

SOME NEW LIBYCO-BERBER INSCRIPTIONS IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO

Werner PICHLER & Alain RODRIGUE

During the last years series of discoveries have been made in Morocco concerning the subject of Libyco-Berber inscriptions. The sites of High Atlas have been enriched by a new site near Msemrir /Vallée du Dadès (Pichler; Rodrigue, 2000). The first representation in Anti-Atlas was found in Ouaremdaz south of Irherm (Pichler, 1999).

Foum Chenna near to Zagora turned out to be the richest place of finding with 30 panels and about 60 lines of script (Pichler, 2000). Even at the well-known place of rock art Oued Meskaou south of Tata four panels with Libyco-Berber script were documented (Pichler, 2001). In 2000 the latest stage of investigation brought to light some additional sites south of the Atlas. This short paper should give a first impression of five new sites.

AIT OUAZIK

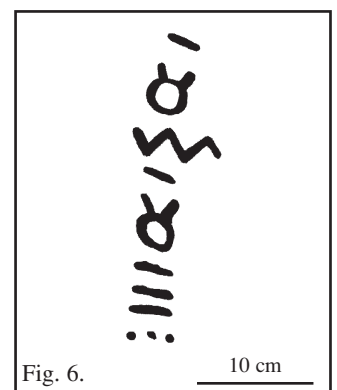
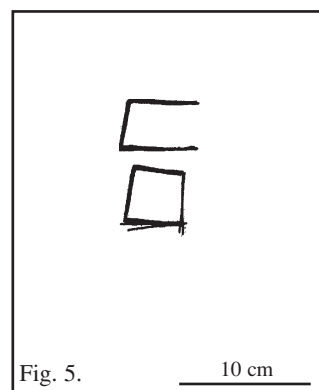
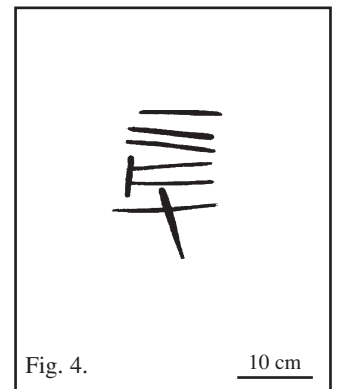
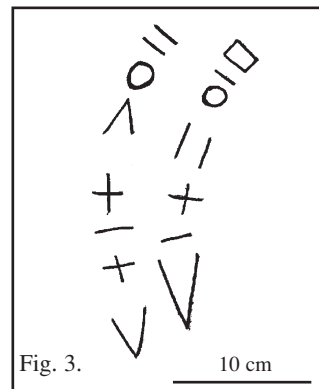
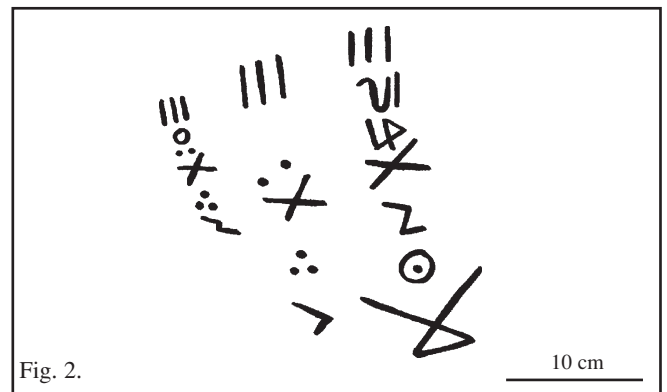
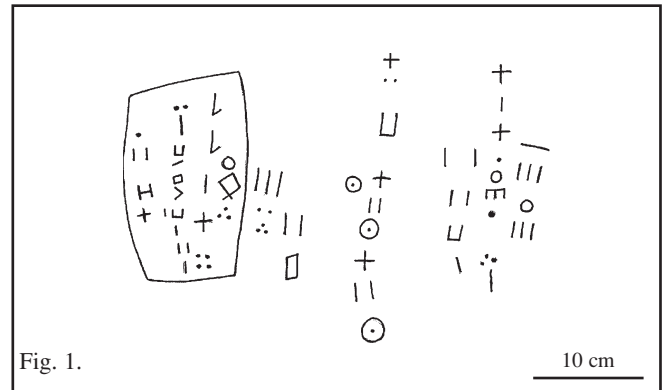
Pichler discovered the inscriptions in 2000. They are situated on a nearly flat stone amidst of hundreds of others engraved with animals and linear compositions northwest of the village Ait Ouazik. The letters are extremely small and thin. With more than 50 signs this panel is the richest one found in Morocco so far. The lines are written vertically, a line surrounds four of them in the left part of the panel. As at the site Ikhf n'Ouaroun punctiform signs are represented here too (Fig. 1).

