

in San Martín de los Andes, the locality in which we headquartered during our research.) BERTHA ILG-KOESSLER, a recognized folklorist of the Araucanians, a non-Araucanian who has lived long among the Araucanians as the wife of a non-Araucanian physician, spoke of them. Local mountain climbers and skiers, among them LOLA KOESSLER, told us about them. So did skiers from

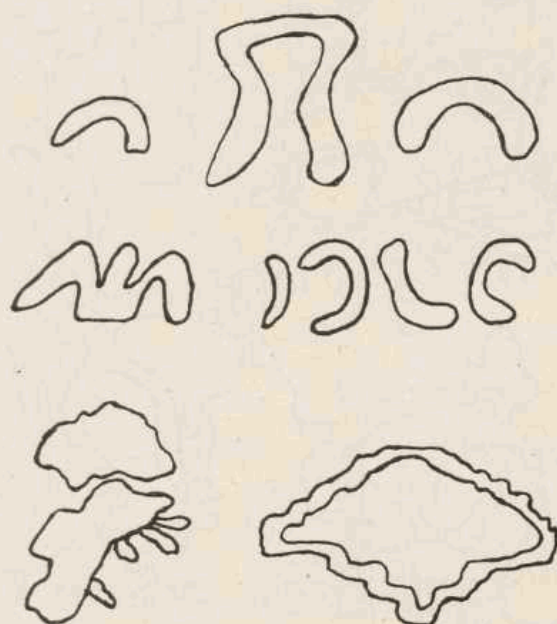


Fig. 1. Exact tracings made by JAROSLAV („SAIKO“) SWARYCZEWSKI of symbols in rock paintings at the Vega Valle site, Territory Neuquén, Argentina. These symbols were within arm's reach.

foreign countries who were in San Martín de los Andes, during our residence there, participating in an international ski contest. These skiers had viewed rock paintings in heights in the area less accessible than the ones in the more immediate area in which we were working.

JAROSLAV SWARYCZEWSKI, known as „SAIKO“ to the people of San Martín de los Andes, both a mountain climber and a skier, often spent Sundays searching for rock paintings, and viewing them. He had seen and pondered over them in such places as Collúm Có, Vega Valle, Meliquina, Norquingo, Quilaquina, Quillén, Cerro Chenque, Estancia Mamuil Malal, Estancia La Primavera. He had heard that there were some on Estancia Los Helechos, in Huechulafquen, but had not gone to see them⁵. He had also seen those within a large boulder found on the road between San Martín de los Andes and Bariloche, a boulder known as Casa de Piedra. “You come to it just before you come to the Pass of Córdoba.”

⁵ SAIKO told us of burials found in higher elevations that have markers which resemble the statues found on Easter Island.