

Columbia Plateau Rock Art

By Robert Heacock



Robert
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Photo

Columbia River Basin



How Many?

James Keyser

• Location	Styles/Subjects	Total designs
• Western MT	4	331
• British Columbia	8	1,865
• Central Columbia	7	1,158
• Lower Columbia	10	3,575 (46%)
• SE Columbia Plateau	6	901
• Total	35	7,830

What is Rock art?

- Engraving or painting on non-portable stones
- Petroglyphs - Engravings
- Pictographs - Rock Paintings (red or white)
- Anthropomorphic or Zoomorphic (Human or animal)

Styles and Subjects

- Naturalistic, Stylized, or Abstract Styles
- Human, Animal or Geometric Subjects
- Public -for viewing by all
- Private - hidden - Vision Quest/Shamans
- Oldest 6,000 B.C

Ice Harbor Dam



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Long Narrows Style

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Figure 39: Motif classification chart.

NATURALISTIC: Anthromorphs/Zoomorphs

Stickmen



Human w/Rayed Arc



Face/Mask



Spirit Figure



Deer/Elk



Mountain Sheep



Bear Paw



Quadruped



Bird



Turtle



Lizard

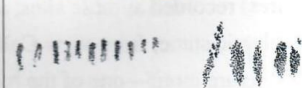


Insect



GEOMETRIC FIGURES

TALLY MARKS



YAKIMA STAR



Simple Circle



Concentric Circle



Nucleated Circle



Rayed Circle



Rayed Concentric Circle



Spoked Circle



Tailed Circle



Starburst



Simple Arc



Concentric Arc



Rayed Arc



Concentric Rayed Arc



Ladder



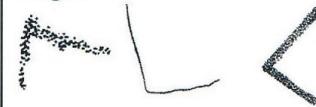
Chevron



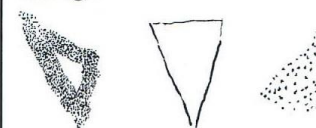
Chain



Angle



Triangle



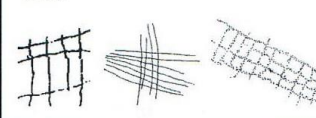
Cross



Rake



Grid



Fan



Phi



Zigzag Line



Parallel Lines



Dots



Rectilinear Abstract



Curvilinear Abstract



	Basic and Classic Conventionalized	Columbia River Conventionalized	Spedis Creek Simplified Columbia River Conventionalized
Bilaterally Split			
Front-view Facial Features			
Eye Treatment			
Concentric Circle Eyes			
Face with Arms			
Face with Teeth			
Curly Head Projections			
Tear Streaks			
Birds			
Swollen Tongue			

* Image is not from Spedis Creek, but from nearby site.



Figure 52. Columbia River Conventionalized style imagery from various sites in the Dalles-Deschutes region includes many anthropomorphs and anthropomorphic faces (a-l), occasional therianthropes (m), and zoomorphs (n-p). a, f, represent Akxa'gusa, Cannibal Woman (Kaiser 2017); b is Tsagiglalal; d, j, represent Naishla, the Swallowing Monster, n is Spedis Owl, the husband of Cannibal Woman. The others certainly also had names, but these have not been recorded and may now be lost.

Keyser and Poetschat 2004; Wellmann 1979:45-46).

But this focus on the most elaborate and stylized images as type specimens for the Columbia River Conventionalized style has

masked its full range of imagery. In fact, only rarely has any scholar discussed and described the multitude of other simpler images that occur at sites with obvious Columbia River Conventionalized style images. And when such

**RATTLESNAKE
AREA**

**AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL
ONLY**

NO PETS PERMITTED



**STATE PARK PROPERTY
NO HUNTING**

She Who Watches – Tsagiglalal

Tom Foster



Thank You For Coming



Lindblad
Expeditions



NATIONAL
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