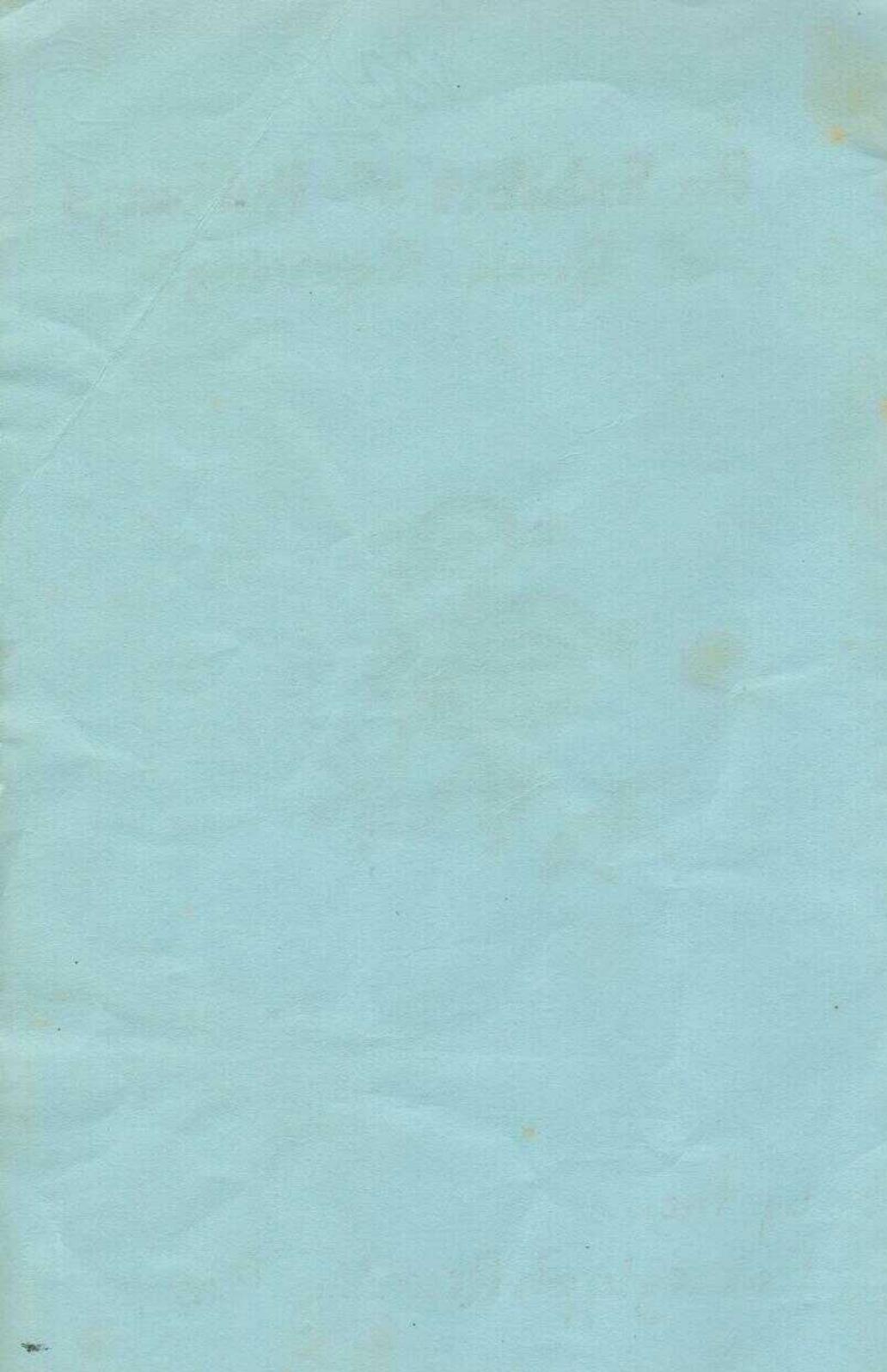


An Exhibit of Rubbings of Rock Carvings



by the
Petroglyph Recording Group



This is an exhibit of reproductions of the rock carvings of Vancouver Island. The reproductions are made by spreading cotton sheeting over the rock picture and then rubbing the cloth with black cobbler's wax, so that the design emerges in white. They are therefore fairly exact copies of the original petroglyphs, except where the originals are faded by erosion. Rock pictures such as these are found in almost every part of the world, but our West Coast petroglyphs have a distinct regional style. The map shows the locations of the site recorded in this exhibition, but the West Coast petroglyph region extends from the valley of the Columbia River to the coast of Alaska.

