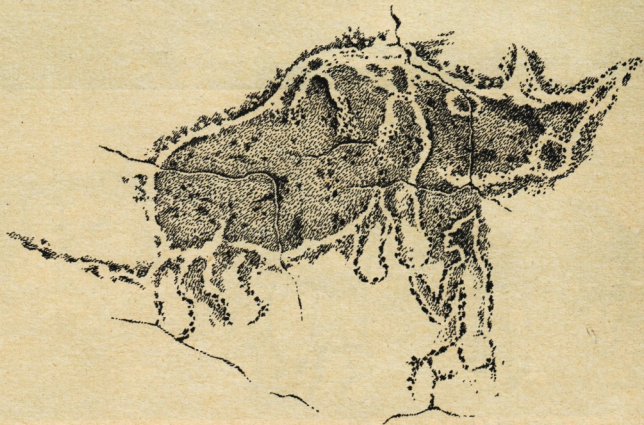


FIGURE 44. The pre-design of a rhino with a human figure. The human figure has bovidian features (its size, position, the head type). TW 3/1.



hind parts (?) of some animal probably of a bull and of two horns. (This interpretation is only a speculative one). It is 64 cm wide. According to their patina and style both engravings are very archaic.

TW 3/3 (Fig. 45). At the medium-height of the gallery there is an engraved circular symbol and a bull head measuring 39 cm in width. Below the head we can see a human figure. Somebody tried to destroy this engraving, presumably for false moral reasons as the human figure seems to be in coitus. We come often across destroyed erotic figures and usually these activities are of recent date as the broken stone is quite fresh. The horns on the bull's head are turned down and its eye is well

engraved so that it forms a relief (similar as in TW 3/13).

TW 3/4 (Fig. 46). A composite scene with a buffalo, elephant and two human figures. The reproduction of this engraving can be found also in Frobenius (1937, Tab. XIX). Unfortunately Frobenius did not recognize the two additional figures. The man behind the elephant is in coitus a posteriori with the elephant. Another figure stand in front of the elephant, holding its tusks. Both human figures are heavily worn but they are evidently a later addition. Their style when compared with the elephant and buffalo is quite different. The elephant and the buffalo are much deeper engraved and this



FIGURE 47. A simple bubalus figure (size 64 cm) and three human stick figures and an ostrich. The human and ostrich figures are later. TW 3/5.

is the reason why the human figures escaped Frobenius' observation and also the destruction by the aborigines. Although there is no evident difference in the degree of weathering between the two animal figures and the two humans, the latter are evidently additional, as there is no place for the man between the bull and elephant.

Both human figures were made in a careless and clumsy way. One of them has a characteristic round head. Compare with erotic scene in TW 0/1. There the human figures have similar round heads, one of the characteristic features of the bovidian style. The combined length of the buffalo, of one human figure and of the elephant (without the second human figure) is 265 cm.

TW 3/5. Engravings of human stick figures situated medium-high in the gallery. They carry burdens on their heads and hold them with raised arms. Next to the human figures there is an ostrich and lower on the rockface we can see a bull or probably a bubalus according to the dimensions of its horns (64 cm) (Fig. 47). Its forelegs are fully pecked. According to its patina and style the bubalus is much more ancient than the human stick figures, which seems to be post Neolithic (horse period).

TW 3/6 (Tab. XIII b). A large damaged engraving of a group of stick figures (32–36 cm high) carrying loads on their heads. They have often characteristic lordosis. Similarly as the above human figures (TW 3/5) these porters are also relatively late (horse period) (Fig. 48).

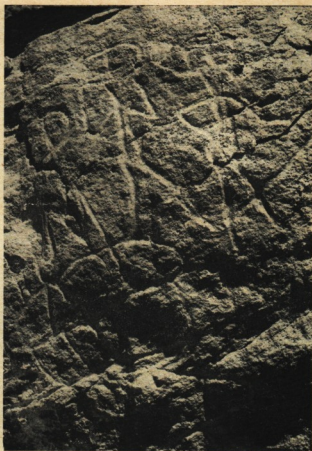


FIGURE 48. A detail from the frieze, TW 3/6 (see Tab. XIII b).

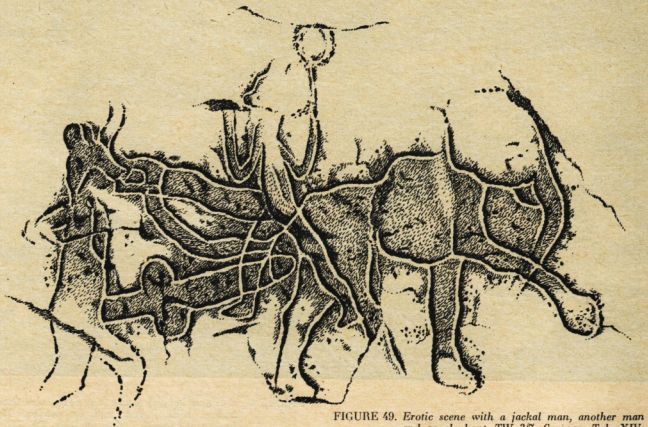


FIGURE 49. Erotic scene with a jackal man, another man and an elephant. TW 3/7. Compare Tab. XIV.

