

ROCK ART IN MODERN SOCIETY

International conference celebrating the 290th anniversary of the discovery of Tomskaya Pisanitsa

Siberian Association of Prehistoric Art Researchers (SAPAR)

The Museum Reserve ‘Tomskaya Pisanitsa’, Kemerovo State University, the Siberian Association of Prehistoric Art Researchers (IFRAO member SAPAR), the Institute of History, Archaeology and Ethnography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Human Ecology of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences will hold an international conference

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**(on the 290th anniversary of the discovery of Tomskaya Pisanitsa)
on 22–26 August 2011 in the city of Kemerovo, southern Siberia.**

The conference program will include exhibitions, master classes, presentations of projects of preservation and management of rock art sites, video programs, and excursions to the Museum Reserve of Tomskaya Pisanitsa as well as to the other rock art sites on the river Tom’.

The academic program will comprise the following thematic sessions:

- Rock art of the Tom’: history of discoveries, developments of ideas, results of research.
- Academic heritage of the foreign researchers on Siberian rock art.
- Chronology and interpretation of rock art.
- Documentation of rock art.
- Preservation and restoration of rock art sites.
- Actualisation of rock art sites in modern society.
- Ancient images in modern art.

The official languages of the conference will be Russian and English.

Those wishing to take part in the conference are kindly requested to send their preliminary applications to the e-mail address *mztp2011@yandex.ru*, providing the following data: first name, surname; organisation/affiliation; city, country; title of the paper or other form of participation; postal address, e-mail address. The same conference address can also be used to send questions and proposals regarding the conference.

Kemerovo is located on the Tom’ River, near Novosibirsk, and has its own international airport. The city of about half a million people is 1600 km east of the Ural mountains, i.e. in south-western Siberia. It is the headquarters of Siberian rock art research and has hosted an international rock art conference before.

ROCK ART GLOSSARY: a multilingual dictionary

The second, significantly expanded edition of this crucially important volume to facilitate international standardisation in rock art research has just been published. The main disadvantage of the first edition, published seven years ago by Brepols of Belgium was its very high price. This prevented its wide adoption especially in those parts of the world where terminological standardisation would be especially welcomed, and in that sense it could not serve its underlying purpose effectively.

The 2010 edition is published by AURA, in its established monograph series *Occasional AURA Publications*, appearing as No. 16. Produced in-house, it is available for a small fraction of the cost of the first edition, yet it comprises ten major languages, whereas the first edition only contained six European languages. Three of the added languages are of particular importance, because of the vast rock art occurrences in regions where these languages are predominantly spoken: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin) and Portuguese. Also added was Greek.

The *Rock Art Glossary* has been edited by leading specialists operating in major rock art regions and determines the international standard of scientific publishing in rock art studies. Its use is recommended by IFRAO, and to ensure its widest global distribution, it is now offered for an introductory price of

\$A19.00

(c. US\$16.15, depending on exchange rates at the time), plus postage. This price will be held until 75% of stocks are sold, and will then be increased for the remaining stocks.

The editors of the ten main chapters of the *Rock Art Glossary* are:

English: Robert G. Bednarik (Convener, IFRAO, and Editor, AURA, IFRAO and CARA)

Arabic: Dr Ahmed Achrati (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Chinese: Professor Tang Huisheng (Nanjing Normal University)

French: Dr Alfred Muzzolini †

German: Robert G. Bednarik

Greek: Professor George Dimitriadis (IFRAO Representative, HERAC)

Italian: Professor Dario Seglie (IFRAO Representative, CeSMP)

Portuguese: Dr Fernando Coimbra (Politécnico de Tomar)

Russian: Professor Yakov A. Sher (IFRAO Representative, SAPAR)

Spanish: Professor Mario Consens (IFRAO Representative, CIARU)

The volume also includes direct translation tables of all terms listed from English to French, German, Italian, Arabic, Russian and Spanish.

This is the first dictionary compiled specifically for rock art research. In a discipline that has hitherto been without an agreed terminology, even communication within a single language has been difficult. The proliferation of idiosyncratic terminologies of often academically isolated researchers, many of which have been used by only one scholar, has not only retarded progress and the transference of knowledge, it has led to countless misunderstandings. The purpose of this dictionary is to create a single terminological standard as well as a cross-lingual uniformity of usage. It focuses particularly on scientific aspects, technical applications and epistemological rigour. It does not set out to create a terminological straitjacket for the discipline, but a common standard of reference, particularly in areas that have in the past been susceptible to greatly differing or idiosyncratic interpretations. The translation tables are organised alphabetically according to the English terms. The volume is indispensable for scientific translators, rock art scholars, archaeologists and others concerned with aspects of pre-Historic rock art, and is also intended for the guidance of students and authors working in this field. Just as the IFRAO Standard Scale has long become an 'industry standard' (now used by dozens of other disciplines), this dictionary sets a benchmark for the discipline of rock art research.

Palaeoart exhibition, Moscow State Darwin Museum

This exhibition was held in the Moscow State Darwin Museum from 15 July to 22 August 2010. It was dedicated to the 310th anniversary of the first Russian decree concerning palaeoart, made by Peter the Great on 1 January 1699.

The Moscow Centre of Palaeoart and Bioindication Research (IFRAO member since 1995) created the exhibit. It presented to the general public six representative materials from six continents of the world. They were:

- Lower Palaeolithic cupule sites in central India
- Ochre with engravings from Blombos Cave in South Africa
- Pedra Furada site at Sierra de Capivara National Park in Brazil
- New AMS dates for the cave art in Chauvet Cave in France
- Rock paintings from National Park Kakadu in Arnhem Land, Australia
- Portable Pleistocene palaeoart from Gault Site, Texas, U.S.A.