

## Tenth International Conference of the Dakhleh Oasis Project

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### **Reconsidered interpretation of a petroglyph group at Djedefre's Water Mountain**

Djedefre's Water Mountain was discovered in 2000 about 60 kms west from the Oasis of Dakhla. It has archaeologically been named Chufu 01/01 as it was the first site in the vicinity that was discovered to have been marked with symbols of "*water mountains*". On the eastern slope of the mountain, right under the inscription of pharaoh Djedefre, a two-horned water mountain petroglyph can be seen surrounded with two boats as well as an animal-like figure and a sun disc. The dating of these boats has been assessed, although some minor details should be added due to clarification. These boats and some others located 40 kms east at Biar Yaquub suggest that the area had repeatedly been visited by expeditions from the Nile Valley in the later Predynastic and Early Dynastic times. The interpretation of the animal-like figure standing atop the water mountain symbol has not been carried out so far. Based upon iconographic features, parallel depictions and written sources, it can be linked to the western jackal *bas* that pulled the sun bark over the western horizon and firstly appeared in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, in the tomb of Ramses VI.

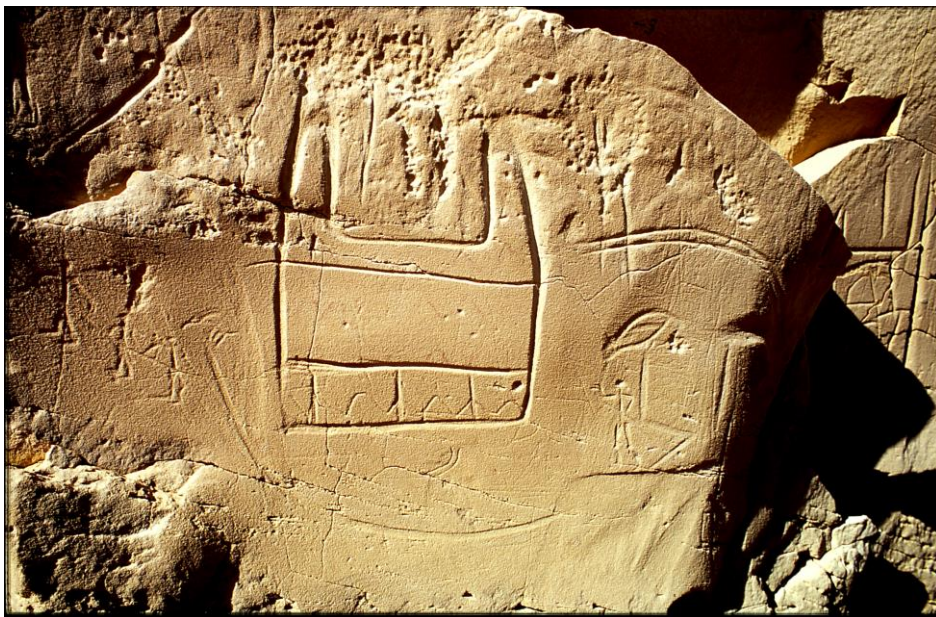


Photo by Carlo Bergman.