

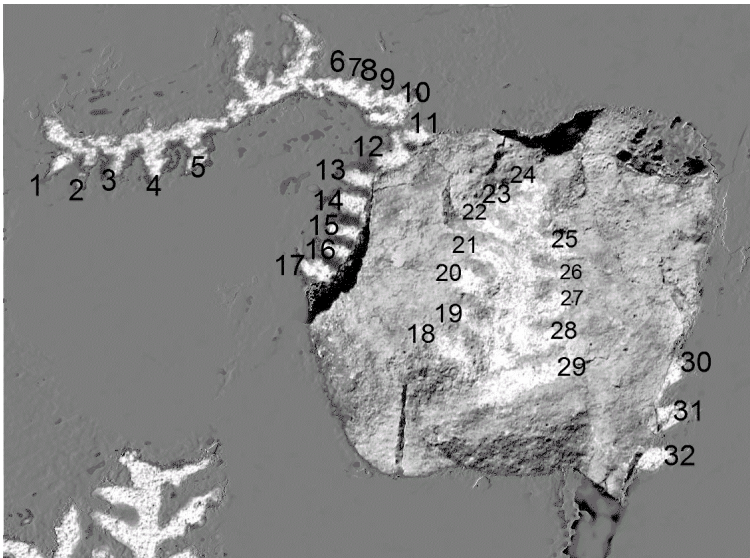


FIERY RED DISK, circa 146 B.C.

This glyph is high on a cliff-face, taking advantage of the natural brick-red spall, over which counter-motifs were pecked above, in, and to the lower right of this spall, perhaps recording a large, tailless comet, or “fiery red disk,” seen near the Hyades Deer. The pincers sign, center top, is seen in other comet connotations to mean *movement like a spiraling* football. The counting marks are a bit problematic but an apparent *effort to make a report of perhaps 32 days* this thing was watched seems logical here.

“The Roman text *Quaestiones Naturales* (written by Lucius Annaeus Seneca around AD63) notes, ‘After the death of Demetrius the king of Syria ..., a comet appeared as big as the sun. *At first it was a fiery red disc, emitting light so bright that it dispelled the night.* Then gradually its size diminished and its brightness faded. Finally it disappeared entirely.’ ...The text...written by Julius Obsequens...notes, ‘**A star blazed for thirty-two days during -146.**’” [Kronk 1999: 513-14]

“I am tending towards giving ancient writers [and, one might add, ancient ceramists and glyphists] the benefit of the doubt. Until proven otherwise, quite often they were being as objective as they could be, given their lack of scientific knowledge.” [Baillie 2000: 151]



Giving more attention to visual astronomy records of the rest of the world may provide hints as to meanings for some of the confusing and undatable imagery in the ancient Southwest.

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“Given the general premise that people in Europe were cognizant of comets and supernovae; and that people in this country must also have seen the objects, then where are their depictions of such objects? They must be here, and it is up to us to recognize such things!” [Albert Copley, email correspondence, 2007, retired professor, Truman State University, Missouri]