

# **PETROGLYPHS KARA-TOO**

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Rock drawings in Tjan-Shan mountains became popular among scholars, travelers, and students of local lore in the end of the XIX century. There is an active study of petroglyphs in Kirgizstan during last decades. As a result of work of many researchers were studied petroglyphs in different places of Kirgizstan: Altay, Talasskaja valley, Issik-Kulskaja hollow, inner areas of Tjan-Shan. Many explorers pay a lot attention to Saimali-Tash location of petroglyphs and there are many studies on it. During studying Tjan-Shan petroglyphs had been elucidated ones of the Bronze Age, the early Iron Age, the Middle Ages and ethnographic contemporaneity. Besides had been analyzed the style of the rock drawings, their semantics and purpose. A big contribution to studying petroglyphs in Kirgizstan was made by Zima B. M., Bernshtam A. N., Vinnik D. F., Pomaskina G. A., Abetekov A. K., Marjashev A. N., Sher J. A. and others. Further searches in unexplored areas of Kirgizstan allow us elucidate early unknown monuments of petroglyphs.

In 1991 one of such monuments had been found by authors of this paper in north-eastern part of Kochkorskaja valley. In the central Tjan-Shan while they were working with Narinskyi archeologic group of Kirgizski university and Kirgizski association of young historians.

This monument is located on rock outlets of southern front of Kara-Too range, by outlet of Besh-Tash-Koroo gorge from mountains, to the north from Kara-Saz village. Petroglyphs are located in some places.

Locatí on I. is on the rock outlets on the crest of spur of Kara-Too range (the spur is parallel with the meridians), in the inner part of gorge, to the north from narrow ravine and to the east from byroad going from Kara-Saz village to sheep-fold.

There were found 8 groups of rock drawings and solitary ones on vertical and sloping flatnesses of rock outlets which, are located along western slope of the spur from its foot to the top. Petroglyphs were made in a different manners: by hollowing out by points, shape by cutting or were scratched. The degree of patinisation (sunburn) is different, it depends on the time the rock drawings were made, and on the angle of incidence of the sun's rays on the flatness during the day.

Side 1 Surface damaged with cracks, chips and dents, composition depicted on the surface consist of three figures.

1. 1 A man is faced to the right. He has rounded head, and there is a ban of hair on the back of the head The right arm is bent in elbow and draw a bow, while the left arm is stretched and hold it, The bow is complex compounded with bent ends. There is an uncertain object on the belt under the left arm Straight legs are directed by its toes to the direction of walking There is a phallus between them This figure was depicted as silhouette. The outline is sharp the sunburn is deep. The surface of this representation is chipped in some parts Low bent of the bow is chipped.

1. 2 Wild ram is faced to the left A part of the rock and fore legs are damaged with dents. There are depicted spiral bent horns, ears, neck, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette The outline is sharp. The sunburn is deep.

1. 3. An unfinished figure of animal is faced to the left. There are depicted legs and trunk. It's a silhouette. The sunburn is deep (Pic I,1).

Side 2 Surface damaged with cracks, there are depicted two figures of hoofed animals.

2. 1. A goat is faced to the left. There is depicted a head, horns, neck, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is deep.

2. 2. Wild ram is faced to the right. There are depicted spiral bent horns, head, neck, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is deep. (Pic. 1,2).

Side 3. Surface damaged with cracks, there are depicted some symbols.

3. 1. Petroglyph in the form of cloven hoof. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

3. 2. Petroglyph in the form of vertical line with two pairs of branches by both sides. It's a silhouette The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep. (Pic 1,3).

Side 4. Surface damaged with cracks, there are depicted some animals.

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4. 1. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted horns, snout, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 2. An uncertain petroglyph in the form of three holes connected each with others. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 3. A goat is faced to me left. There are depicted horns, trunk, legs, tail. The snout is damaged with chip. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 3. An uncertain petroglyph in the form of horizontal line. Perhaps it's an unfinished figure of animal. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 5. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted two horns, head, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 6. An uncertain figure of animal is faced to the right. Perhaps it's a horse under the saddle. There is depicted a head, neck, trunk, legs, tail, two juts on the back. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 7. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted horns, snout, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 8. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted horns, trunk, legs, tail. The snout is is damaged with chip.

