

sub-rectangular enclosure, so that quite a complicated sequence of structures awaits a future excavator. No doubt most of the irregular marks to be seen all over the field represent tree-root or other incidental disturbances of the subsoil. However, a small number of prominent marks occur within the interrupted ditch-system; it would be interesting, indeed, if

JALMAIN, D. 1970. *Archéologie aérienne en île-de-France*.

excavation here could provide more information than has been available hitherto as to the nature and use of these enclosures. In view of the evident sequence of structures, the site holds out such interesting possibilities that there are strong grounds for ensuring its preservation from destruction by future quarrying.

J. K. ST JOSEPH

ST JOSEPH, J. K. 1970. Air reconnaissance: recent results, 20, *Antiquity*, XLIV, 145-4, pl. XXIII.

Prehistoric rock engravings at Fratel, Portugal

PLATES XXVIII-XXXA

The site of the prehistoric rock engravings of Fratel (Vila Velha do Ródão, Beira Baixa, Portugal) was discovered on 31 October 1971, by a group of university students, Francisco de Saude Lemos, Susana Rodrigues Lopes, Jorge Pinho Monteiro and Maria de los Angeles Querol, who were looking for palaeolithic artifacts on the river terraces of the region, as a result of information given to them by the ethnographer, Dr Paulo Soromenho. Through the kind offices of the Institute of Archaeology of the University of Coimbra, Manuel Farinha dos Santos, President of the Prehistoric Section of the Associação dos Arqueólogos Portugueses, author of the volume (1972) 'Pré-história de Portugal' (in the series 'Biblioteca das Civilizações Primitivas' admirably produced by Verbo, Lisbon), has sent us the following brief account of these engravings. The rock engravings are distributed over an extensive area of a schisty greywacke reef situated along the right bank of the Tagus river, with a maximum width of about 150 m., and extending from the vicinity of Fratel Railway Station to a point about a kilometre upstream. It is an open air site, with a few hundred carvings, some dating possible from the Neolithic and others from the Iron Age (with additional grafiti of recent date!).

The prehistoric rock engravings, produced by pecking with a stone or metal tool, as the case may be, show quite a surprising iconography, with anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, astral and abstract figures, with a marked tendency to semi-schematism, some of them being arranged in compositions whose meaning escapes us, while others are found in isolation.

The engravings of Fratel belong, from the stylistic point of view, to the vast Afro-European area, with evident affinities with the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, Northern Italy (Monte Bego and Val Camonica) and Northern Africa (The Maghreb and Spanish Sahara). The engravings illustrated here include an astral design similar to those existing in the Pala Pinta shelter, on the Abelhõa (Reguengos de Monsaraz) menhir, and the Antelas (Oliveira de Frades) megalithic monument (PL. XXVIIIa); male anthropomorphic figures resembling those found in Northern Portugal, with characteristic dark patina (PL. XXVIIIb); a deer (PL. XXIXa), and a caprid in outline like those of the Maghreb (PL. XXIXb); finally, a group of animals, apparently including a bear (PL. XXXa).

As the site was due to be covered, in 1973, by the waters of a reservoir, the above-mentioned students have been engaged in documenting all the groups and isolated engravings, by photography, drawings and the taking of moulds, and plotting them in the process, under the guidance of Drs Eduardo Cunha Serrão and Vitor Oliveira Jorge.

Recently, although some of the engravings have been inundated, others are constantly coming to light, always on the banks of the river Tagus: there are now many hundreds which have not yet been studied. Meanwhile other discoveries have been made on the Spanish shores of the river. Dra Maria de los Angeles Querol (Madrid: assistant to Professor M. Almagro), who has studied these, as well as working on the Portuguese side, reports that so far they are comparatively disappointing.



a

PLATE XXVIII: PREHISTORIC ROCK ENGRAVINGS OF FRATEL, PORTUGAL

b

(*a*) Astral design. (*b*) Male anthropomorphic figures

See p. 238

Photos: José Justo (Museo Nacional de Arqueologia, Lisbon)

