

Research into Mental Imaging and Drawing Ability

Publication/Creation

1880

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Anthropological Institute
of Great Britain & Ireland,
4, St. Martin's Place. W.C.
6. August 1880



Dear Sir,

In the course of my search
for Sir C. Nicholson's drawings,
which I regret to say has been un-
successful, I discovered the enclosed
~~drawings~~ fac-simile of rock carvings
in Nova-Scotia which may
interest you. I will write
and ask McKay whether he
knows anything about the Sydney
carvings. Believe me,

Yours faithfully,
Geo. W. B. Lynam.

F. Galton Esq.

F. 3r

Novus Scotia
Noel Carving



F. Galton Esq - F. R. S.
42 Rutland Gate
South Kensington -

OF GREAT BRITAIN
Anthropological
Institute
AND IRELAND

LONDON S.W.
1 AUG 6
80

f. 3v



(For Balmoral Terrace,
Acton W.)
Exeter

July 30/80

Dear Sir
Your letter has
followed me in my rambles
through the West, & has
just come to hand.

Returning to Town
next week, I will see in
what way I can help
your worthy object, though
not clear as to fac simile.
I have no doubt about the
Tasmanian drawings. A daughter
of John Batman, after the
Tasmanian Bell's in the War
of 1830, assured me that her
father had seen capital sketches
in the west of Van Diemen's Land.

Other persons, particularly an old ex-bushranger, have confirmed the story.

The power exhibited by Australians is well known. Many years ago I saw a Native give a capital outline of a Kangaroo with a piece of ochre. Our Australians have shown as much ability as that displayed by the pre-historic races whose sketches are to be seen in the Museum of St Germain near Paris. The boys at the Blacks' School of Adelaide were delighted to show me their rude drawings, though no lessons were ever given by their teacher.

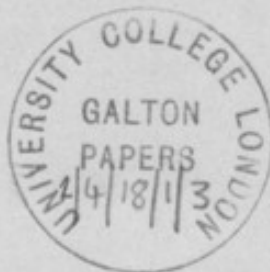
Yours truly

James Monro
J. Saltm. Esq.

Dr Manns bush boys

I wrote on May 1 endorsing
the 2^d letter of Dr Manns as an
introduction, to the present
master the boy: —

{ William Proudfoot Esq J.C.
Craigie Burn
Mooi River
Natal
South Africa





5 Kingsdown Villas
Wandsworth Common
July 23. 1880

My Dear Sir

I thank you very much
for sending me Mr Broadfoot's
letter, and the photograph of my
old acquaintance, which I
am glad to have. I am very
sorry to hear of the poor fellow's
death, and also regret very much
that my introduction of this
matter to you has not been

More fruitful in results.

The words which you have added to my Memorandum do more exactly express what I intended to say about the antelopes. I think the Hartbeest was his favourite. But I speak only from a shadowy, and possibly treacherous, memory.

I know Miss Lloyd - She is the daughter of a gentleman who has served a great many years as Colonel Chaplain at Durban, and who is still there. - I incline to think

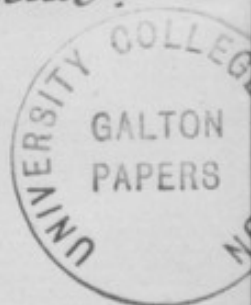
the Moncreff is Gun =
Carriage Moncreff - He had
Connections in Natal - If
my memory does not deceive
me he was Mr Macleay -
The General Manager of the
Natal Bank in Pietermaritzburg -
of which I was for many
years a Director.

All the drawings to which
you allude must be very
interesting - I shall lay out
to see them some day - I
do not know yet whether
I shall manage to get to the

Meeting at Swansea - I may
possibly do so if I am not
in Switzerland - If I do not
I shall have your lecture
in due course of time, and
shall look for it with great
interest.

I will write to Broadfoot
and thank him for the
Photograph. ^{I will have a copy}
^{of the Photograph} made, and send him.

