

The petroglyphs of Santa Maria Cuevas, Tlaxcala / Mexico



Eine Foto-Dokumentation von Josef Rahm Otto

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150 engravings distributed to two compact about 400 m far away laying locations show mostly doodled persons giving probably this area its name Barranca de los Munecos (Muneco = doll).

This is the region which was discovered 1969 by Prof. Dr. Enno Seele and Mrs. Aufdermauer on behalf of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The engravings of the first group are at a rock complex named Las Calaveras (calavera = skull), about 500 m north of the village Santa Maria Cuevas immediately at the confluence of two meagre rivulets called los Munecos and las Lajas.

The second group is located about 400 m far away in north-western direction within the actual gorge of the dolls, the Barranca de los Munecos. The images depict mostly small, up to 25 cm tall human figures partly up to 1 cm carved into the stone.

Ornaments and a kind of cable stitch catch almost the eye standing in front of the stones of group 1. Beyond the rock art wall of this first group there is a recently excavated pit reaching about one metre below the stone.

Possibly curious people have searched here. Yet as the village people say there shall be nearby caves containing sacrificial offerings. What kind of offerings nobody can tell, but only that the name of the village means Cuecas (cueva = cave). If one encounters all names of areas and assumes that they were characterised by properties as „valley of the dolls, of the skulls and the caves“, then probably much may be discovered here.

Today one detects at once at the height of the first group two wooden crosses at a small plateau. Another wooden cross lays at the ground.

Local people were not able to tell anything with regard of the erection of the crosses, but they pointed to the frequent visits of tourists who immortalised themselves by engravings on the stones. By cautious investigations of the underground of the crosses it was impossible to decide whether there is something buried as the earth is 15 cm thick only and the crosses are put into small crevices only.

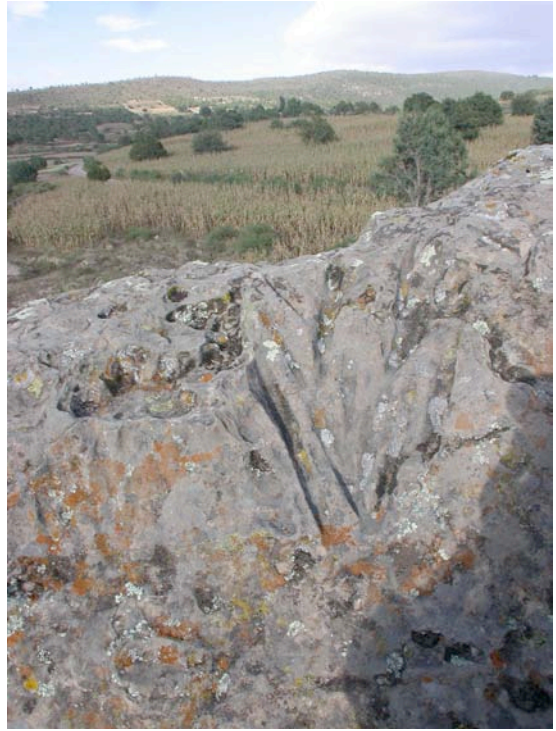
























































































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