


LaVan Martineau's

The Rocks Begin to Speak

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for printing, usually sort 1-2-3

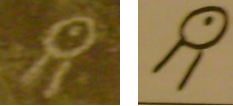


The left column ("complexity") is to indicate whether 2 or more symbols are incorporated. For example,  is a combination of a spiral and a rectangle, incorporating both meanings into 1 symbol.




These are my notes on LaVan Martineau's The Rocks Begin to Speak, which I received for my birthday several years ago, and which I am still trying to digest. It deals with Native American symbols often found as petroglyphs in the American Southwest and in other parts of North America. When I first began reading this book, I was a novice to this subject, and the information in the book is so dense that I found it necessary to make these notes. It is one of the most captivating books I have ever read.








notes on all symbols and panels:





* According to LM on p 43, the top of most panels indicates 'top' or 'north'.





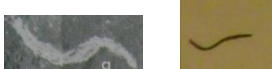
com-plexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
		 <p>No explanation given; the 2 arms are outstretched, but have no hands. Meanwhile, the head looks like a hand.</p>	grasp	10	
	(default)	(no pic)	present-tense	39	
	2 circles connected		communication, talk, writings	18-19, 28, 152	
	2 circles, solid or hollow		eyes, look (a locator), looking	18, 28, 160	
	2 members at the same level	 <p>'sometimes the same container is full, sometimes empty' (p 36)</p> <p>Note on the above: LM says we're looking at the figure on the right, and relating it to the one on the left. Apparently, Indian rock-writing's time-line was vertical going down.</p> <p>note on all: On pp 39-40, he says 2 members on one level mean the same member, while 2 members on different levels mean 2 different members. However, I'm not sure what he means by 'level', since the 2 above pictures of containers do not seem to be on the same level.</p> <p>add'l note: if the timeline was vertical going down, maybe this meant 'it fills up, and then it empties out'.</p>	?		




com-plex-ity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	2 parallel or near-parallel lines, especially coming from an eye		locator, looking (at)	36-37	
	2 symbols in opposite directions (3 possible mngs)		changed, changed mind, reversed	50-51	
	angle, acute	 <p>note: is this the same as the directional? I thought the directional was derived from a pointing finger, while I suspect this concept might be a person's arm further or closer from the torso, but I don't know that for sure.</p>	close, near	18-19, 160	
	angle, obtuse	 <p>note: is this the same as the directional? I thought the directional was derived from a pointing finger, while I suspect this concept might be a person's arm further or closer from the torso, but I don't know that for sure.</p>	distant, far	160	
	angle, obtuse, double-ended	 <p>note: is this the same as the directional? I thought the directional was derived from a pointing finger, while I suspect this concept might be a person's arm further or closer from the torso, but I don't know that for sure.</p>	far each way	152	

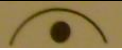


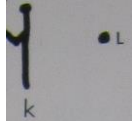


complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	arc, us. attached to a head (3 possible mngs)	 <p>(need pic p 52) LM says curving under themselves means 'removing & coming out from beneath' (p 52). I don't fully understand this.</p> <p>note 1: 2 congruent arcs mean 'a good journey' b/c congruent lines mean 'nothing there', which can mean 'good'. (p 49-51)</p> <p>note 2: arc, us. attached to a head so it won't be confused with 'covering'</p>	a good journey, completed movement, all taken off	48-51, 160	
	arc, vertical		veering (get expl. -- maybe just going around sth?)	160	
	arms at 45° angle		(negation), no, not	50-51, 160	

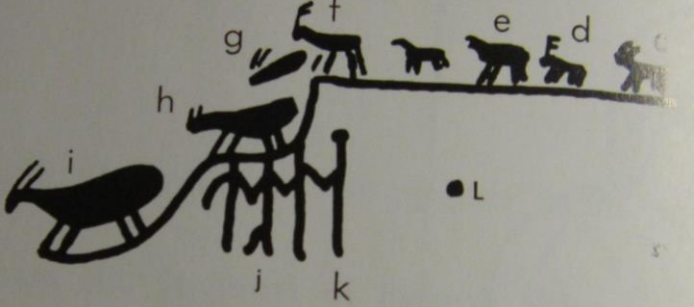

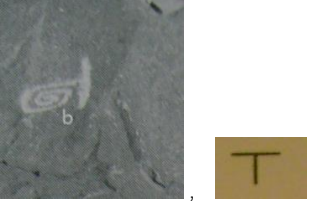


complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	arms outstretched flat	 ,  <p>note: this meant somebody got hit by flood-waters</p> <p>note b: pecked to show 'wet'</p>	barring, blocking(?), standing in the path of	26-27, 160	
	arrow with human (or animal?)	 <p>note: while the time-line appears to have been vertical going down, this appears to be vertical going up.</p> <p>note2: could the arrow be used with other directions?</p>	movement straight ahead	46	
	arrow-head	 , 	arrow-head	152, 160	
	arrow-heads facing each other	 ,  <p>note: On p 28, LM says the 'war'-symbol is 2 arrow-heads pointing toward each other.</p>	war	152, 160	
	arrow-heads pointing away from a person	(pic not clear: 'not hurt' (p 34))	not hurt	34	