Believe me
Very truly yours
Robert James Mann



f. 4r



Post office, Riet Vley
Natal June 15th, 1880

My Dear Sir

Your favour dated
May 1st reached me by last mail
from England. It would have been
very gratifying to me, could I have
complied with your request, and
all the more so, as you had a
recommendation from Dr Mann,
whose kindness to me, when he
was in Natal I can never forget

Alas poor Yorick - The Bushman
I regret to say has now been in
his grave for more than 2 years.

He died of pulmonary consumption,
I wish I could have sent you
some of his rude drawings, which
I willingly would have done, had
any been in my possession.

Dr. Sutherland (Surgeon General)
well known to Dr. Mann, has
asked me for his skeleton, to
present to the College of Surgeons
Museum, Edinburgh, and I

expect him soon to exhume it P. 5r

To the best of my knowledge, the
race of wild Bushmen, is now extinct
in South Africa. at least in the
neighbourhood of Natal, their raids
on the stock of the farmers and natives
have been unheard of for a number of years
under the impression, that I would
have scruples in letting him take
away the skeleton, did his best
to obtain another before applying
to me; but without effect. I will
communicate to him the passport

of your letter, but do not entertain
any hopes. that he will be able to
forward your news. I find I have
2 photos of the Buchanan left: both of
which I enclose. You will do me a
favor by presenting one to Dr. Mann.
with my compliments. His age when
taken would be about 22. Should
either you or Dr. Mann be indifferent
about the photo. I will take it as a
souvenir, if one is returned to me.
The poor fellow lived a long time with
me, and I have not now a memento
left of him

I am my dear Sir
Yours very truly
Wm. Proudfoot





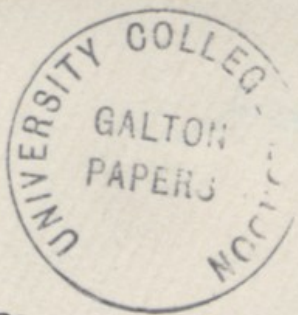
J. S. BROCK.

NATAL.

J. Mairns Bash boy
 who drew so well
 afterwards in service
 of Mrs. Proudtons
 who sent me this
 The key is dead



NEGATIVES KEPT. f. 6v



Photographs
of the Bushman
referred to in Dr
Mann's letter to me

J. Mann

5. ~~Kingsdown Villas~~
~~Wandsworth Common~~
SW.

f.7

From Colonel Munnell

f. 1r



When wintering near
Fort Gary (Hudsons Bay)
in 1877
Young Indians occasionally
came to my quarters
and I found them
much interested in
~~the~~ any pictures or
prints that were put
before them. One



one of these occasions
I found an Indian
tracing the outline of
a print from the Illustrated
London News very
carefully with the
point of his knife

~~I inferred~~ my
curiosity was raised
by the careful
manner in which

he did this, and
I asked him why
he did it. - He
told me in answer
that he was tracing
this picture which
he admired, to
impress it on his
memory in order
that he might
carve it in wood
when he returned.

To his own country

Amherst

22nd October 1880

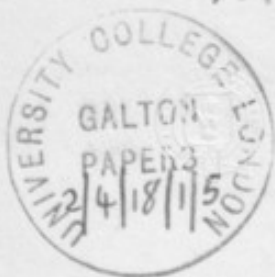


Bushman Ormon
Camera Lucida
copies of the
sheet / by C. A. Moncrieff
in Christie Collection



Mr Charles Nicholson 17

f. 1r



The Grange,
Golleridge,
Herts.

My dear Galton

The drawings 'labeled'
to in the accompanying sheet
received are to be found on
the boards of the Anthropological
Institute - should the Landings
with I am sure allow you
to make any use of them
for any purpose.

I have just
received a collection of bones,
boneings and other for

difference from Western Australia.
 If you care to see
 them - I shall be delighted
 to show them to you. We
 are living about 10 miles
South of Lizard - but are nearly
 1/2 mile (from ship) in little
 more than 1/2 an hour's ride
 we have not and take
 lunch with us accompanied
 by Mrs. Galt, some dog, West
 work (by Friday or about
 day we are staying at home)

If you will do so, will
 send you our local Times
 table, and will arrange to
 meet you at our station with a
 carriage. — My wife is joining
 me in the best of health
 and we are able to accomplish
 this

Ever faithfully yours

J. M. Peckham

John Peckham &



[Reprinted from the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, August, 1879.]



