

THE LONG ROAD HOME



Two long motifs, together, on a comet-shaped panel in Utah seem to count the 100 and 106 days, respectively (Yeomans/ NASA list), when two sixth century great-comets were watched—3 years apart and with no other intervening comets between them—in AD565 and 568.

Southwestern Knowledge of the Periodical Nature of Great

Comets was far more sophisticated than we have taken it for. The Halley's most-memorable poses of its perihelion visits in AD989, 1066, and 1145 are honored on a Mimbres petroglyphic panel (color-inverted, below). This and many, many other real-time and oral-tradition visual astronomy reports made by the eye-witnesses of the day



Actually, the periodicity of comets was not first discovered by Halley. The ancient authors knew that comets have their time of revolution. Seneca wrote in his treatise *De Cometis*—in some respects still the most advanced discussion of this subject — that the Chaldeans (Babylonians, Iraqis) counted the comets among the [orbiting] planets. [*Quaestiones Naturales* IV.1. The same opinion was ascribed to Hippocrates. Quoted from varchive.org

have been little suspected and long over-looked by Southwest ancient-culture experts, in pottery and rock art alike.



Early conceptualizations of comet orbits included more-or-less straight lines with hair-pin turns. Photos by Ann Owen and Robert Dragon, NM, and Albert Copley, UT



Halley's, AD1145, Joseph M. Laufer website.

Halley's comet in AD1145 , drawn by monk Eadwine at Canterbury, England, with adjacent notes: "...the hairy star" "comes seldom and after many winters." **(i.e. Halley's comet was a known repeater to religious and literate leaders of its day).**

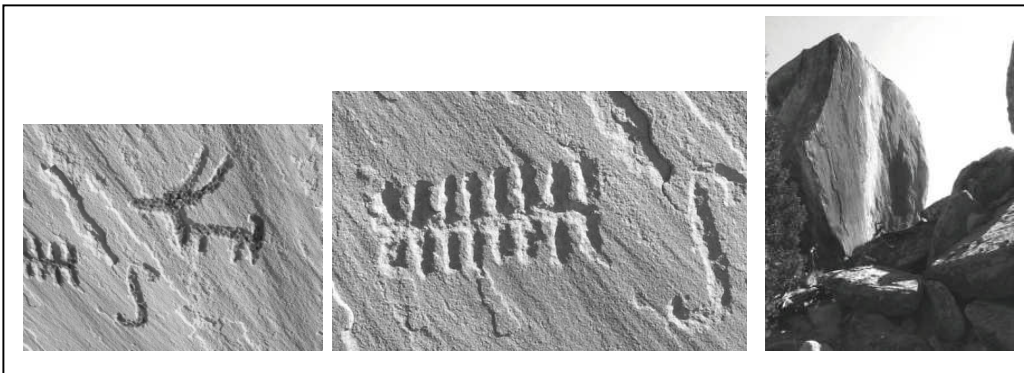
In the 2nd century of this era, Rabbi Joshua said "There is a star which appears every 70 years and misleads the captains of boats." It has been suggested that this statement is a reference to Halley's comet. (W. M. Feldman, *Rabbinical Mathematics and Astronomy* (New York, 1931), pp. 11, 216.

Celestial Southwest Iconography in the International Year of Astronomy 2008

Additional Southwest comet/visual astronomy research papers available at:
www.comets-petroglyphs-and-supernovae.com

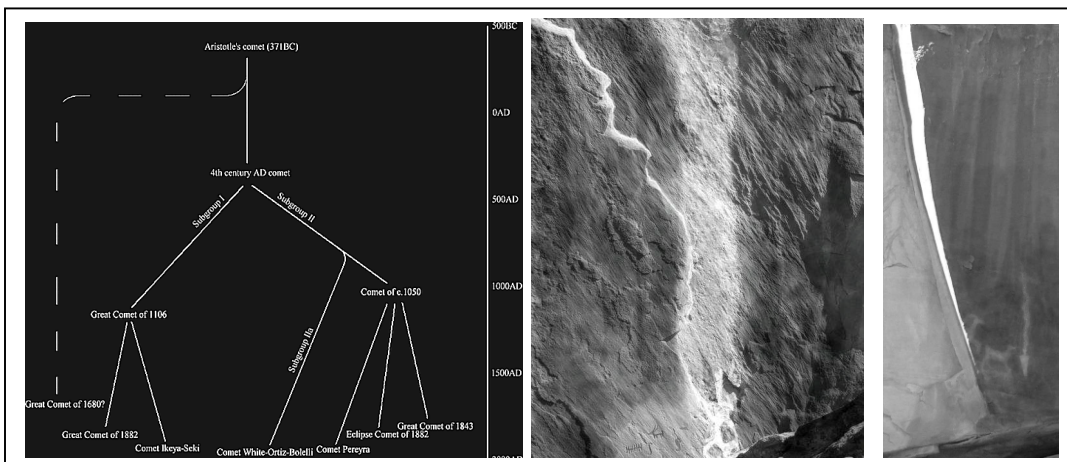


This commemoration in the Four Corners area, NM, possibly of the Kreutz sun grazing family progenitor comet, which was seen by the Greek historian Ephorus to split “into two planets” (note natural blemishes at the bottom, right) in the winter of 371 BC, used an “S” shaped motif to describe in visual terms the known going out and coming back again nature of great comets. This would have been understood for millennia from Comet Halley’s 74-79 year orbits —*always within living memory of elders* in tribes, despite the generally shorter life-spans of peoples of their time.



Starmaker Coyote and a probable 32-day double-rake counter-motif help complete the glyphic material at this stupendous 3-story boulder which had been

commandeered to record this sungrazer taking up a third or half of the sky in the west. (Below) Family tree of the hundreds-of-years-long orbits of the splitting sun-grazing comets; detail of boulder above; (bottom right) a Utah long-period comet commemorated with an inter-active, negative, cast shadow—com-memorations we have little



memorated with an inter-active, negative, cast shadow—com-memorations we have little suspected in our less holistic world-views and paradigms.