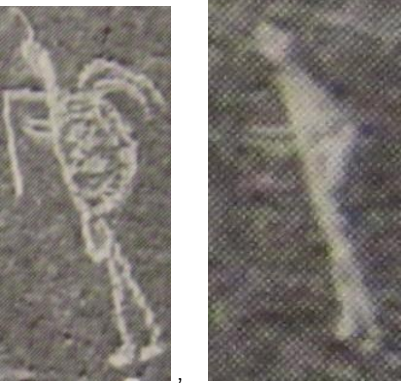

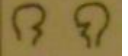
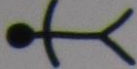
complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	backpacker w/ phallus or penis	 <p>note: LM says that the backpack held objects of value to be "traded for wives".</p>	man looking for a wife	52-54	
	bar with human (or animal?)	 <p>note: while the time-line appears to have been vertical going down, this appears to be vertical going up.</p>	being blocked from moving ahead	46, 50, 160	
	bent body		old	33, 34	
	bowl		bowl	160	


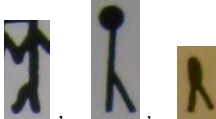



com-plex-ity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	cane used by person		old	33, 34	
	chest out		brave	60g	
	circle		holding	160	
	circle around dot (4 possible mngs)	 note: also see my checkmark on p 37	corralled, holding in one place, unable to get out, within, etc.	37, 160	37
	cupped hand	 note 1: LM says on p 27 that this is a cupped hand. note 2: LM says on p 27 that it acts as a determinative for the pecking on the eyes in F16 b.	water	27, 160	

complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	curve y2		movement around, veering around (expl?) does a curve always mean motion?	22-23	
	deep bowl, curved	 <p>note: He says the animal's head and horns are like a deep bowl with only a little liquid in it, so they mean 'deep'. Then the fact they're curved adds 'motion', and especially the fact they're the head of an animal means 'going or heading'; hence 'going way down into'.</p> <p>note2: I thought the shape of this quadruped's body was the tear-drop used to mean 'canyon', but he says it is a bowl.</p>	going way down into	56i	
	discernible palm on level with heart	 <p>note: LM says this shows a trail from the heart</p>	good (morally)	34	





complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	dot under hump (3 possible mngs)	 <p>According to internationalscientific.org, an ancient Chinese version of</p>  <p>'under' was . (LM claims there is or may be a common ancestry between Indian Rock Writing and other world writings.)</p>	covered; covering, a; hidden	28, 152, 160	
	dot with line from it	 <p>(expl?)</p>	gone	160	
	dot with person or animal walking from it (2 opposite mngs??)	 <p>expl?</p>	here, gone	56l, 160	
	doubled horns + long, flat neck (2 possible mngs)	 <p>note: (all taken off; the doubled horns mean 'off', and the long, flat neck means 'flat'</p> <p>note b: maybe the doubled horns mean 'removing': 'motion' + 'empty'</p>	all taken off, flattened or leveled or made flat	54 (f34)	55
F		 <p>note: He says the horizontal line being doubled means 'off from up'; if it were single, it would mean only 'up'. expl?</p>	descending, moving down into	56d	







complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	figure below ground-line (j, k)		below, beneath, under	56 j-k	57
	filled		something there	160	
	flat line attached to and above	 <p>note: This means the flash flood descended from beneath the crest, with rock-incorporation indicating the crest. note 2; ground-line to show above or under/below note 3:  is very similar to the modern Chinese symbols, acc. to Google Translate: 下 and 上. LM makes the spectacular claim that Indian Rock Writing is so ancient that it came from Eurasia with the Indians, and that it has common ancestry with other writing-systems of the world.</p>	below, beneath, under	26-28, 160	
	flautist w/ phallus or penis	 <p>note: LM says that suitors used to play the flute to try to seduce "girls", and that the backpack held objects of value to be "traded for wives".</p>	man looking for a wife	52-53	



complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	Gamma	(no pic). He says the horizontal line being doubled means 'off from up'; if it were single, it would mean only 'up'.	up	56d	
	hand-holding		traveling together	56j-k	
	hands reaching forward	 note: figures c & e note2: figure p 52; explanation p 54	going after something	52c, e	54
	head with open mouth		talk, a	60	
	heads with open mouths		talking	160	
	human on side		lying down	48	







