

Anthropomorphic figures on rock boulders in the Northern Limestone Alps - Tyrol, Austria

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Fig 1: AK 2 east wall, image location 2, (5)



Fig 2: AK 2 east wall, image location 2, (2) and (3)



Fig 3: AK 2 northeast wall, image location 1

Austrian archeological reports scarcely mention rock art in the western federal states of Austria. During the past four years, rock art has been a focus of documentation by the Institute of Archeology at the University of Innsbruck in particular recording rock art in the Northern Limestone Alps of Tyrol.



Fig 4: AK 2 east wall, image location 2, overview

Methods

During this rock art research over 420 rock art elements in the Achenkirch locality (AK 1 - AK 12) were documented using archeological methods including digital 2D- and 3D- visualizations with programm „aSPECT 3D (ArcTron 3D GmbH)“, including measurement of notches (Fig. 5). Motifs were classified into categories and compared in a correspondence analysis.

Results

The rock art sites display raetic inscriptions, roman numerals, numeric characters, medieval symbols, articles of daily use, weapons, human (Fig 1 - 4) and animal representation's, Christian signs and a large number of letters, initials and names in cartridges engraved on the rock.

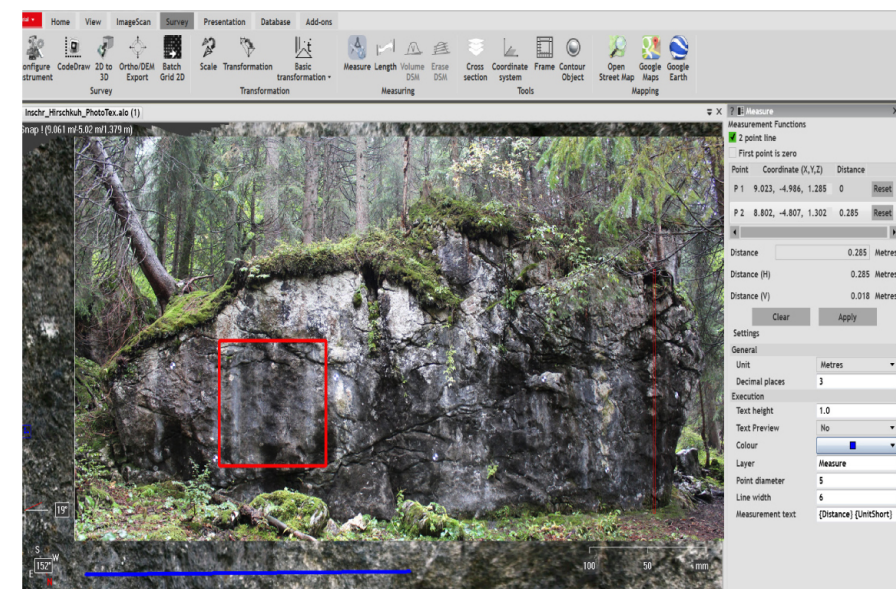


Fig 5: measurement with programm „aSPECT 3D (ArcTron 3D GmbH)“

Discussion

Despite attempts to interpret human figures, the various rock art images from the different time periods, „their meaning“ and „why they were engraved“ will most of the time remain open for discussion. This comprehensive archeological documentation and analysis of the rock art of Tyrol contributes to rock art research generally and to the cultural heritage of Austria.

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Raetic inscriptions on Rock Boulders in Tyrol, Austria

