

IFRAO Report No. 19

1999 INTERNATIONAL ROCK ART CONGRESS

Ripon, Wisconsin, U.S.A., 23 - 31 May 1999

The 1999 International Rock Art Congress will take place on the campus of Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin, U.S.A., from May 23 to 31. The Congress is sponsored by the International Federation of Rock Art Organizations. The national host is the American Rock Art Research Association and the local/regional host is the Mid-America Geographic Foundation. Other participating organisations include the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the University of Wisconsin Center - Fond du Lac, the Eastern States Rock Art Research Association, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Mid-West Rock Art Association.

There will be two days of pre-congress field trips (22 and 23 May) and two days of post-congress field trips (30 and 31 May). The costs of post-congress field trips are included in registration (or requiring only a nominal fee). Dormitory accommodation will be available at Ripon College. A package of room and board (meals) has been fixed at US\$35.00. Meal tickets for any combination of meals (dinner only, lunch and breakfast etc.) can be purchased by those staying off-campus. A list of 25 motels in the immediate area is available — conference rates are being negotiated. There are approximately 100 motel units available in Ripon, and the college can accommodate 1000. A complete motel (32 units) within easy walking distance will be reserved. Distances to other accommodation range from three to 27 km. These include all price ranges.

Air connections from Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis to Appleton, Wisconsin are the most convenient. Ripon College will provide shuttle service from and to Appleton (45 minutes) on peak arrival and departure days. Chicago is 300 km from Ripon, Milwaukee is 130 km away. Road connections are by freeway, except for 30 km.

The Congress format will follow that of the Flagstaff Congress of 1994. There will be several concurrent sessions in the mornings, and General Sessions (symposia) in the afternoons. There will be public presentations in the evening. Registration will be from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Sunday, 23 May and from 7:30 to 8:45 on Monday, 24 May. Registration will take place in the Rotunda of Harwood Memorial Union. Late arrivals may register throughout the week. Information boards (approx. 1 m × 1 m) for participating organisations will be mounted in the

registration area. These may include the history, nature and goals of your organisation. You may include addresses, membership fees and publication policies.

Efforts are under way to conduct some of the sessions in Spanish (with English translations as well as English to Spanish translations). To facilitate such communication, an innovation for slide presentations is being initiated. Presenters will be asked to produce translated captions for their slides for dual-projection. One screen will contain the view, the other a caption for it (English if a Spanish presentation, Spanish if an English presentation). This will significantly reduce the problem of doubling the time in translated papers. The organisers are hoping that these arrangements will form a successful precedent for future congresses, and that a significant number of Hispanic contributors will avail themselves of this service.

If you have any questions, they may be directed to:

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The IFRAO Home Page

In accordance with the resolution of the 1997 IFRAO Meeting at Cochabamba, Bolivia, the IFRAO World Wide Web home page has been established by CeSMAP in Pinerolo, Italy, where it is administered in collaboration with the IFRAO Convener. The *IFRAO Home Page* comprises the following sections:

1. BASIC PAGE
 - a. Member Addresses
 - b. IFRAO Constitution
 - c. IFRAO Reports
2. EVENTS PAGE
 - a. IFRAO Congress Bolivia 1997
 - b. IFRAO Congress Portugal 1998
 - c. IFRAO Congress Ripon 1999
3. INFORMATION
 - a. Publications
 - b. IFRAO Scale
 - c. Discoveries
 - d. Research results

4. IFRAO e-mail list

The *IFRAO Home Page* is on:
<http://www.cesmap.it/ifrao/ifrao.html>

Mathpal, in collaboration with the Folk Museum of Bhimtal, Uttar Pradesh, India. The exhibition was shown at Breno, Valcamonica.