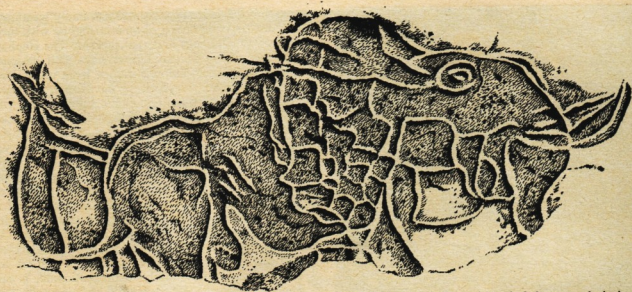


FIGURE 50. Erotic scene with a jackal man and elephant. It is on broken rock fallen down the rock face. No doubt somebody tried to destroy it for moralistic reasons. TW 3/8. Size 130 cm. The figures are in decorative style (note the elephant ear) but not very carefully done and slightly disproportionate. This is often the case with erotic figures but not with decorative style.



FIGURE 51. Two bovidian style figures with antelope heads. They are in unusual nearly acrobatic horizontal positions standing on one leg, touching each other with the second leg. Note that both figures are associated with oval signs one of which has a short line inside, the other has only traces of sparse pecking (female and male?). TW 3/9. Size 42 cm.



FIGURE 52. Nearby Fig. 51 there are two other human figures (unfinished). The lower one is associated with an oval sign. Its height is 25 cm. TW 3/9.



FIGURE 53. Four men transporting a huge load on their heads. Note the long objects (weapons) at the waist of the first, third and fourth figures and the curved "tail" of the load. Compare with Frobenius 1937 Tab. LII b which is not accurate. Firstly, above the burden there is not another figure but only two pecked pits. Secondly, the burden is complete with transversal lines not like in Frobenius' design. Evidently the design in Frobenius' book was done after an unclear photograph. The size of the whole design is 46 cm. TW 3/10.

TW 3/7 (Fig. 49, Tab. XIV). A badly weathered 142 cm large engraving of an erotic scene with three figures, two humans and one elephant. The elephant and one of the human figures have well designed and proportionate features known from other decorative art figures (elephant) or bovidian style (man). Nevertheless, all three figures are very clumsy. One of the human figures — the figure with the jackal head — is in coitus with the elephant. Perhaps due to heavy weathering the engraving remained undiscovered and it escaped destruction.

TW 3/8 (Fig. 50). On a big rock broken off by somebody and thrown down from the gallery we can recognize a human figure with jackal head in coitus with an elephant. The style and the patina of the engraving are archaic. It is 130 cm long. Although the head of the elephant shows several features of the decorative style, both figures are fairly clumsy and slightly disproportionate, a case that never occurs with typical decorative-style figure, but sometimes is seen with the erotic scenes.

TW 3/9. A rich scene of small figures. Several of them are holding a small oval object of unknown meaning (See TW 1/1). The figures are often inclined forward, two of them are in a curious position (Fig. 51 and Fig. 52).



FIGURE 54. A 64 cm large bull figure with long horns. TW 3/11.

TW 3/10 (Fig. 53). Four human stick figures, three of them with erected penises. Three of the figures wear an axe-like object in belts. They carry on their heads a big long burden (46 cm long).

TW 3/11 (Fig. 54). 64 cm long engraving of a bovine. It is in simple lateral outline with the horns in frontal view. The patina is of the same degree as that of the rockface.

TW 3/12. Higher on the rock face there is another engraving of a bovine. It is 50 cm long, its style is completely different and it has only very slight patina. The whole body is pecked. Behind the body follows an inscription in Tifinaqh. This engraving comes from the horse period, while the Tifinaqh inscription is even later.

TW 3/13 (Fig. 55, Tab. XV). Medium-high at the rock corner of the gallery there is a fine 85 cm large bull engraving in archaic style, an unfinished giraffe (with its forelegs and head missing). This giraffe is followed by another, smaller giraffe with two human figures and lower on the rockface there is a group of seven small animals, with tails and

with ears like dogs. They may picture jackals. Their strong patina points to a considerable age.

TW 3/14 (Fig. 56, Tab. XVI). On the opposite rock wall there is another large engraving consisting of the following figures: A bull measuring 126 cm. Over its body there is a late (horse or camel period) pecked figure of an ostrich with a weak weathering. The forelegs of the bull are cut over an older engraved figure of an ostrich. The bull is in archaic decorative style (characteristic eye, deep engraving), but the patina is of mean degree. It is followed by a round-headed bowman with an apron. This 38 cm high figure attacking the bull has been engraved over an older figure of a donkey. Another bowman is above the back of the bull. In front of the bull there are some small human figures (Fig. 56a), two of them in squatting position schematized (compare Frobenius 1937, Tab. LXI). According to the superposition the oldest of these figures are the engravings of the ostrich and of the donkey. Later is the archaic-style bull with the two bowmen and the latest is the pecked ostrich. Aside, we can see



FIGURE 55. TW 3/13. Large group of figures (compare with Tab. XV). The large bull (size 85 cm), human archers and the seven static jackal or dog figures are illustrative. Compare with Frobenius' 1937 Tab. XVIII which is not accurate, evidently drawn after an unclear photograph, not after reality. Not all figures are represented in Frobenius' publication and the large giraffe figure in his table is completed which is not the case in reality. Also the animals behind the second small giraffe in Frobenius are in fact two human figures.

FIGURE 56. TW 3/14. A design of a bull with two archers, three ostriches and a donkey figure. Whereas the bull and the archers must be considered as 'bovidian' in decorative style, the donkey and one ostrich figure are still earlier. They belong to the group of earliest engravings in Tilizahren. The bull is 126 cm large. Compare with Tab. XVI.