IKHF N'OUAROUN

Simoneau first mentioned the site in 1972. It consists in series of low sandstone hills, between the two main ridges of the Jebel Bani, east of Zagora. Simoneau described the familiar Tazina style animals as gazelles, rhinos and bovids. Rodrigue discovered the inscription in 1996. Three lines of letters have been engraved on a rather small and horizontal block. Two of the signs of the right line (second and third from above) look very strange (Fig. 2).

TAZZARINE

This inscription – discovered in 2000 by Pichler – is the first one in the extensive rock art region round the village of Tazzarine. It is situated near the top of a little hill north of the „Tour de garde«, which is mentioned by Simoneau (1971: 114) as a very rich rock art site. The two vertical lines are combined with a group of animals depicted in a linear way (Fig. 3).



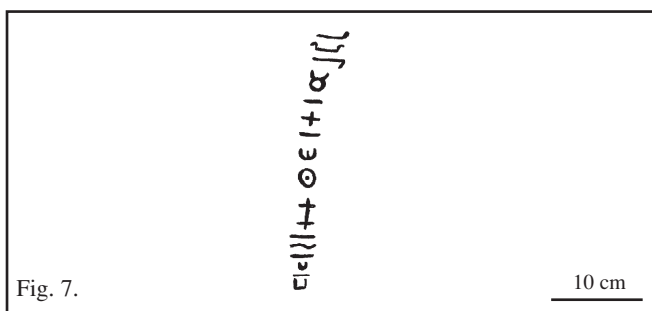


Fig. 7.

TIBASKSOUTINE

Rodrigue introduced this rock art site – some kilometers southeast of Zagora – in 1989. At the western foot of the very extensive range of hills a lot of rocks with horizontal surface can be found, covered with compositions of linear scratches. Two of them could be Libyco-Berber inscriptions, consisting of two and three signs respectively (Fig. 4/5).

ASSIF WIGGANE

Foum Chenna and Djorf el Rhil were partly published by Ruhlman (1939) and Glory (1955). It seems that the third libyco-berber site of Assif Wiggane, some seven kilometers east/southeast of Foum Chenna, was unpublished until the sober reference of Simoneau (1977). The engravings consist of some pecked out riders, scenes of hunting (horses, moulons, dogs), felids, camels and kuffiq letters. Two lines of well pecked out libyco-berber letters have been drawn on a vertical surface (Fig. 6/7).

RÉFÉRENCE

- GLORY A., ALLAIN Ch., REINE M., 1955, Les gravures rupestres libyco-berbères du Haut Draa (Maroc), *Actes du 2ème Congrès Panafricain de Préhistoire*, Alger, 1952, p715-722.
- PICHLER W., 1999, The first Libyco-Berber inscriptions of the Anti-Atlas, *Sahara*, 11, p146-147.
- PICHLER W., 2000, The Libyco-Berber inscriptions of Foum Chenna/Morocco, *Sahara*, 12, p176-178.
- PICHLER W., RODRIGUE A., 2000, The wall of discs at Msemrir/Vallée du Dadès (Morocco), *Anthropologie*, Brno, XXXVIII/2, p201-203.
- PICHLER W., RODRIGUE A., 2001, Libyco-Berber inscriptions at Oued Meskaou/Morocco, *Les Cahiers de l'AARS*, 6, p23-24.
- RODRIGUE A., 1989, Nouvelles gravures rupestres dans la région de Zagora, *Bul. Soc. Etudes et de Rech. Préh. des Eyzies*, 38, p43-49.
- RUHLMANN A., 1939, Les recherches de préhistoire dans l'extrême Sud marocain, *Pub. du Service des Antiquités du Maroc*, fasc.5, p88-96.
- SIMONEAU A., 1971, La région rupestre de Tazzarine, *Revue de Géographie du Maroc*, 20, p107-118.
- SIMONEAU A., 1972, Les prospections rupestres dans la région du Draa (Extrême Sud marocain), Avril 1971 – avril 1972, *Almogaren*, III, p15-31.
- SIMONEAU A., 1977, *Catalogue des sites rupestres du Sud-marocain*, Ministère chargé des Affaires Culturelles, Rabat, 127p.