

MEDIEVAL DESERT MYSTERY

Like a good mystery? If so, you need to check out the Wolter Youtube video cited below and perhaps take a rare club hike to the Rune Cave in the Mustang Mountains.

Rune Cave is isolated and located in the Mustang's between Sonoita and Sierra Vista, AZ. In 2012 two hikers found the cave and an inscription (Figure 1) on a large rock at the cave's entrance. They got in touch with Scott Wolter, host of TV series "America Unearthed". In an episode called "Medieval Desert Mystery", Wolter visits the cave and goes to great lengths to show evidence that the etching on the large rock was an ancient language. Wolter claimed the etching was 12th century Anglo-Saxon. His experts translated it to say:

"The body lays Rough Hurech here. He enjoyed a good life-the secret stolen. Rough Hurechs body fame and glory. Dust beyond Eden. Eden's temple."

Wolter finds out that the cave was first discovered in 1984 and was made an Arizona archeological site because of the Native American pictographs and petroglyphs on the walls of the cave (see Figures 2 through 4). It is believed that the markings on the large rock were not present at that time or it would have been noted as such. The etching on the rock looked fresher than the ones inside the cave. He speculated that the rock may have been covered by earth in 1984 which preserved the lettering.

Wolter comes back to the cave with a ground penetration radar device to see if a body is buried under the ground near the headstone, but to no avail. Bedrock was located 4 feet below the dirt surface, but no remains were sensed.

Later several language experts debunked Wolter's Anglo Saxon theory. Some speculated that the etching was Runic, a combination of lettering used by Germanic tribes and Scandinavian (Norsemen) from 3rd century to the med-evil ages and no longer in use.

The final determination was that although Wolter's show was entertaining, it had no



Figure 1. Rune Stone Inscription



Figure 2. Animal Pictograph



Figure 3. Unknown Petroglyph

evidence of there being legitimate pre-Columbus explorers in America. The blog by Henrik Williams that is listed below indicates knowledge that the so called Rune Stone was inscribed during the early 1990s and that the individual who did the inscribing was no longer living in the area. Also, the cross in Figure 4 appears to be recent and has been inscribed over a portion of the native American petroglyphs. These are serious charges since the penalty for defacing an archeological site is severe but the perpetrator(s) have never been charged.



Figure 4. Petroglyphs
The cross appears to be recent

The cave is located high up on the western slope of a high hill in the southern portion of the Mustang Mountains. Figure 5 depicts a view of the area when approaching from the east. A photo of the cave entrance is depicted in Figure 6. The main room of the cave is relatively small but the cave system extends quite a way back into the mountain. The access route into the rest of the system is located high on the back wall of the main room and the opening is really small (Figure 7). It would take a small agile person to access that area. Figure 8 depicts some of the GVRHC hikers that hiked to the cave and also shows the great views that you get of the valley to the west. The “Rune Stone” is partially obscured by the hiker in the left foreground.



Figure 5. Area of Cave



Figure 6. “Rune Cave”



Figure 7. Cave System Opening

Summary prepared by T. Ferguson in March of 2021 from a video of “America Unearthed”, “Medieval Burial site in Desert” by Scott Wolter; Video of “Exploration of Rune Cave at

Mustang Mountains” by Eric Moleson & Walter Fortenberry; “Exploring Southern Arizona The Mystery in Rune Cave” by Andrew Brechko; “Henrik Williams Debunks Scott Wolter’s claim for Old English Runes in Arizona”, by Henrik Williams. The pictures were taken by T. Johnson.

The Wolter Youtube video can be seen by clicking on the following url or pasting it onto your browser if it is not active:

https://youtu.be/9RgTWE_i2HY

A Youtube screen should appear. Click on the “Browse Youtube” box to access the video. When the video appears, place your cursor on it so that the video timeline appears at the bottom. Make sure that the timeline shows that the video is at the beginning.

This video may be periodically interrupted with advertisements. When this happens, a small box with the words “skip ads” should appear on the right side of the screen after about three seconds. Click on it and the video will return.

The video is 43 ½ minutes long.

There is a good but also lengthy Youtube of two hikers showing the way to the cave:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esbX59r9U60>

A shorter Youtube of a single hiker going to the cave: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuXn2WzwoHY>

An article by Henrik Williams debunking Wolter:

<http://www.jasoncolavito.com/blog/henrik-williams-debunks-scott-wolters-claims-for-old-english-runes-in-arizona>



Figure 8. View from Cave