4. 9. An uncertain figure of an animal is faced to the left. There is depicted a trunk, four legs, and a jut above. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 10. An uncertain figure of an animal is faced to the right. There is depicted a trunk, legs, two juts above. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep. (Pic. I, 4).

Side 5. Surface damaged with cracks; there are depicted the animals

5. 1. A dog is faced to the right. There is depicted a head, trunk, four legs, long tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

5. 2. An unfinished figure of an animal is faced to the right. The straight horns, snout, trunk, three legs, tail is depicted by point. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. I, 5).

Side 6. Surface damaged with cracks and chips, there are depicted the animals. There are contemporary inscriptions over the petroglyphs

6. 1 A horse running to the left. There is depicted a head with ears, the snout with two juts by every side as up, so and down, snaffles (?), neck, trunk, four legs, short tail It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp The sunburn is not very deep

6. 2 An unfinished figure of an animal is faced to the left. There is depicted trunk and legs The head is damaged with chip It's a silhouette The outline is illegible The sunburn is not very deep

6. 3. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted horns, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

6. 4. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted two horns, snout, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

6. 5. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted horns, snout, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

6. 6. An uncertain figure of an animal is faced to the right. There is depicted trunk, legs, tail. The head is damaged with chip. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. I, 6).

Side 7. Surface damaged with cracks. There is depicted a goat.

7. 1. An unfinished figure of a goat is faced to the left. There are depicted two horns connected by its ends, snout, neck, trunk. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep. (Pic. I, 7.).

Side 8. Surface damaged with cracks. There are some unintelligible figures, which were made by hollowing out and engraving. There is contemporary inscription over petroglyphs.

8. 1. An unintelligible figure in the form of crossing straight and slanting lines. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn mild.

8. 2 An unintelligible figure in the form of circle consist of hollowed out points with crossing carved lines inside. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild

8. 3 An unfinished of an animal is faced to the right. There is depicted trunk and hind legs. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

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8. 4. An unfinished figure of a dog is faced to the right. There is depicted neck, trunk, four legs, hooked tail. There are wide spreaded claws on three clutches. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

8. 5. An unfinished figure of an animal. There is depicted trunk, hind legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild (Pic. I, 8).

There were found 7 groups of petroglyphs and solitary ones on vertical and sloping flatnesses of rock outlets along eastern slope of the spur from its top to foot. There are petroglyphs made by hollowing out and engraving among them.

Side 1. Surface damaged with cracks and breaks. There are depicted figures of peoples and animals.

1. 1. A horse is faced to the right. There is depicted the head, ears, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

1. 2. A horse is faced to the left. There is depicted the head, ears, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

1. 3. A horseman on the horse, which is faced to the left. There is depicted the man with rounded head, thick neck and trunk. The arms are stretched in different directions, fingers are wide spreaded. The right arm hold rein, the left – lash. The legs lean over lower belly of the horse. The depicted horse have the head, ears, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

1. 4. A man shooting from gun to the right. Besides there is depicted a man in lying position. We can see the head and trunk. The legs are straight, its toes are directed in different directions. There is a jodhpurse on the legs. The arms hold a rifle with long barrel and massive butt. The rifle has foresight, cocking-piece, launching and two straps. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is mild (Pic. I, 9).

Side 2. Surface damaged with cracks and chips. There is depicted a figure of a horse.

2. 1. The horse under the saddle is faced to the right. There is depicted a head, ears, trunk, four legs, tail. There are two juts on the trunk. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. I, 10.).

Side 3. Surface damaged with chips, there is depicted a figure of a goat.

3. 1. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted the horns, snout, trunk, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. I, 11.).

Side 4. There are depicted figures of people, animals and unintelligible symbols on surface damaged with cracks and chips.