Angelo Fossati
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ACTIVITY REPORTS

Cooperativa Archeologica 'Le Orme dell'Uomo'

The society, on request from the Archaeological Superintendence of Piedmont in collaboration with the Group for the Research of the Mountain Cultures (Turin), has produced graphic and photographic documentation of petroglyph and rock painting sites in Susa Valley, Cenischia Valley and Chiusella Valley, near Turin, Italy. This rock art belongs to a periods from the Neolithic to the Middle Ages, with the Iron Age strongly represented. Frequent motifs are meanders and small channels, human 'praying' figures, warriors and riders, weapons, cupules, dates and inscriptions.

On request of the National Petroglyphs Park of Grosio in Lombardy (Valtellina), the Society has catalogued fifty rock panels of petroglyphs at the Dosso Giroldo site. The art belongs mainly to a period at the end of the Neolithic and the Iron Age, with a sporadic presence of anthropomorphs of the Bronze Age. The rock surfaces have been measured and photographed, and the state of conservation has been documented.

On request of the faculty of Anthropology of the University of Naples, a team of the Society has traced thirty fragments of Copper Age menhirs from the site of Ossimo in Valcamonica (Italy). This work is the first step to reassemble more than ten stelae of the third millennium B.C.

The Society's annual summer school of rupestrian archaeology was held, as usual, at the Vite-Deria site of Paspardo in Valcamonica. This art corpus is attributed to a period within the fourth millennium B.C. and the end of the Middle Ages. Twenty participants from United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Italy documented and traced fifteen petroglyph panels. The project continued in mid-1997.

In collaboration with the Associação Portuguesa de Arqueologia e Arte Rupestre, in the context of the 'Etched in Time (Gravado no Tempo) Project - Portugal', and funded by the Portuguese Ministry of Culture, the Society has organised the research and the documentation of petroglyphs in the Vale de Vermelhana, along the Douro river, in part of the Archaeological Park of the Côa Valley. The two main panels have been traced and photographed. There are Palaeolithic and Iron Age figures. The Palaeolithic motifs consist of images of horses, deer, roof-like figures, a lion and a mammoth-like or elephant representation. The results were presented at the XIIIth UISPP Congress in Forlì, Italy.

During 1996, the Society presented to the public the travelling exhibition 'Visions from Himalaya', consisting of paintings and rock art reproductions of Yashodhar

Mid-America Geographic Foundation

In 1995/96, the Foundation conducted a mitigation study of a proposed power line (20 km long) which passed through an area of petroform and aboriginal mound concentrations. This survey work was done under contract to the Wisconsin Electric Power Corporation and led to modification of the initial line proposals. It strengthened the Foundations commitment to landscape preservation as part of rock art site context. Current threats to the regional complex of mutually visible hilltops with petroforms, trails, springs and early archaeological sites include wind generators, power lines, housing developments, roads and drainage projects. Because of the breadth of expertise in the membership, these issues can be addressed internally.

A major project of Mid-America at this time is preparation for the 1999 International Rock Art Congress which will be held at Ripon College in east central Wisconsin, U.S.A. It was held only once previously in the U.S., at Flagstaff, Arizona in 1994. For the Wisconsin event, there will be a large aboriginal component, expected to draw from all eleven tribal groups in Wisconsin as well as from distant American locations, possibly including Alaska. Ripon College, a small Midwestern liberal arts college, is providing the venue with a very reasonable dormitory and meal package, as well as auditoriums, galleries, classrooms, audio-visual facilities, technical personnel, some transportation, administrative services and recreational facilities. The college is very experienced in handling this type of event because of the Annual Experimental Aircraft Association's Fly-In. This event has had up to one million participants! Ripon College hosts a group of young people numbering about 1000 each year. Field trips are being planned which will include Wisconsin's famous 'effigy mounds', thousands of aboriginal earthworks in animal and geometric shapes. Some of these are more than 150 metres long. A provisional program will be completed in 1998.

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The Centro de Investigación de Arte Rupestre de Uruguay (CIARU) is conducting an intensive campaign to assist the preservation of rock art located in the centre of Uruguay. This includes the production of car stickers.