

**Heritage Appraisal of the
Rock Carving at Cape Collinson, Eastern District**

The rock carving at Cape Collinson in Eastern District is the 9th ancient rock carving found in Hong Kong. A location plan of these rock carvings is at **Annex D**. The rock carvings are mostly scattered along the boulder strewn coastline in remote locations, and most of them are on islands.

Like the other rock carvings in Hong Kong, it is difficult to precisely establish when, how and by whom this rock carving was made as there are neither written records available nor artefacts or archaeological remains found in association with this newly discovered item. However, its geometric and curvy designs (see image of the rock carving at **Annex D**) resemble those on stamped pottery and bronze objects of the Bronze Age unearthed in the territory. This new discovery provides an important evidence to further suggest that the rock carvings date to Hong Kong's Bronze Age, which was about 3,000 years ago.

***Archaeological
Interest***

It is intriguing to note that the rock carving at Cape Collinson is in close proximity to two other rock carvings at Big Wave Bay and Tung Lung Chau. Moreover, their patterns share striking similarities and they thus form a stylistic sub-group among the rock carvings discovered in Hong Kong. The strategic setting of this rock carving, overlooking the Fat Tong Mun (佛堂門) passage, and the study of its spatial relationship with the other rock carvings may help shed light on the maritime people whose society once flourished in the early days of Hong Kong.

This rock carving is an excellent example that demonstrates the geometrical and curvy patterns typical of the ancient rock carvings found in Hong Kong. The design of the newly discovered item is similar to the rock carvings at Big Wave Bay and Tung Lung Chau, in that it is composed of stylised animal patterns. In the middle of the design, the pattern resembles a human head with the body suggested by symmetrical curvy lines. Above that there are also similar curvy patterns of larger size that are divided into two parts. The more in-depth interpretation of these carved patterns will be subject to further research to be carried out.

Authenticity

The rock carving at Cape Collinson forms part of a rare archaeological resource in Hong Kong. Including this newly discovered item, there are altogether nine localities in Hong Kong where rock carvings have been found, while the last discovery, the rock carvings at Wong Chuk Hang, was reported in 1983 by a civil servant.

Rarity

The discovery of the rock carving at Cape Collinson has enhanced the group value of the rock carvings in Hong Kong. For instance, the rock carvings at Cape Collinson, Big Wave Bay and Tung Lung Chau may form a stylistic sub-group for further study due to their proximity to one another and similar patterns.

Group Value

Apart from the archaeological significance, the rock carving at Cape Collinson is also an important piece of rock art worthy of aesthetic appreciation.

Aesthetic value

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