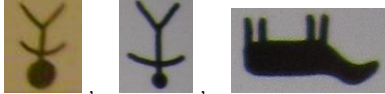

complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	lack of belt on human (2 possible mngs)		naked, very poor	33, 34	
	leg advancing or extending	 note: I guess the picture from p 160 is supposed to be a torso and legs, tho' I'm not sure LM says that anywhere.	departing, leaving, starting off	48, 56j, 160	
	leg with double lines for foot (2 possible mngs)	 note: LM says this is a leg with double lines for the foot meaning 'nothing there'; ie, no foot-prints.	not leaving any tracks, surprise	26-27	
	lines radiating inward from circle	 note: the lines inside yield this meaning	compressing	60a	
	long, flat neck		flat	54 (f34)	


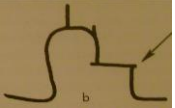





com-plex-ity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	man w/ hands down	 <p>note: engine ran itself; he didn't do anything</p>	not doing anything	50	
	member on left higher than member on right (4 possible mngs)	 <p>Note on the above: LM says we're looking at the figure on the right, and relating it to the one on the left. Apparently, Indian rock-writing's time-line was vertical going down.</p> <p>note on all: On pp 39-40, he says 2 members on one level mean the same member, while 2 members on different levels mean 2 different members.</p>	future-tense, inferior, last, later than	38	
	member on right higher than member on left (4 possible mngs)	 <p>Note on the above: LM says we're looking at the figure on the right, and relating it to the one on the left. Apparently, Indian rock-writing's time-line was vertical going down.</p> <p>note on all: On pp 39-40, he says 2 members on one level mean the same member, while 2 members on different levels mean 2 different members.</p>	earlier than, first, past-tense, superior	39	
	missing leg		gone	56l	



complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (\$ explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	mound, high	 <p>note: LM thinks the object behind is the symbol mound to indicate 'high'</p> <p>note 2: is it higher than normal? It looks so to me.</p> <p>note3: vertical member present (see note in its own row)</p>	high	26c	
	parallel lines (6 possible mngs)	  <p>note: what does a flat line mean by itself?</p>	empty, good, nothing there, taken off, taking off, detachable < taking it off < nothing there	50a (twice), 160	51
	person with gun		at war	60	






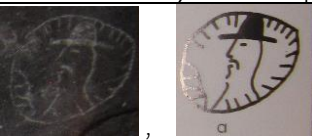
complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (\$ explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	quadruped heading up, down, left, or right		movement in a direction	48e, f, g, h	
	quadruped w/ horn touching neck (2 possible mngs)	 note: shows that the engine is connected to the train	attached, connected	50	
	rectangle (4 possible mngs)		area, object, place, property	152, 160	
	right angle		determined or not turned away	52-55, 160	
	right angle, rounded		not or no longer determined	52-55, 160	
	right hand down	 note: LM says this is direct from the sign-language	urinating	50	51 (btm)


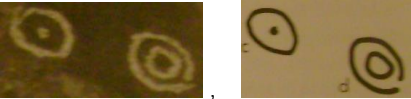
complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (\$ explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	rock-incorporation	 , 'crest' ,	emphasizes the meaning	6, 22, 26-27	
	rubbing, mutilating of forms		shows that people or things were destroyed	26-27 fig 17-d	
	slight protrusion		little, small	34	
	small size of character	(no picture)	little, small	36	
	spiral	 note: LM describes spirals as "clockwise" and "counterclockwise", but I wonder if we could say instead that they're both clockwise from their starting-points.	ascending, going up	18, 28	
	spiral	 note: LM describes them as "clockwise" and "counterclockwise", but I wonder if we could say instead that they're both clockwise from their starting-points.	descending, going down	18	
	stepped mound		piled up	152	
	steps		steps	160	

complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (\$ explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	stretched quadruped		long journey	60e	
	tear-drop-like shape	 ? (p 42 note: on p 43, LM says this symbol is black b/c canyons are dark. He also refers to it as a "darkened eye". I don't know why he refers to it that way. Maybe b/c again, it's dark so you can't see.	canyon	43, 160	
	tear-drop-like shape incorporated	 'canyon' note: incorporated into bodies of animals or people traveling, meaning 'traveling in(to) a canyon' (p 56g, h, i	traveling in(to) a canyon	56g, h, i	
	tethered quadruped		bound, not free	60d	
	tilted head		going in a direction (up, down, etc.), heading (up, down, etc.)	22-23, 160	
	torso with hand waving toward it		beckoning or "come"	56b	
	upside-down person or animal		dead	28, 48i, 48j, 160	
	upside-down U		rock	28	