4. 1. An unintelligible figure in the form of not closed up ring. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 2 An unintelligible figure in the form of not closed up ring. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 3. An unfinished figure of a man. There is depicted the head, trunk, arms and legs are directed in different directions. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 4. A man is faced to the right. There is depicted a head, trunk The arms are stretched in different directions, the fingers are wide spreaded. The legs are stretched in different directions. Its toes are turn to the right. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep

4. 5. A deer is faced to the right. There are depicted branchy antlers, head, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 6. A deer is faced to the right. There are depicted branchy antlers, head, neck, trunk, four legs, turned up tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep

4. 7. A goat is faced to the right There are depicted two horns, head, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep

4. 8. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted two horns, trunk, three legs, tail It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 9. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted horns, head, ear, trunk, four legs, tail. There is a horizontal line which connected the ends of the horns with horns of previous goat. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

4. 10. An unfinished figure of a goat. There are depicted the horns. It's a silhouette The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. II, 1.).

Side 5 There are depicted animals on surface damaged with cracks.

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5. 1. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted two horns, snout, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

5. 2. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted two horns, trunk, three legs, hooked tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

5. 3. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted horns, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is mild.

5. 4. A horse is faced to the right. There are depicted the head, ears, neck, stripy trunk, three legs, tail. There is a pole with beam with fluttered ribbons on it on the back of the horse. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

Side 6. There is depicted a flat surface with a figure of a goat on it.

6. 1. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted the horns, snout, trunk, legs. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. II, 3).

Side 7. There is depicted a figure of a horse on surface damaged with cracks and chips.

7. 1. A horse is faced to the right. There is depicted the head, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. II, 4.).

Location II. It is situated on rock outlets by ridge of spur of Kara-Too range (It is located to the west from location I.), in the inner part of gorge, to the north from not wide ravine and to the east from byroad, which is going from Kara-Saz village to sheep-fold.

There were found 4 groups of rock drawings on vertical and sloping flatnesses of rock outlets along western slope of the spur from the middle of its height to the top. Petroglyphs were made by hollowing out and engraving.

Side 1. There are depicted figures of goats on surface damaged with cracks and chips.

1. 1. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted two horns connected by its ends, head, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep.

1. 2. An unfinished figure of a goat is faced to the right. There is depicted neck, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. II, 15.).

Side 2. There are depicted animals on surface damaged with cracks.

2. 1. A goat is faced to the left. There are depicted the horns, head, neck, trunk, legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

2. 2. A horse is faced to the right. There is depicted the head, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. There is a rounded hoof on one of the fore legs. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is mild.

2. 3. An unfinished figure of an animal. There is depicted trunk and legs. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

2. 4. A figure of an animal is faced to the left. There is depicted the head, trunk, four legs. Animal's corpse is damaged with chip. This petroglyph was made over the more early figure of a goat, part of a horn and leg of the goat are preserved. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild (Pics. III, 1).

Side 3. There are figures of animals on the flat surface.

3. 1. Wild ram is faced to the right. There are depicted horns, head, trunk, four legs, tail. Three legs were renovated in the present. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep.

3. 2. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted horns, head, trunk, legs, tail. Three legs were renovated in the present. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. III, 2).

Side 4. There are depicted symbols and contemporary inscriptions on surface damaged with cracks.

4. 1. An intelligible figure in the form of crossing of straight, broken and arched lines with contemporary inscription near. There are depicted horns, head, trunk, four legs, tail. Three legs were renovated in the present. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild (Pic. III, 4).

There were found 10 groups of rock drawings and solitary ones on vertical and sloping flatnesses of rock outlets, which are located along eastern slope of the spur, from the foot to the top of it. The petroglyphs were made by hollowing out by points and by engraving.

Side 1. There is an unintelligible figure on surface damaged with cracks.

I. 1. An uncertain accumulation of small dents. Perhaps, it's an unfinished figure of an animal. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

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Side 8. There is depicted an unintelligible figure on surface damaged with cracks.

8. 1. An intelligible figure in the form of not closed up oval, which is divided by straight, broken and crossing lines. Some of the lines are long and so their ends are outside. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild (Pic. II,12).

