

REVISED GRADING OF MARTEN'S ROCK

By Ms. Celeste Rossouw

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| Site name | Wostijn 2 10981 |
| Official Site name | Marten's Shelter (also spelt Maarten's Shelter and Martin's Shelter) |
| National Site number | 2929AB 015 |
| District and 1:50 000 map sheet no: | 2929AB Champagne Castle |
| GPS Latitude and Longitude | S29°03'27" E29°24'35.3" |
| Elevation | 5435ft |
| Accuracy | 8m |
| Direction to the site | From Champagne Castle Hotel take the trail to Fern Forest, passing the signage indicating the trails to Mike's Pass and Crystal Falls continue for about 30-40 minutes until you see signage indicating no access. Martin's Rock was closed for access to the public last year; the trail from the main hiking pass was also allowed to overgrow to ensure no one accesses the site illegally. This was a decision by the owners and management of the site. |
| Community land, State land or Private Property | Private Property – Champagne Castle Hotel in the Buffer Zone of Monk's Cowl Nature Reserve |
| Owner's contact details | Theresa and Georges Romarin (owners) and Maintenance Manager, Mr. Roland Luke Cell no of Mr. Luke: 072 6200 136 Cell no of Mrs Romarin: 073 858 2281 Private Bag X8 Winterton 3340 e-mail: cch@champagnecastlehotel.co.za |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



Figure No. 5: Bichrome, red and white rhebuck where depicted very realistically and detailed at Marten's Rock.

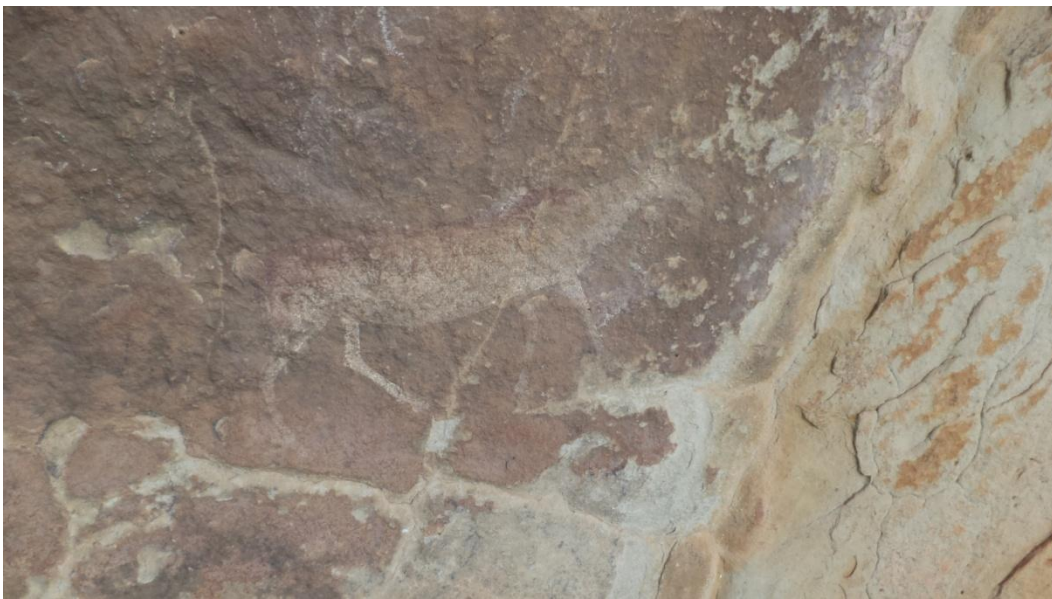


Figure No. 6: A shaded polychrome eland is also present painted in white, a very faded orange or brown tint and a highlighted red back.

The parent rock is very fragile and in the process of exfoliation as a result of natural weathering and the nature of the rock.

Aesthetic significance: Medium – both the bichrome (red and white) rhebuck and shaded polychrome (white, faded brown/orange and a highlighted red) eland were exceptionally well painted with regards to realism, their posture and detail.

A shaded polychrome painting of an eland is present at the site.

Although rhebuck motifs are not scarce in the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone, it is actually the second mostly depicted animal in the Park, it is usually painted red or in a combination of red and white. In the case of Marten's Boulder the main colour is white which a rare case.

A benefit is that the site is well-protected against illegal visitation and access management is excellent. As stated already in the base-line documentation form, the trail to Marten's Boulder was allowed to overgrow and was rehabilitated.

The aesthetic value of Marten's Boulder is medium.

Research/technical and scientific values:

Rhebuck are symbolically linked to rain-making and hunting rituals.

The San shamans wore rhebuck head gear because they believed that this allowed them to control the movement of the game and thus to ensure a successful hunt.

Secondly, rhebuck was also intrinsically linked to rain-making rituals: !Qing told Orpen in 1873 when he acted as a guide for the Magistrate from the Eastern Cape who was sent on a mission to capture Chief Langalibalele when the Chief refused to allow the British government to register his people's weapons, that: "Men wearing rhebuck caps jumps into rivers to tame eland and snakes". This is of course not real eland and snakes but rather animals functioning as metaphors for rain-making creatures. The San shamans were assisted by the "Water People" to lure these rain-animals out of their hiding places and by throwing Buchu plants into rivers so that the shamans could capture them and lead them to an area where it was dry, here these animals would be killed and milked and their blood and milk would turn into rain. When the rain threatened damage, the shamans would again lead them away.

The rhebuck motif is well researched; however, the fact that they were depicted in white paint at Marten's Boulder indicates that more research must be done, in the light of new research suggestions by Dr. Jeremy Hollmann that the colour white was regarded as being charged with an ominous or negative potency or significance by the San.

Other paintings at Martin's Rock comprises of indeterminate antelopes, eland and some people walking in a procession.



Figure No. 7: Some faded paintings of three figures walking in procession at Marten's Boulder.

The eland is the San's god, called /Cagn most favourite antelope. The San believe that where the eland is present, there, their god's protection is present.

The research value of paintings, especially the white and brown rhebuck that forms the main panel at Martin's Rock, are of medium significance in the light of the discussion above.

An extra recommendation would be to survey the ridge or kranze above the boulder from where the boulder could have been dislocated in the past and to establish whether there are extra paintings in places neighbouring the section where the boulder became dislocated.

Social value: The site is not used as a living heritage site and neither local San descendants nor any other religious or spiritual group visit the site as a ritual destination.

The site is easy accessible but the paintings are few and hardly visible. The site has no tourism value since it was closed last year as a public destination. However, taken into consideration that the San paintings are still a product of the world-view and religious expressions of the San, the site has a medium social value.

Historical value: The site was not dated directly or indirectly formally. No images linked with historical times or contact between the San and indigenous Bantu-speakers or Europeans are present. However, research has proven that paintings in the Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site can be dated generally between 4 000 – 200 years ago. Accordingly the site could be of some historical value, but this can only be established once it has been formally dated.

Martin's Boulder has a medium historical value.

Extra

During a discussion on the grading of Marten's Boulder it was decided that the kranz above the boulder should be inspected for more paintings since it was documented that the boulder may have been originally a part of the sandstone kranz layer. Ms. Rossouw surveyed this layer on the 18th of May and no other paintings were identified.

SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

| VALUE | HIGH | MEDIUM | LOW | NONE |
|---------------|------|--------|-----|------|
| Aesthetic | | X | | |
| Social | | X | | |
| Historical | | X | | |
| Scientific | | X | | |
| Architectural | | | | X |
| Linguistic | | | | X |

Grading recommendation: The site should be graded as of local or grade III.a) significance.