

Decipherment of sail image at El Castillo Cave, Spain

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On the wall of El Castillo Cave in Spain floats a ship with a sail puffed out by the wind. Christine Pellech (2005) described the dotted lines in great detail, but not so much the ocean-going ships. (Photo: The Wendell Collection, Neanderthal Museum)

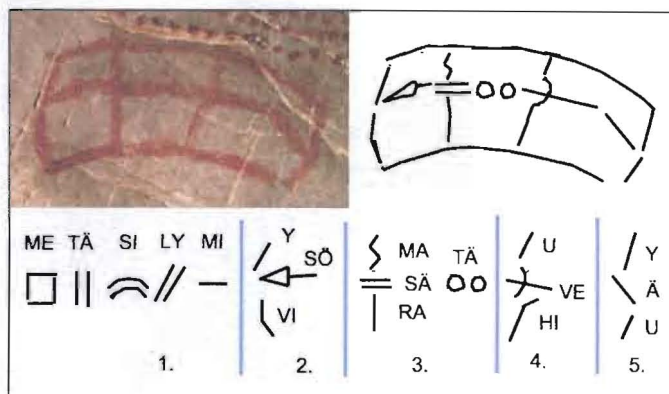


These mariners were literate and wrote on the walls. An example of rebus writing is the sail composed of Old European letters cleverly arranged into two parts.



The initial phrase is the general outline in bold color. It describes the sail as becalmed and flapping, which forces them to land and take shelter for the night. Based on the second part, this unusual calm warned them of the approach of a dangerous storm.

The second part lies within the fine detail of the four vertical strokes. These letters describe a snowfall at night followed by a fierce storm that howls like a demon.



Old European

1. ME TÄ SI LY MI.
2. Y SÖ VI.
3. MA SÄ RA TÄ.
4. U VE HI.
5. Y Ä U.

Finnish

1. Meiän täydet siivet lyövät mi.
2. Yön syöstiin vitiä.
3. Mahtava sää raivoaa tähän.
4. Ulvoo verta hiiden.
5. Yhä äijeän ulvonta.

English

1. Our full sail flaps now.
2. At night it was dumping snow.
3. A mighty storm rages here.
4. It howls like a demon.
5. It keeps on with a great roar.

Bibliography

Pellech, Christine (2005); A 14,000-year-old world sea map; Migration & Diffusion, Vol. 6, Issue no. 21, 2005.

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