

**Magnitude -3 Comets\*:**

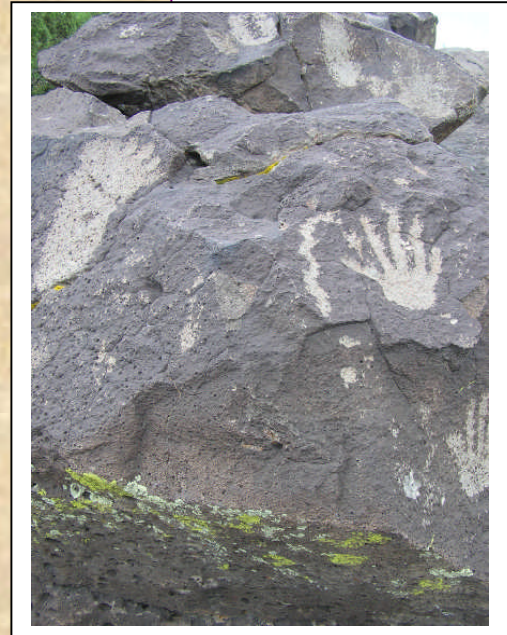
**A.D. 1743-44, 1577, 1471-72, 1402, and 837**

**Great Comet of 1743-44:** [seen 110 days\*] “so brilliant as to sometimes be seen at midday” (merrycoz.org) (Below, left) German broadside of the comet in Pegasus, sometimes showing 6 to 11 tails; also called **de Cheseaux’s comet of 1744**, which was **seen rising at dawn before the sun on March 8 and 9** (inset: diagram with head or nucleus below the horizon, and painting, below, right)



(Left) Albert Copley photo, Petroglyph Natl. Mon., NM. “Hands” rising from cracks or the edge of boulders might sometimes be suspected of being *comet-rising* imagery. (Inset, right) This basalt boulder, upper Rio Grande, NM, may have several “feet” and “hands” which are comet renditions and which might be recent enough to be of the 1744 de Cheseaux’s comet with the very high -3 magnitude.

**“I maintain that behind every ‘decorative’ layout lies the hidden visage of a breathing icon giving life (animation) to the design.... Perhaps this explains the current emphasis on cultural syntax or grammars rather than the decoding of iconography and symbolism. Shouldn’t we try to escape this mental prison of our own ethno-taxonomy of form...? Meaning often lurks where we expect it least. Hence we need to pursue the ‘archaeology of signification,’ even in symmetry. Otherwise symmetry analysis becomes mere[ly]... theoretically interesting, but of limited cultural significance....”**  
[Peter G. Roe, Washburn 2004:98]



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\*Yeomans/NASA list of “Great Comets in History”