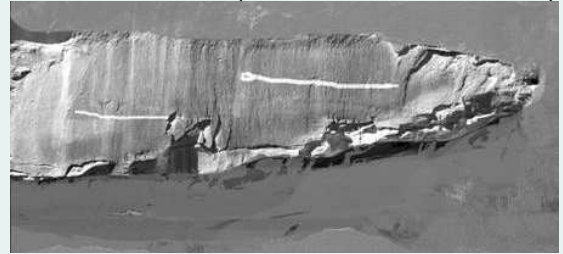


Ancient Naked-Eye, Visual Astronomy Recordings Headline the Rocks of the American Southwest

Much of the reason we think we cannot understand some of the petroglyphs and pictographs of the ancient American Southwest is that we also think the indigenous reporters of their time were not doing naked-eye, visual astronomy. Quite the contrary, the ancient and astute sky watchers were *sometimes recording their experiences and oral traditions in tandem with the textures of the earth* in hugely grand and holistic fashion. It was sometimes as if they were creating grand cinematic screens worthy of the Spielbergesque dramas they found themselves living within.

A comet-shaped texture in Utah with petroglyphic, hair-pin-returning motifs of about 100 pecked dots each might commemorate two 6th century comets, 3 years apart, watched 100 and 106 days each, with no recorded comets in between. (Also see Kronk 1999.)



This huge Chaco Canyon cliff-side cleft was commandeered to commemorate Halley's comet in AD1066 when it was watched 66 days (counted in the zig-zags of the textile motif)--and when its grandest poses "frightened millions of Europeans"—shown here by the cartoon-signage *fright-fingers man* who is rather much ---ting a brick, so to speak. Why peck these images in so dangerous a location? This transitory celestial event was important to the people living there at the time.

(Left center motif) A centipede leg-count of about 35 days might indicate a painted commemoration of Halley's comet in 87 BC. (**See days-visible counts of the "Great Comets in History", Yeomans/ NASA web list.)



(Below, left) Aged petroglyphic undulating line with dots falling off the bottom *written under a wide natural rock stain with a large crack* may commemorate a detachment event witnessed of Halley's comet in 684AD when other comets "appeared alongside it for seven days...in September" on this perihelion visit when the "...'hairy star' was blamed for three months of heavy rain and lightning [in Europe] which resulted in the deaths of numerous people and animals, as well as fields of grain being ruined." (Kronk 1999:109-110)