Side 9. There are depicted horses and small flags on surface damaged with cracks.

9. 1. A horse is faced to the right. There is depicted neck, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild.

9. 2. A horse is faced to the right. There is depicted head, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is mild.

9. 3. A horizontal line with three triangular small flags. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is mild.

9. 4. A horizontal line with two triangular small flags. It's a silhouette. The outline is sharp. The sunburn is mild.

9. 5. An unfinished figure of a horse. There is depicted trunk, three legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild (Pic. II, 13).

Side 10. There is depicted a goat on flatness surface.

10. 1. An unfinished figure of a goat is faced to the left. There are depicted two horns, neck, trunk, four legs, tail. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is not very deep (Pic. II. 14).

Location III. It is situated on rock outlets by the ridge of spur of the Kara-Too range, to the west from the road, which is going from Kara-Saz village to sheep-fold. There is was found a solitary petroglyph on the eastern slope of the spur. It was made by engraving.

Side 1. There is depicted a goat on surface damaged with cracks.

1. 1. A goat is faced to the right. There are depicted two horns, head, trunk, four legs, tail. This silhouette was filled by wiping down. The outline is illegible. The sunburn is mild (Pic. III, 4).

Location IV. There is was found a solitary petroglyph was made by hollowing out by points on the fragment of rock in narrow ravine between mountain spurs to the north-east from the road going from Kara-Saz village to sheep-fold

Side I. There is depicted a figure of a man on smooth slightly concave surface.

1, 1. A man has rounded head and vertical trunk. The arms are straight in different directions. The right arm is divided by two breaks. The left one is bent in elbow and ended by rounded object. The legs are straight in one side. The man is depicted in a sitting posture with straight legs. It's a silhouette. The outline is illegible. The upper half of the petroglyph has not very deep sunburn, the lower half of the trunk and legs have deep sunburn (Pic. III, 5.).

All those rock drawings in locations I-IV are divided depending on the way how they were made, the degree of patinisation, peculiarities of the style and some times on its subject in two groups: the petroglyphs were made by hollowing out and ones were made by engraving

Hollowed out figures were made by blunt striken instrument. As a rule they have more deep sunburn than engraving ones have, except some figures were hollowed out as imitation of ancient petroglyphs, or to renovate them, or over them (Pic. II.,2, III, 1,2).

There are some sides with hollowed out solitary figures of animals and groups of them. But similar compositions don't mean that they are synchronous. We can suppose that there are scenes of a hunting on some groups of petroglyphs archer and wild ram (Pic. I,1), a dog and a hoofed animal. (Pic. I, 5). But there is no reason to do the same supposition for other combination of some animals, deers, goats, wild rams with figures of peoples on one flatness.

Among hollowed out figures of people and animal the most were made sketchily. They are mostly the figures of rocky goats. The horns are depicted as arched line, the snout and the trunk as horizontal line and the legs as vertical line. Some times there is depicted the stub tail. Judging by the similar petroglyphs on olennii stones, steles with fauces around them, plates offances of burial mounds of Tagarskaja culture they were being widespread in rock paintings of nomads of South Siberia and Inner Asia during late Bronze Age and early Iron Age. The similar (in the form of the tamga- a symbol of possession) goats were being hollowed out and during the Middle Ages and till the ethnographic contemporaneity.

Besides there are detailed figures of the goats where two horns, head, massive trunk, four legs are depicted. We can see aspiration for keeping proportion of the animal on some rock drawings.

At the same time there are a lot of petroglyphs, which were made slipshod, unfinished, without keeping a real proportions.

There are some attempts to explain the reason why such a large number of the similar petroglyphs were made. According to the most verisimilar of them the hunters

destine the figure to designate the souls of killed animals to restore the livestock of wild hoofed animals.

The figures of the wild ram are seldom on the petroglyphs of Kara- Too. They differ from the figures of the goats by spiral bent horns. Besides there are detailed figures with horns, ears, head, massive neck and trunk, thin legs and short hooked tail (Pic. I, 1, 2).