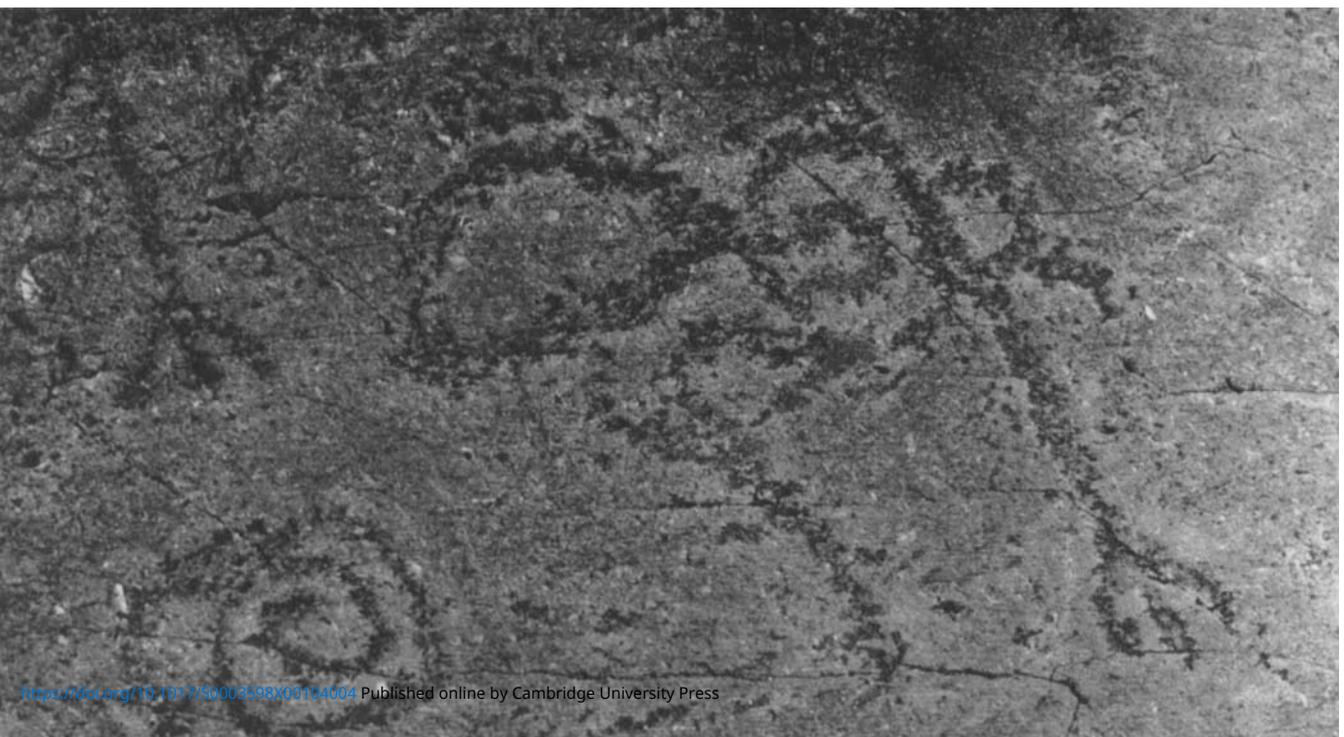




PLATE XXIX: PREHISTORIC ROCK ENGRAVINGS OF FRATEL, PORTUGAL

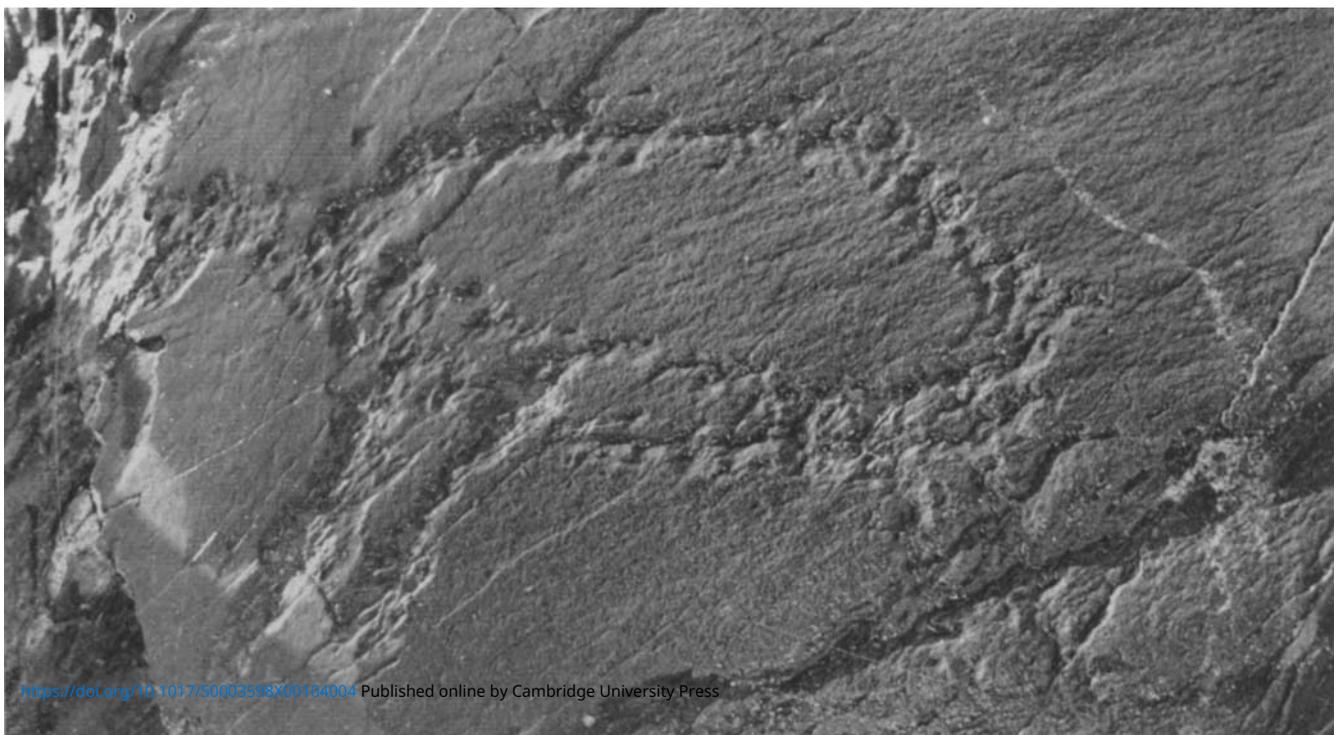
(a) *Deer outlined in profile, with spots.* (b) *Caprid outlined in profile*