On some ROCK CARVINGS found in the neighbourhood of SYDNEY.
By SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON, Bart., LL.D.

IN various localities along the Coast of New Holland, especially on the eastern side extending from Cape Howe to Moreton Bay, carvings are found on the surface of rocks, representing in low relief the human figure, portions of the human body, as the hand or foot; and various animals, such as the kangaroo and whale. Some carefully executed drawings of these, by my friend Colonel Vigors, have been handed to me by that gentleman, and accompany this short communication. The soft and friable sandstone which is associated with the great coal formation of Eastern Australia, presents facilities for these rude intaglios that have been taken advantage of very largely by the native artists. The spots selected for the tracing of these outlines are the sides and shelving roofs of open caves, but more generally the smooth horizontal surface of the rock itself, at points near the edge of the cliffs overhanging the sea, or forming the boundaries of the different inlets by which the coast-line is broken, in various places along its eastern face. On the rocks overhanging the harbour of Port Jackson and along the countless bays into which its waters spread; at Broken Bay, and the estuary of the Hawkesbury River, these remains are discoverable and are often only brought to light when the soil which has accumulated on the surface and the vegetable growths by which they are concealed are removed. As not only brushwood but large trees of considerable age are often found rooted in the soil that conceals these carvings, a considerable interval must have elapsed since the period when they were executed. Those delineated in the accompanying drawings were discovered by Colonel Vigors whilst engaged in superintending the erection of a battery at Middle Head, Port Jackson. On clearing away the superficial soil and brushwood preparatory to the levelling of the rock the carvings were brought to light. Exact measurements of the various objects were then made and carefully reduced according to a given scale. In a memorandum addressed to me by the above-named able and intelligent officer, he makes the following observations: "The sandstone rock is formed into

large horizontal tables and on these the outlines were cut. They were covered with several inches of vegetable mould. No. 1 is the only specimen of the human form I could discover. I look on No. 8 as interesting, as it shows the manner in which the natives began the work. Small holes were drilled or made in the rock at intervals of a few inches and were subsequently joined into one continuous line as shown in the other figures. No. 17 is upwards of 30 feet in length, and no doubt was meant to represent a whale. No. 19 is the next longest. What fish No. 21 is intended to represent it would be very difficult to determine. The kangaroo (jumping), figure 24 as well as 27, where he is at bay, are amongst the most interesting."

I have little to add to these remarks, except that I have myself seen many similar examples of these "graphiti" on the escarpments and surface of the rocks adjacent to the locality from whence the accompanying drawings were derived. Among these latter I have no doubt the Dogong and other varieties of the Phocæ are meant to be indicated by the aboriginal sculptor, as these form a very important article of food to all the native tribes living on the sea-coast. A very common form of the carving here referred to is one representing the human hand or foot. As to the age of these remains it is difficult to form any opinion. From the extent of the erosion to which those have been subjected which have been exposed to the open air, as well as from the depth of the alluvium and size of the trees by which the horizontal carvings are concealed, it is evident that a very considerable interval must have elapsed since the era of their production. The present native race can give no account of these remains, and I think it will be generally admitted that no aboriginal tribe, with whom any of the European inhabitants of Australia have been brought into contact, could have been the authors of even such rudimentary examples of artistic skill. Like other similar pre-historic carvings found on the coasts of North America and other parts of the world, they may be regarded as the very earliest examples of the efforts of particular races of man to give expression to the imitative faculty by way of pictorial design. In the examples now brought before the Anthropological Institute there seems to be something like a perception of the laws of proportion, for the figures for the most part leave little doubt as to the intentions of the artist with respect to the object meant to be delineated.

