

古代石刻

香港沿海及離島共有八處石刻列為法定古蹟，受《古物及古蹟條例》保護。它們大部分位處海邊的大石上，面對海灣；亦有一些位處內陸，但附近有小溪或河流。這些石刻的風格頗為接近，紋飾基本上由幾何圖案和曲線組成，亦有像人物或鳥獸的抽象圖案。

石刻的刻鑿年代、方法及由誰人刻鑿等問題，由於文獻少有記載，故難以考證。文獻之中，只有清代王崇熙於1819年編纂的《新安縣志》曾簡略記載東龍洲石刻。雖然這些石刻的刻鑿年代難以確定，但從石刻的風化情況推斷，它們的年代可能相當久遠。

由於香港境內的原居民並沒有流傳關於刻鑿石刻的神話和傳說，因此可推測石刻並非近代刻鑿。同時，石刻的圖案，不論是幾何紋或鳥獸紋，均與香港出土的青銅時代陶器和青銅器上的紋飾相似。由此推斷，這些石刻的刻鑿年代，與青銅時代大致同期，即距今約三千年左右。

中國東南沿海地區都曾發現石刻，其中最大的是珠海高欄島寶鏡灣石刻，它長達5米，刻有船隻、人物、動物和花紋等，題材與海、船的活動和信仰習俗相關。考古學家根據石刻的內容、雕刻技術和附近出土的遺物分析，認為該石刻是廣東省青銅時代的產物，距今已有三千多年歷史。

香港石刻的內容雖然遠遠不及寶鏡灣石刻豐富，但石刻上的圖案，相信亦與古代宗教信仰和圖騰崇拜習俗有關：一些模糊的人物和動物圖案，可能代表先民崇拜的圖騰或神祇；幾何圖案則可能象徵雲、雷等大自然力量。值得注意的是，幾處石刻的前面都有頗為寬闊的石台階，可能是舉行祭祀儀式的地方。

ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS

Eight rock carvings which are found scattered along the boulder strewn coastline and remote islands of Hong Kong have been declared as monuments and are protected under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. Most of these carvings are situated on rock outcrops overlooking the sea. Although some are at a distance from the sea, they are near to rivers or streams. Stylistically, Hong Kong's rock carvings form a fairly homogeneous group. The patterns are basically composed of geometric patterns and lines, with some hints of human or animal images.

It is difficult to establish when, how and by whom the carvings were made. There is no literary record available which could throw the slightest light on their origin – only one on Tung Lung Chau was briefly documented in 1819. Although their age remains a myth, they must have been there for ages judging from their state of weathering.

The rock carvings must be very old, because they are not figured in the myths and legends of the present-day inhabitants of Hong Kong. The patterns resemble strikingly those on the Bronze Age stamped pottery and bronze vessels unearthed in the territory. As a working hypothesis, it is perhaps reasonable to date the carvings to Hong Kong's Bronze Age, about 3,000 years ago.

Rock carvings are commonly found along the coastal area of the southeastern part of China. The rock carving at Baojingwan of Gaolan Island in Zhuhai is the biggest among all. It measures 5m in length, and is carved with boats, human, animals and abstract motifs, showing the relations with sea, marine activities and religious beliefs. According to the content, carving technique and the artefacts unearthed in the surrounding area, archaeologists believed that the rock carving was made during the Bronze Age of Guangdong Province, about 3,000 years ago.

Although the content of the rock carvings in Hong Kong is not as rich as that of the rock carving at Baojingwan, the similar animal motifs suggest that the rock carvings may also relate to religious belief and totemism. The shadowy human or animal images may have represented tribal totems, or gods and goddesses of an ancient pantheon. The geometric patterns may have symbolized the thunder spirits or other forces of nature. It is noteworthy that ledges or platforms exist in front of some rock carvings, suggesting places where ritual offerings could have been accommodated.

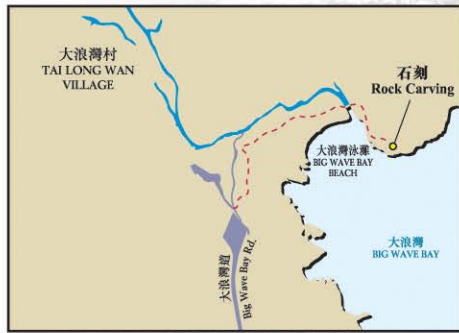
港島大浪灣石刻

Rock Carving at Big Wave Bay, Hong Kong Island



這石刻位於港島南面大浪灣一個向海的崖壁上，高約90厘米，闊約180厘米，紋飾為幾何圖案和曲線，像一些抽象的動物圖案。石刻於1978年列為法定古蹟。

This rock carving is situated on a headland facing Big Wave Bay, south of the Hong Kong Island. The worked surface measures 90cm in height and 180cm in width. The design of the carving is composed of geometric patterns and curved lines, assembling stylized animal patterns. The rock carving was declared a monument in 1978.