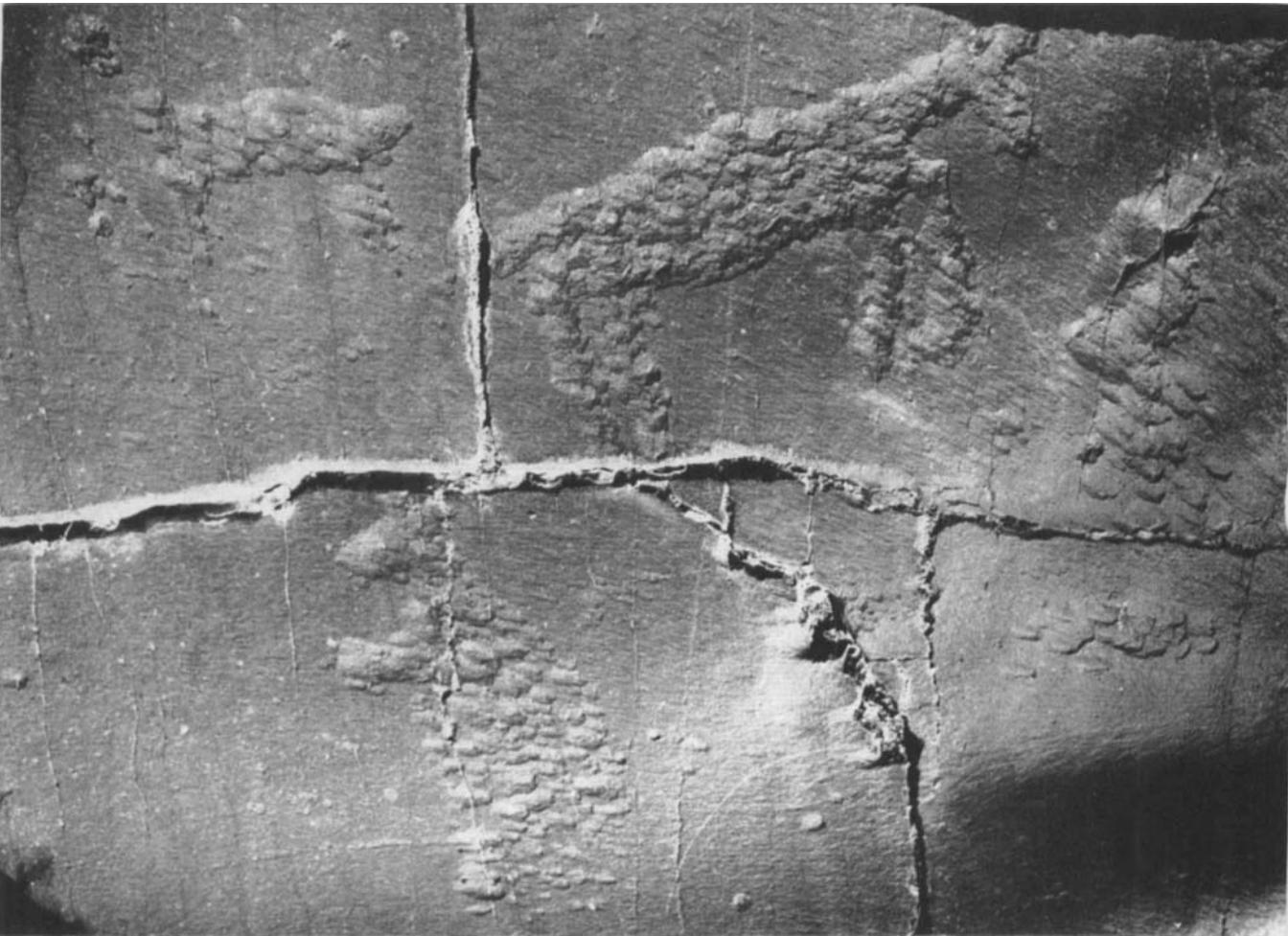
See p. 238

Photos: José Justo (Museo Nacional de Arqueologia, Lisbon)

,a

b





a

PLATE XXX *a*

PREHISTORIC ROCK ENGRAVINGS
OF FRATEL, PORTUGAL

*Group of animals, which apparently
includes a bear*

See p. 238

Photo: José Justo

PLATE XXX *b*

A MECHANICAL SIEVE FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATIONS

*The mechanical sieve, designed by
Antonio Guerreschi*

See pp. 234-5