At whatever period, and by whoever these and similar sculptures were created, they are, I believe, the only real examples we have of genuine Archaic Australian art. On the north-west coast of Australia, Sir George Grey discovered, many years since, some caves, on the sloping roof of one of which is

painted on a black ground the rude form of a human figure in red and white, clothed with a short tunic, and with the head surrounded by a sort of nimbus, like that seen in mediæval pictures of Saints. Were it not for the absence of the symbol of the Cross, the figure here referred to might be supposed to be a specimen of early Christian iconography. There are also drawings in other adjacent caves of men carrying kangaroos, and of various objects the nature of which it is not very easy to divine, but which Sir George Grey suggests as representing implements of the chase. These chromatic pictorial representations found at the north-west coast of Australia, are evidently of a wholly different character from the sculptured rocks described above. The localities where the painted figures are found are not very distant from those parts of the northern coast frequented by the Malays fishing for trepang and the pearl oyster, and holding more or less intercourse with the natives of the soil. I would venture to suggest the probability that the paintings discovered by Sir George Grey and described by him in the account of his explorations in the north-east of Australia, may be the work of some accidental visitors, Malays, or possibly shipwrecked European sailors, attributable to someone belonging to a race distinct and superior to that which, so far as observation has hitherto extended, has held exclusive possession of the vast territory of Australasia. That Europeans have occasionally been isolated or seized by the natives, and compelled to consort with them for a length of time, sufficient to obliterate nearly all the habits and associations of earlier civilised life, is well known to those acquainted with history of the various colonies of Australia. When the first settlement from Van Diemens Land was made in Victoria in 1836, an Englishman, of the name of Berkley, was discovered living with one of the tribes of the Aborigines. He had left one of the penal settlements of the colony, had associated himself with the blacks, and for some 30 years had never seen the face of a white man. In this long interval he had lost, with the exception of a few words, the use of his native language, had dispensed with all clothing, and had conformed in every way to the habits of the race amongst whom his lot had been cast. The early habits of civilised life had, however, left a sufficient impress on his character to enable him to exercise a considerable ascendancy in the tribe to which he had attached himself. It is quite conceivable that such a man, during his enforced residence amongst savages, may have sought to preserve some of the earlier reminiscences of his life in rude pictorial representations, such as those described by Sir George Grey.

With reference to the chiseled drawings to which attention

is herein more especially made, it must be admitted that they exhibit a degree of mechanical skill and a sense of pictorial effect, that could only have belonged to a race considerably in advance of any now extant on the Continent of New Holland. The existing aboriginal native of Australia presents one of the very lowest of all known types of humanity. Has there been any degradation from an earlier and somewhat higher standard? Whatever conclusion we may come to on the subject it is at all events interesting to recognise in these uncouth and infantile efforts of the savage to give permanent expression to the images that occupy his mind, the existence of a faculty and an instinct which have their highest development and influence in the most advanced stages of civilisation.

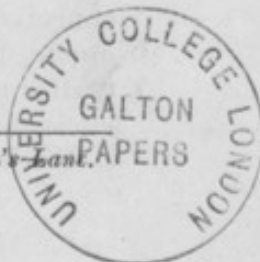
DISCUSSION.

Mr. JAMES BONWICK made reference to other localities in which similar artistic displays were known, especially drawings made with red or yellow ochre and charcoal. A high opinion of the native ability has been entertained by several observers. Mr. Surveyor Hodgkinson saw a boy sketch with a freedom and correctness he considered superior to the work of English lads. Captain Stokes noticed many drawings on Depuch Isle, with not the slightest trace of indecency. Flinders found about one hundred and fifty designs on an island in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Peron observed fair carvings on boomerangs. The Tasmanians had at least two words to express figures drawn with charcoal. Their power of imitating novel objects has been attested by several. The first time a bullock-drag passed through a certain district of the interior, a black fellow left a remembrance of the event in a capital sketch with charcoal on the bark of a tree. Robinson, exploring the West in 1831, came upon several specimens of native art. The permanent huts of Macquarie Harbour were seen so illustrated. Elsewhere a boat, or bark catamoran, was depicted, with five persons in it.

Mr. W. L. DISTANT drew attention to a paper by Dr. Julius von Haast, recently read before the Institute, on "Rock Paintings in New Zealand," in which there were many analogies to the interesting facts related by Sir Charles Nicholson in New South Wales. The New Zealand rock paintings were also of a red colour, red oxide of iron being employed as a pigment, and fishes or whales were also portrayed.

