

**NEWLY DISCOVERED ROCK-SHELTER PAINTINGS
IN HAZARIBAGH, EASTERN INDIA**

DATTA Asok, Barisha, India

Summary

Recently, a number of rock-shelter paintings have been discovered in the Hazaribagh forest area of Central Bihar. They throw significant light on the rock-art paintings of India. On the basis of style, technique and contents, these paintings can broadly be classified into three groups viz. Mesolithic, early historic and recent. Paintings are done either in outline or flat wash.

A systematic analysis has shown that the mesolithic paintings represent distinct traditions and styles. Red is the only colour used by painters during this period while the total absence of female figures remains conspicuous. Human figures are sometime shown mounted on wild animals.

The present paper attempts to present a comprehensive account of this stimulating subject.