b



PLATE XXXI: AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE: RECENT RESULTS, 31

Crop marks S of Orsett, Thurrock parish, Essex (TQ 65158055)

See pp. 236-8

Photo: Copyright reserved, University of Cambridge

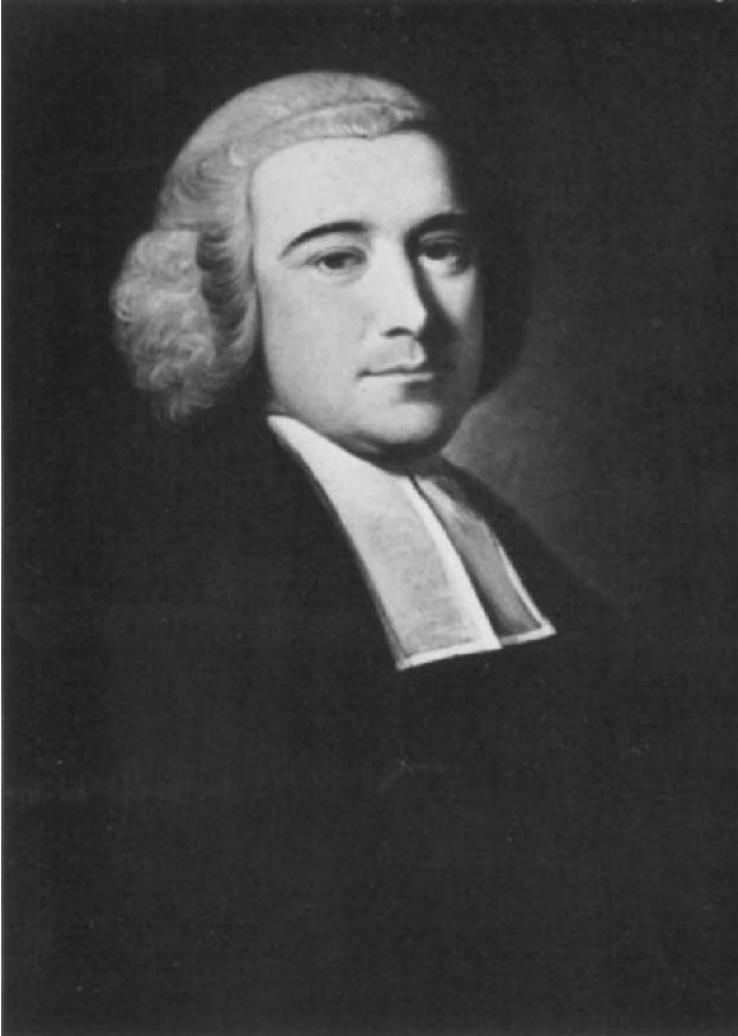


PLATE XXXII: THE FAUSSETT COLLECTION AT LIVERPOOL

The Reverend Bryan Faussett and his wife, Elizabeth, from the portraits, painted in 1758, by Thomas Hudson

See p. 231