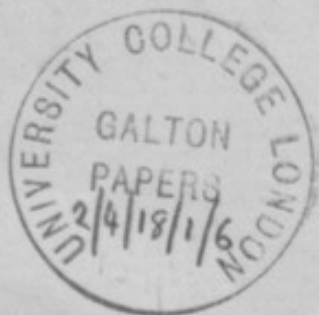
*a picture of a
Sandy life
where these
Tasmanian
p. 47-48
much amplified
and allusion made
to the Australians*

Harrison and Sons, Printers in Ordinary to Her Majesty, St. Martin's Lane.



F. Rae

f. 1r



4 Addison Gardens W
12th July 1880

Dear Mr. Galton

Your note of today has
come to hand, and on the spur
of the moment I write down
some rough notes about Eskimo
Cartography, which I enclose -

Some years ago I was pretty
well read in Arctic lore, but for
some years I have forgotten
much. - I unfortunately destroyed
the few sketches made for me of
some of the Coast I had to trace

I am happy to learn that you

found good Madlle Vuffrey
still able to attend or rather
superintend her house at
Vichy, which I believe will remain
by the same when she leaves
it —

My Mother-in-Law continues
to get weaker, and keeps her
daughters almost constantly in
the house —

With our united kind
regards to Mrs Gallon and
yourself believe me

very sincerely Yours

John Rae

J. Gallon Esq. J.R.S.
Le Le Le

Eskimo Charts

In Arctic Blue book 1855

Page 916

not found Chart by Western Eskimos

In Parry's Voyages 1823/3

I think there are charts by an

Eskimo woman of Igloo-lik

Sketches from Hall's Narrative

Edited by Professor Mowse

Published by United States Govt 1879

XX at folio 225

at folio 357

at folio 354

at folio 356

at folio 370

at folio 398

at folio 364

If this last book is not to be found
in the R. Geograph. Society's Library

I have a copy - Rae had several
Sketches by Eskimos of coast line

but unfortunately did not keep them

Rinker's Esquimaux Drawings

1878 The lithographs are exact copies of pictures made by natives
see p 268 - without any explanatory guidance whatever in the
intro of drawing & printing

X Robert Brown, 25 Guilford Road, Albert Square, Ed

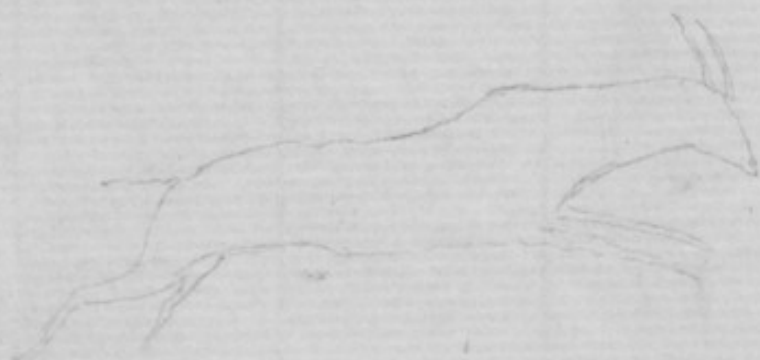
in his case of mankind p 75 says he has maps drawn by Esquimaux

Excellent draughtsmen - map of sea ice - on white tanned seal skin with soft



Bushman Drawing

F. 1



^{roughly}
Traced from a copy of a Bushman drawing
in Bidouw Case. One of a set lent to
me to look at by Miss Freer Nov 6/80

The plate was tinted a uniform pinkish
brick dust.

The originals belong to Mr Baynes



Barrow
 Travels in Africa 2nd edn
 vol I 269 Fac simile
 of a bushman drawing

1290
 Several 1000. francs
 seen in painting
 Descriptive of drawing p. 193 vol I

Map Lloyd
 Grahamstown
 South Africa

John Edward Lee ^{translation} of Keller
 on the caves of Theiniger
 Switzerland

Boyd Dawson



Drawings by
Bushmen &c

