

## SAN-BANTU-CONTACTS: SOME MYTHS GENERATED BY ROCK ART

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### *Summary*

Rock art sites continue to provide the most useful insights into Stone Age life and probably Early Age Life. In the absence of consistent research and information into the Stone Age several myths have been built particularly by Bantu/Shona who have occupied the areas where rock art sites are located.

National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe have initiated a site-museum program which seeks to interpret these sites in a manner that corrects some of the misconceptions related to this important aspect of Zimbabwe cultural history.

The study will explore some of the myths and by using the case of the Domboshawa Site Museum will discuss the potential of site museums to interpret Rock Art Sites.

In Zimbabwe over 2,000 sites have been recorded but Garlake, an archaeologist working on this aspect of Zimbabwe's history, thinks that there may be as many as 30.000 sites in the country. Many of these are accessible to the public and now six have had site museums developed on them. These site museums are part of the strategy made by National museum and Monuments of Zimbabwe to provide some interpretation of the stone age culture with particular attention on rock art. We hope that these site museums will contribute to the correction of some of the myths and misconceptions associated with what is perhaps Zimbabwe's richest artistic heritage. One of the sites set for development is Domboshava, located some 27 km. from Harare. This study seeks to draw on the Domboshava case to discuss the challenges and the potentials that the concept of site museums have for interpreting rock art.