公共交通：
新巴 9 筲箕灣—石澳
專線小巴 18M 港鐵柴灣站—哥連臣角（懲教所）
Public Transport:
First Bus 9 Shau Kei Wan—Shek O
Maxi cab (Green) 18M Chai Wan Railway Station—Cape Collinson (Correctional Institution)

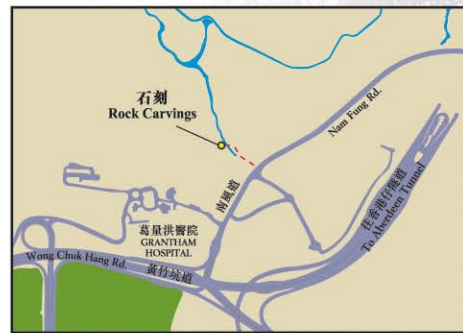
港島黃竹坑石刻

Rock Carvings at Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong Island



這組石刻位於港島南面黃竹坑內陸一條小溪旁，遠離海岸。石刻上的幾何紋飾由曲線和螺旋紋組成，與其他石刻的風格相若，特別與長洲及蒲台石刻的紋飾接近。石刻於1984年列為法定古蹟。

These rock carvings are situated inland beside a stream course at Wong Chuk Hang on the southern part of the Hong Kong Island. The geometric patterns of the rock carvings consist of curved lines and spirals, which are similar to the style of other rock carvings, especially those on Cheung Chau and Po Toi. The rock carvings were declared a monument in 1984.



途經黃竹坑道的巴士：
城巴 41A 華富（中）—北角碼頭
76 石排灣—銅鑼灣（摩頓台）
城巴/九巴 107 九龍灣—華貴邨
170 沙田鐵路站—華富（中）
171 荔枝角—海怡半島

Buses passing Wong Chuk Hang Road:
Citybus 41A Wah Fu (Central)—North Point Ferry Pier
76 Shek Pai Wan—Causeway Bay (Moreton Terrace)
Citybus/KMB 107 Kowloon Bay—Wah Kwai Estate
170 Sha Tin Railway Station—Wah Fu (Central)
171 Lai Chi Kok—South Horizons

西貢龍蝦灣石刻

Rock Carving at Lung Ha Wan, Sai Kung



這石刻位於西貢龍蝦灣一塊向東的岩石面上，由直線及曲線組成。由於久經風雨侵蝕，它的紋飾已極之模糊。石刻於1983年列為法定古蹟。

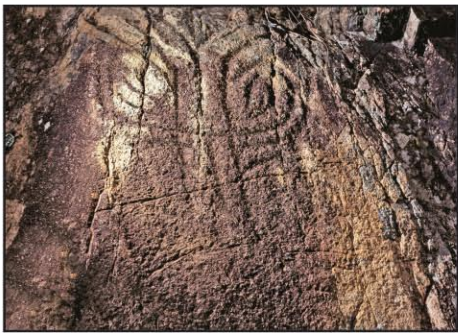
This rock carving is located on a vertical plane of a badly weathered boulder facing east at Lung Ha Wan in Sai Kung. The pattern shows a composition of straight and curved lines. The rock carving was declared a monument in 1983.



途經清水灣道的巴士：
九巴 91 鑽石山鐵路站—清水灣
Bus passing Clear Water Bay Road:
KMB 91 Diamond Hill Railway Station—Clear Water Bay

西貢潛西洲石刻

Rock Carving on Kau Sai Chau, Sai Kung



這石刻位於潛西洲西北岸，該處幾乎沒有陸路到達。石刻離海面僅2米，高約60厘米，闊約40厘米，它的紋飾因飽經風雨侵蝕而變得模糊。但如仔細觀察，仍依稀可見動物紋樣。石刻於1979年列為法定古蹟。

The rock carving is located on the northwestern coast of Kau Sai Chau, where accessibility by land is extremely poor. The worked surface is approximately 2m above the highest water mark. The rock carving measures 60cm in height and 40cm in width. The carving is badly weathered, but a zoomorphic motif is still visible when examined closely and carefully. The rock carving was declared a monument in 1979.



前往潛西洲：可於西貢碼頭附近租賃小艇。
Transport to Kau Sai Chau: privately-owned boats can be hired near Sai Kung Pier.



香港出土的青銅時代幾何印紋陶片
Pottery sherds with geometric design of Bronze Age unearthed in Hong Kong