Such figures are widespread in South Siberia and Inner Asia. They are dated by Bronze and early Iron Ages.

There are some figures with straight branchy horns (antlers) among figures of wild hoofed animals on petroglyphs of Kara-Too (Pic. II, 1). The most probably they are deers. These figures are sketchly and hollowed out without keeping the proportions. They very strongly differ from deers made in "animal's" style - the favourite characters of Scythian art. There is a supposition that such sketchly figures of the deers are related to the late Bronze Age. But we can see them and on the plates of fences of burial mounds of Tagarskaja culture.

The most popular domestic animals we can see on Kara-Too petroglyphs are horses. They are depicted very sketchly. The figures have head, trunk, four legs, and tail hollowed out. We can see two juts on the back of the horse on one petroglyph, which could mean front and hind pommels of saddle. If it's true this petroglyph is related to early Middle Ages (Pic. I, 10).

One horse is depicted at a gallop. There are ears on the head and two juts on snout by every side, which can mean snaffles (Pic. I,6). There is depicted a dog with long tail on one petroglyph (Pic. I,5).

Figures of people are seldom on Kara-Too petroglyphs. In the most cases they are sketchly with rounded head, straight trunk, arms and legs stretched in different directions. One figure has wide spreaded fingers on its hand, other is depicted in a sitting posture (Pic. II, 1, III, 5).

The details are on one petroglyph only, there is an archer drawing a complex compound bow. Besides the bow, there is an uncertain object with bent upper end on the belt. Archer's hair are in the bun and flying (Pic. I, 1).

Archer's figures made in alike style with complex compound bow and similar hair-do are well known in petroglyphic of South Siberia and Inner Asia. They related to the Bronze and early Iron Ages.

There are many uncertain and maybe unfinished figures consist of symbols, points and lines. One of them is resembling cloven hoof (Pic. I, 3). Such figures are known on Mongolian's petroglyphs, where they are related to the Bronze Age.

So, the most hollowed out figures on Kara- Too petroglyphs are related to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, although some figures were made probably much more late. At the same time we can't see figures made in Scythian "animal's" style among them.

Engraving petroglyphs were made by instrument with sharp cutting edge, possible, metallic. In some cases the contour is filled up by wiping out. The degree of patinisation is low. Sometimes we can see contemporary inscriptions on petroglyphs. Engraving petroglyphs differ from hollowed out ones by its style and subjects.

Rocky goats are seldom there. They have massive arched or straight horns, small head, massive trunk, four legs and tail (Pic. II, 6, III, 4).

Possible they were depicted as imitation of more ancient petroglyphs, but on other sides.

There are domestic animals, which we can see much more than rocky goats. In the most cases they are horses. They are depicted very sketchly on some rock drawings. The head, trunk, four legs and tail is depicted by some lines. There are hoofs on the end of legs of horses on some petroglyphs. Harnessed cart, reins, uncertain poles with bands or small flags were depicted from time to time (Pic. I, 9).

But there are figures of horses with more details: head, neck, massive trunk, four legs and tail On of such horses is depicted kept in bridle. The rider on the horseback is depicted with lash in hand (Pic. I, 9).

Some figures resemble dogs with four legs, trunk and long tail (Pic. I, 8).

People's figures are depicted on one side, but we can't say it is a composition. Rider on horseback is depicted with massive head, short trunk, hands stetched in different directions. There is a bridle in one hand and lash in the other. Legs of the rider are straight and worn in wide baggy trousers and high boot with bent toes.

Hunter is depicted in laying position, firing a massive riffle with triangular butt. He is worn in jodhpurse and high boot with bent toes (Pic. I, 9).

We can see fire-arms on petroglyphs related to ethnographic period in Inner Asia

There are some unintelligible and unfinished figures among engraving petroglyphs.

In all probability all engraving figures among Kara-Too petroglyphs are related to the period of ethnographic contemporaneity. The low degree of patinisation, fire-arm on the petroglyphs and contemporary inscriptions tell on behalf of it.