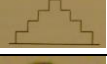
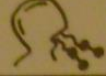
complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (\$ explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	vertical line in front of or transecting	 note: this is supposed to be a vertical line <i>in front of</i> an object (p 27)	in front of	27, 160	
	vertical member above	 (focus on the vertical member at top) note: these symbols are very similar to the modern Chinese symbols, acc. to Google Translate: 下 and 上. LM makes the spectacular claim that Indian Rock Writing is so ancient that it came from Eurasia with the Indians, and that it has common ancestry with other writing-systems of the world.	above	34	
	wavy/wiggly line	? (mentions it on p 50, but doesn't show it)	in motion, moving, uncompleted movement	?	50, top
1	mound		heap, hill, mound		
1	pecking		small and scattered, with various sub-meanings such as 'wet'	24-26	
2	2 circles, large		surprised to see something	24	
2	2 circles, pecked	 note: without  as a determinative, and without the other context indicating water, I'm not sure about the meaning.	eyes -- wet: surprised at seeing a flood	24	

com-plexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (\$ explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
2	bowl, deep	 <p>note: the object behind is the symbol bowl, but it is deeper than normal to indicate 'deep'</p> <p>note2: the vertical line means 'person (or thing?) in front of' -- listed in its own row.</p>	deep	26	
2	circle within broken circle		emptied or empty	36-38	
2	circle within circle		empty(?), hollow, nothing in it	152	
2	diamond = arrow-heads facing away from each other	 <p>note: On p 28, LM says the 'war'-symbol is 2 arrow-heads pointing toward each other. I don't remember whether he explained the 'peace'-symbol as 2 arrow-heads pointing away from each other, but it seems obvious that that's what it must be.</p>	peace	4, 152	
2	F with slanted rungs	 <p>note: He says the 'distant'-symbol is incorporated here. So I guess the 2nd parallel in it should mean 'off'.</p>	descending far	56f	

complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
2	pecking + cupped hand	 <p>Note: They are pecked, LM says, to show wetness b/c it was a flood.</p> <p>Pecking could mean other things, but  is present, and acts as a determinative to ensure 'wet'.</p>	wet	24	
2	spiral, squared off or rectangular	 <p>'[flood-waters] coming down upon someone's property'. This tribe recognized land-ownership, and assigned it in squares. That is why the spiral is squared off: to show the water went down onto someone's property. incorporation of spiral + rectangle for combined meaning</p>	descending on an area or property	24-25	
2	torso with hand waving toward it + other hand pointing down	 <p>note: he says the hand pointing down means 'stay'</p>	come and stay	56b	
2+	multiple figures with end one smaller	 <p>note: LM says multiple figures with the end one small yields this meaning</p>	coming from afar	52-54	
3	egg-shaped circle	 <p>note: He says the pointed end is what indicates 'end'.</p>	end	60a	

complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
3	vertical line in front of deep bowl	 note: the object behind is the symbol bowl, but it is deeper than normal to indicate 'deep'	in front of something deep, in the path of something deep	26	
5	circle with a dot & broken circle with a circle, on same level	 note: he says these are on the same level, tho' it appears to me that the one on the left is halfway higher. I wonder if this semi-split level means 'first it contains water; then it doesn't'.	sometimes full; sometimes empty	36	39

not from the SW US:

complexity	radical (Eng. name)	examples (& explanation)	gloss	page (pic)	page (expl)
	stepped mound	 (Aztec)	pyramid	4	
	stepped mound	 (Aztec)	temple	4	
	stepped mound	 (Plains beadwork & British Columbia baskets)	heaped up	4	
	stepped mound	 (Plains beadwork & British Columbia baskets)	mountain	4	
	head with open mouth & 2 sets of 2 circles connected	 (Ojibwa)	talk, intense	28	

Other notes to myself:

* Consider learning something about the sign-language. LM says W.P. Clark's The Indian Sign Language (1885) + Wm. Tomkins' Universal Indian Sign Language complement each other well in that the first has good descriptions but no pictures, and the second has pictures.

* Check out the Walum Olum. The Wikipedia article makes it seem a fraud; however, it was formerly accepted as legitimate, so even if it is a fraud, we cannot blame Martineau for accepting it.

* Follow up on checkmark on p 3

* Make sure everything has been gotten from p 18