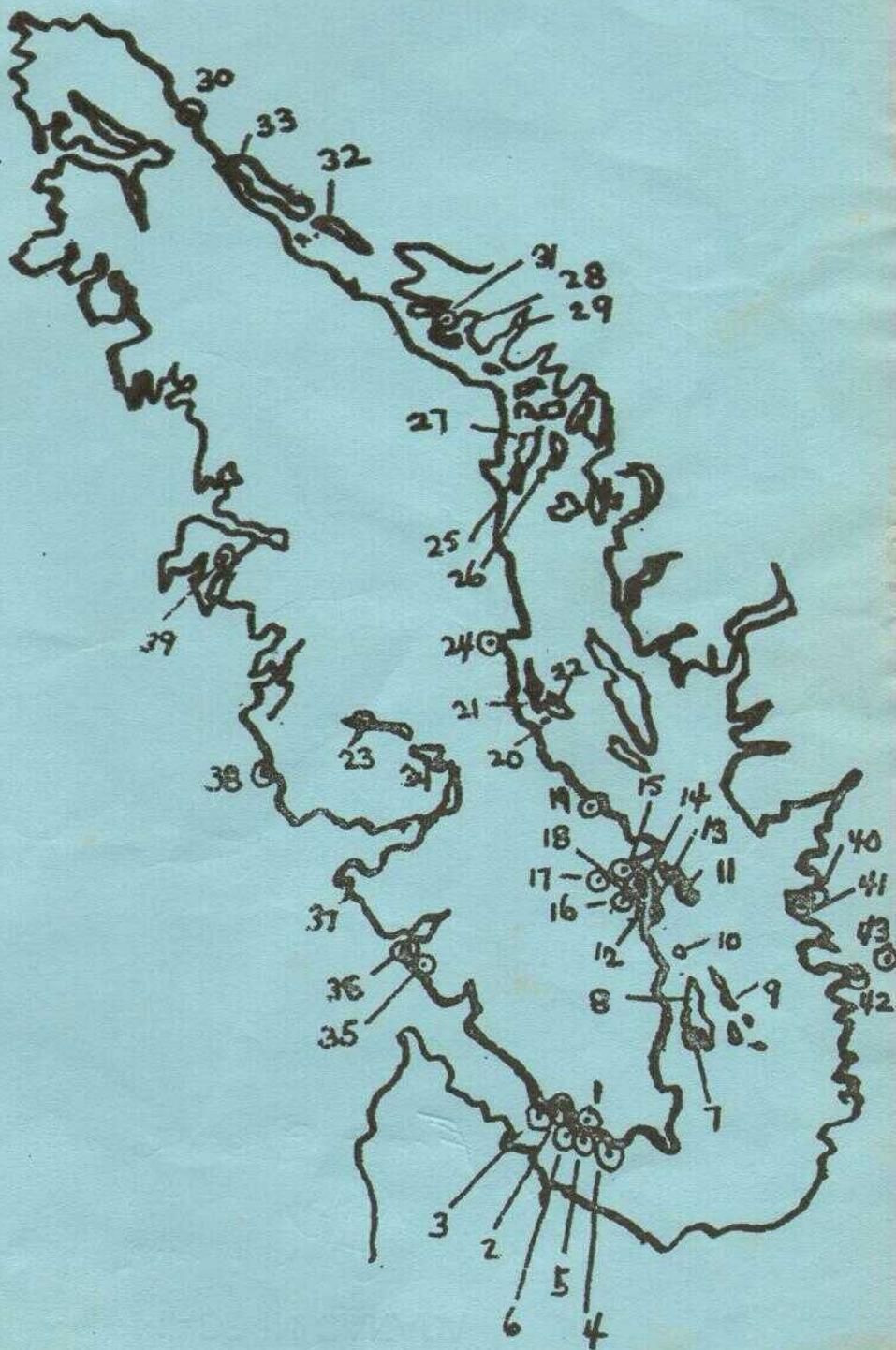
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How old are they? and why were they carved? The fact that so many are found near or below the low tide line has led to the supposition that petroglyphs may be associated with a tide level change of 8000 B.C. but the petroglyph of the ship "Beaver" is certainly very recent. In certain sites there are several petroglyph styles; some more eroded than others, and we may surmise that rock art has been a part of the Indian culture until contact with white people.

The "Why" is even more difficult. Wilson Duff, Associate Professor in the Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of British Columbia, has written "There can be a great fascination in finding and contemplating these strange representations left by the Indian people of hundreds or thousands of years ago. Petroglyphs tend to be stubbornly inscrutable things, since the ways of determining their age and meaning are so few. Depending on your temperament and your training, this can add either to the frustration or the fascination. With a little imagination, standing on the same lonely beaches where the ancient artists once stood, you can feel a kind of kinship with them. You cannot help but speculate on what they were trying to portray. The very mystery unfetters the imagination, and you think of solitary shamans imbued with visions of their spirit helpers and trying to record them at remote places of supernatural power, of secret societies, of cannibal spirits, perhaps even of sacrifices. Such speculations are not without support in the evidence that does exist..."

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Aldridge Point | 39. Nootka |
| 2. Otter Point | 40. Stanley Park |
| 3. Point No Point | 41. Hastings Mill |
| 4. Bedford Island | 42. Crescent Beach |
| 5. Beechey Head Islet | 43. Cloverdale Museum |
| 6. Point 2 Mi. W. of Beechey Head | |
| 7. Fulford Harbour | |
| 8. Mouat Site | |
| 9. Galiano Island | |
| 10. Thetis Island | |
| 11. Gabriola Island | |
| 12. Kullet Bay - | |
| 13. Cedar-by-the-sea | |
| 14. Petroglyph Park | |
| 15. Nanaimo Museum | |
| 16. Monsell Site | |
| 17. Harewood Plain | |
| 18. Holden Lake | |
| 19. Englishman's River | |
| 20. Chrome Rock | |
| 21. Denmen Island | |
| 22. Hornby Island | |
| 23. Great Central Lake | |
| 24. Royston | |
| 25. Quadra Island | |
| 26. Cortes Island | |
| 27. Seymour Narrows | |
| 28. Forward Harbour | |
| 29. Loughborough Inlet | |
| 30. Fort Rupert | |
| 31. Port Neville | |
| 32. Harbledown Island | |
| 33. Malcolm Island | |
| 34. Sproat Lake | |
| 35. Dare Point | |
| 36. Clo-oose | |
| 37. Pachena Point | |
| 38. Quisitis Point | |

exist...



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Ruby Alton
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