It is difficult to say about the purpose of Kara-Too petroglyphs during the different historical periods. It's unlikely that these petroglyph's monuments were a sanctuary, like many rocks with drawings were, because there are no remains of bonfire and gifts.

There are a lot of burial mound and commemorative fences of Ancient Turk's time, graves of Mongolian period, disolate buildings related to the period of ethnographic contemporaneity in ' Besh-Tash-Koroo gorge. But it is difficult to see the links between petroglyphs and these monuments.

To all appearances, during the Bronze Age and early Iron Age the Kara-Too mountain-mass was being used as a place for hunting for wild hoofed animals, mostly goats and wild rams. The episodes of such hunting and its results are depicted on rock drawings. The Besh-Tash-Koroo gorge could be used as a place for cattle's pasture and wintering.

But the importance of these kinds of economic activity had lowered during ethnographic contemporaneity. Wild ungulates had been annihilated. The hollowes and gorges were used as place for cattle-breeding, that reflected in subjects of petroglyphs.

#### **Inscriptions to the pictures.**

Pic. 1. Petroglyphs on Kara- Too rocks. Figures of people and animals. Location I.

Pic. 2. Petroglyphs on Kara- Too rocks. Figures of people and animals. Locations I-II.

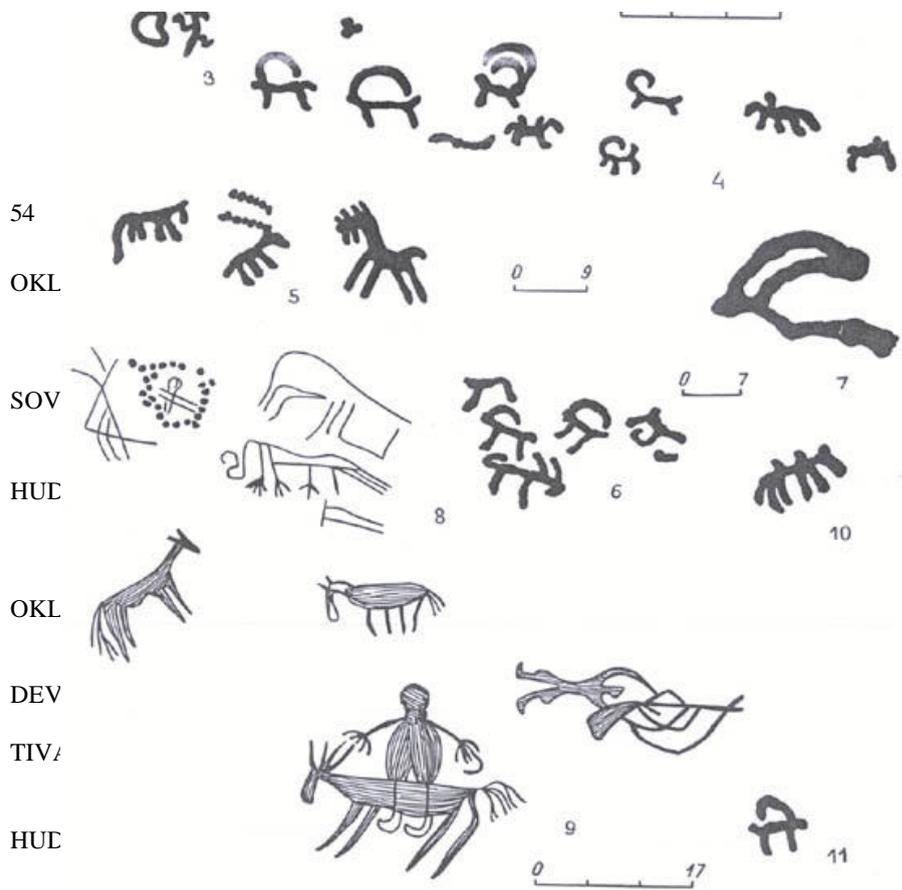
Pic. 3. Petroglyphs on Kara- Too rocks. Figures of people and animals. Locations II-IV.

## NOTES

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