

INDIAN CAVE

East of the old village of St. Deroin, the Missouri River is bordered for some distance by precipitous sandstone bluffs. At one point the cliff overhangs to create a large shelter, locally known as Indian Cave, about which many local legends center.⁵² Although lack of time prevented any excavation, no evidence of Indian occupancy appeared on the surface. On the sandstone walls, however, are to be found (among more recent artistic efforts) a number of representations of human and animal forms and a few geometrical forms which are probably of Indian authorship (Plates XXIV, XXV). In all cases the outlines and details are executed by means of incised lines, and if paint was ever used it has completely disappeared. The life forms include, besides a few rather crude human figures, fairly skillful outlines of deer, bison and smaller mammals, a bird, and a figure with the general form of a fish to which are attached on opposite sides, two leg-like appendages, terminating in three toes. Among the rest is the figure of a man astride a horse. Thus, if all of these are genuine, some at least post-date the white man's arrival, although others might be much older. It is, of course, impossible to affirm the unquestionable authenticity of these petroglyphs, but the nature of the expression and the rather pronounced erosion affecting some of the incisions establish a rather strong presumption of the genuineness of part of them, at least.

52. See stories by S. P. Hughes, *Omaha World Herald*, January 3, 1915, and *Nebraska State Journal*, January 3, 1915.

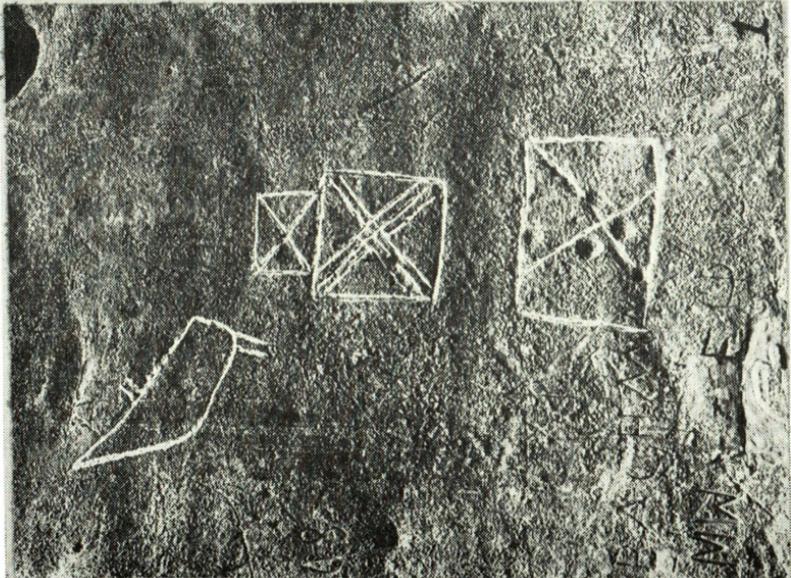
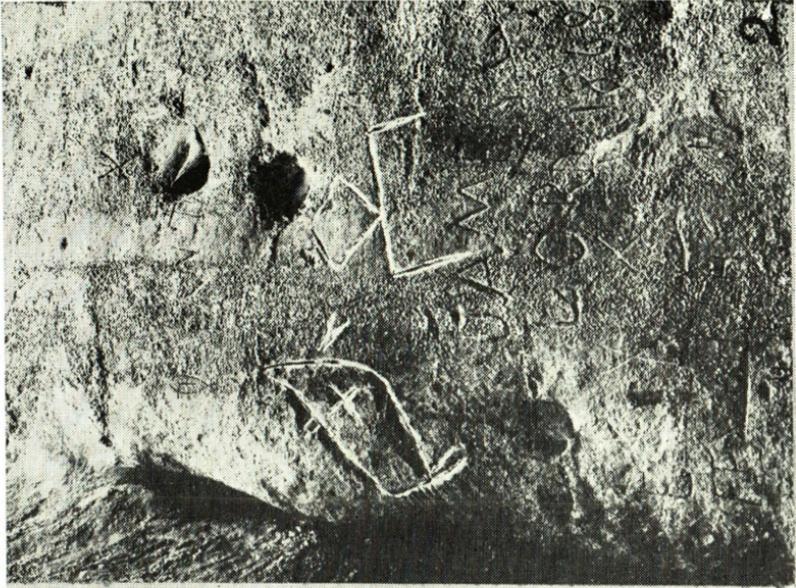


PLATE XXV

Petroglyphs on Walls of Indian Cave