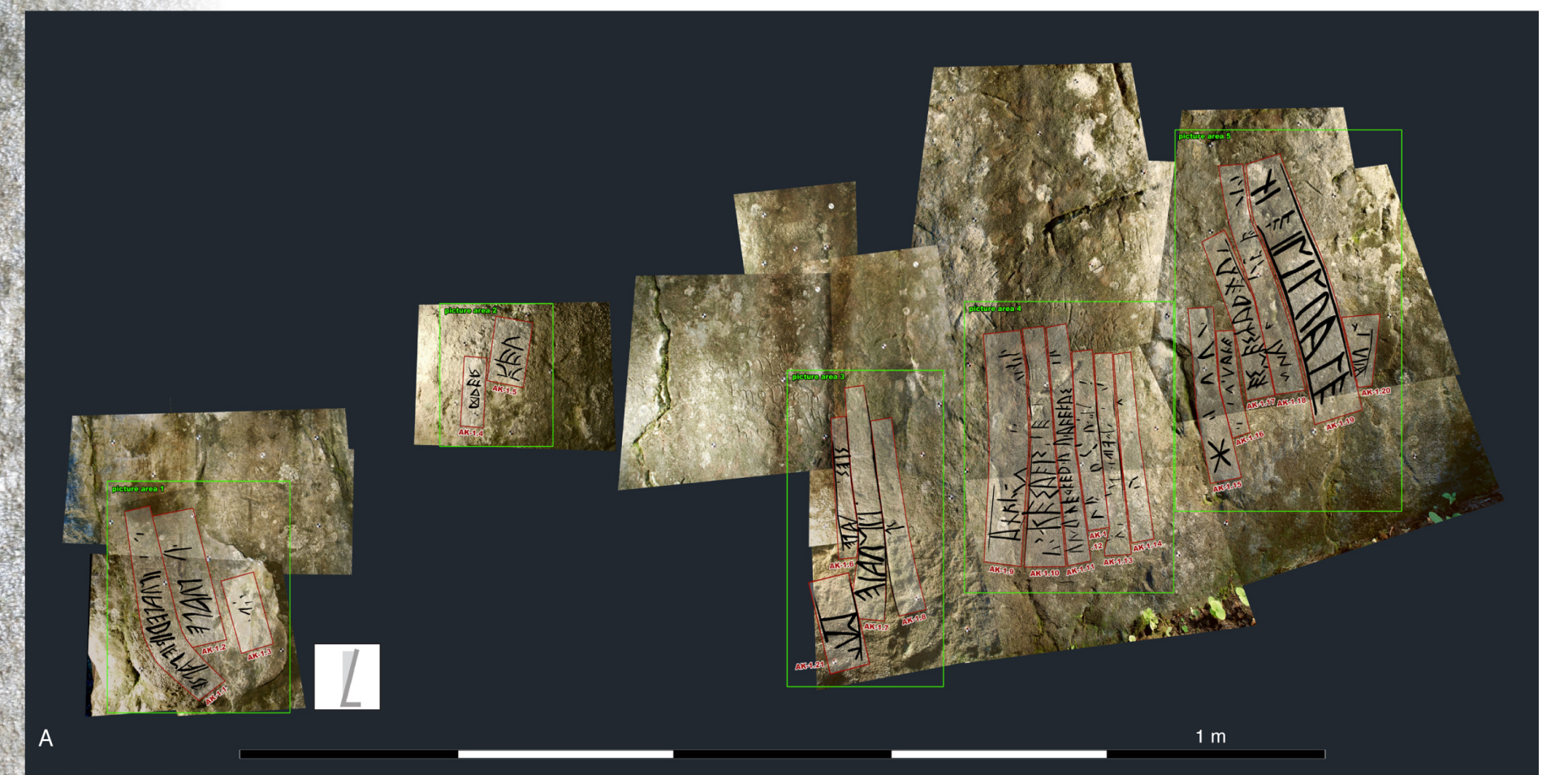
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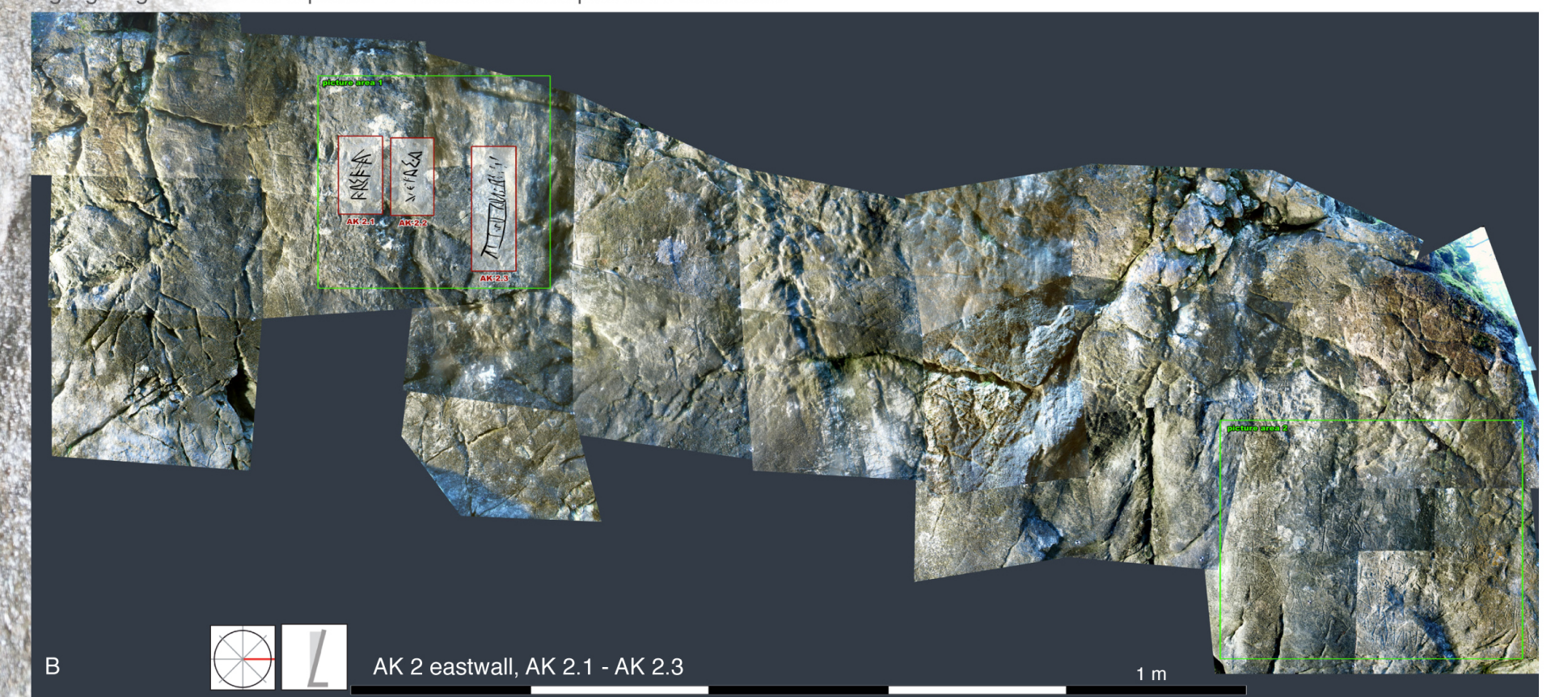
Selected steep surfaces of boulders in the forests of the Northern Alps display unique rock art. 24 vertical Raetic inscriptions (roughly dated between the fifth and the first century B.C.) were identified in the area of Achenkirch, Tyrol, Austria (AK-1.1–21, AK-2.1–3) in 2017. Nearby at Steinberg/Rofan a further seven Raetic inscriptions have been known since the 1950s (ST-1–6, ST-8). Together they are among the oldest known inscriptions in the Tyrol and represent about 12 % of all known Raetic inscriptions.

Details: Thesaurus Inscriptionum Raeticarum

http://www.univie.ac.at/raetica/index.php?title=Main_Page



A: AK-1 west wall, picture areas 1–5, overview, AK-1.1 – AK-1.21, A + B: rectifications Baur 2015, University of Innsbruck highlighting of Raetic inscriptions: © Thesaurus Inscriptionum Raeticarum



B: AK 2 eastwall, AK 2.1 - AK 2.3
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