

HANDBOOK OF TREASURE SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

BY MARY CARSON

**2007 Reprint & Ebook Editions
by Leanne Carson Boyd**

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*a horseshoe for luck
and a place for your notes*





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by

Mary Lee Carson

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*a horseshoe for luck
and a place for your notes*



THE CONSTIPATED QUAIL



Cover photo by Hunter V. Pritchard
Boulder, Colorado

This rock carving was found in southwestern New Mexico in the Gila wilderness area. This symbol has become known as the "constipated quail". Questions often asked are: Is the bird flying, landing or sitting? What do the four "blocks" mean on the bird's tail? Since there were other carvings in the area, what relationship does this one have with the others?

Photo used in Vol. 1 #1 and #2 of
Treasure Hunters Newsletters, published
by Eight States Associates.





*a horseshoe for luck
and a place for your notes*



Dedication

**DEDICATED TO
H. GLENN CARSON**

who told me "Sure, it's needed
in our hobby field, Do it!"

Then emphasized "Do it!"

So I did!



CARSON ENTERPRISES

PO Box 716
Dona Ana, NM 88032-0716

Atlas of Colorado Ghost Towns, vol 1
Atlas of Colorado Ghost Towns, vol 2
Cache Hunting
Guide to Treasure in Kentucky
Coinshooting How and Where to do it
Coinshooting II, Digging Deeper Coins
Treasure Hunting, a Modern Search for Adventure.
Handbook of Treasure Sign and Symbols
The Extraction of Free Gold
Hedge Yourself Against Disaster
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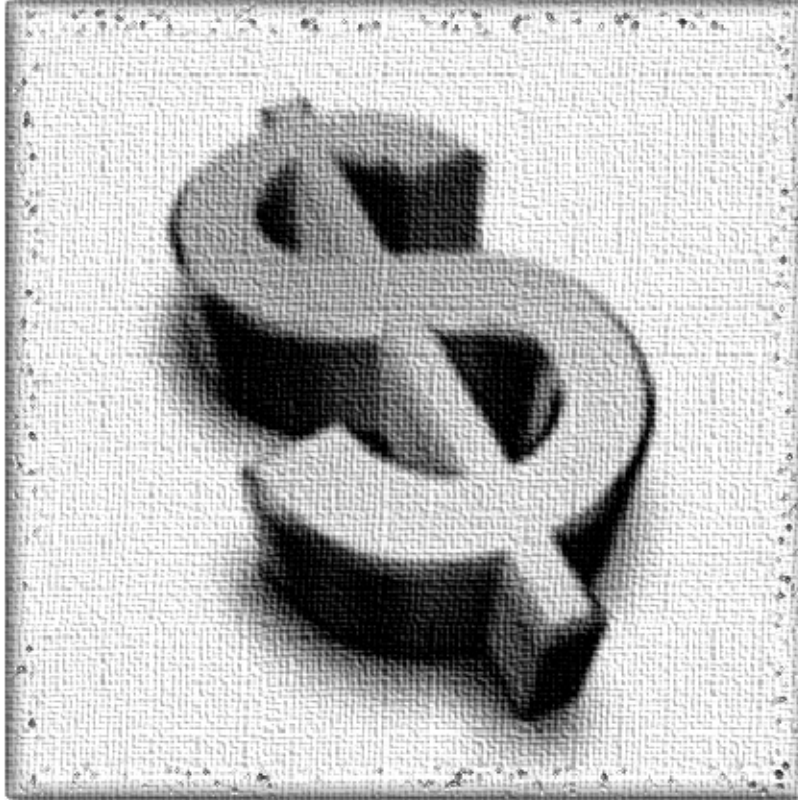
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One Of The World's BEST Recognized Symbols



*One Of The World's BEST Recognized Symbols
... And One With A True History!*



INTRODUCTION

Ninety percent of the work involved in finding a treasure cache is research. If you don't do your research, the recovery is nothing but pure luck. Remember in researching, you must think about the individual who buried it in the first place. He had two basic thoughts concerning its recovery. The method and the prospects of it being found, either by himself or someone else.

Concealment is a matter of secrecy and camouflaging. No matter where it was to be buried, he realized that his memory must be kept clear for years to come. If he was a traveling priest, he must make it clear to those clergy to come after him. But no matter who came, the symbols played an important part. These symbols represented either his own identification, the identity of the treasure, directions to the trove, distance, landmarks, time, characteristics of the land and maybe even superstitions involved with the trove.

These symbols can appear on practically anything and anywhere. Possibly maps, documents, stones, rocks, wood planks, shells, metal plates, trees etc. But remember, not all symbols can be identified! There will always be those symbols that meant something special to the person making them. And one thing to remember, too, these symbols can be tricky. Those that seem to point one direction can mean just the opposite. And at times the treasure can be buried half way between symbols. Again the person making these symbols is the only one who really knows what he meant by them.

Indians were great for drawing symbols where they meant only to give warning, pure directions or to tell others of an event. And remember they also liked to doodle!



Identify your symbols after first finding them. Even one symbol can tell a complete story. Don't disregard it, save it for the future. Carry along a piece of white chalk and trace the sign, photo it, draw it on a piece of paper, noting any unusual characteristics of the land and its features. Locate the next one and repeat the process, drawing it on your map in correct correlation to the first or the last one you drew. When able, secure and draw it on a topographical map. Read history! Follow up on rumors, tales of individuals who inhabited the areas, then piece together what you have learned. By this time you have a good idea if your lead is a good one and if it pertains to treasure or was placed there for other reasons.

Then next comes the field work. Hopefully your research will pay off, however, if it doesn't, try to find out if a previous recovery has been made or maybe the data you have collected is not enough. Above all, don't be disappointed if you fail! Keep up your research, and save all of your data, even if you put it aside for the time being.

From the beginning of time people have always hidden things. Valuables mean different things to different people. A teen-age girl considers her diary a very valuable thing, therefore hides it. Grade school children collect. The treasures in a boys pocket become valuable to him, his subject of talk, trade and importance. The ground has always been considered the safest secret depository. Even now when one can find a bank close by, there are still many citizens who would rather trust their coins to a tin can buried a foot deep in the back yard, flower garden or chicken lot, than to trust it in a bank vault. By having it close by, it is always available, day or night, without the worry of a bank folding, check writing charges or the worry of it being attached, seized or stolen.



Besides, the secret pleasure and satisfaction of knowing where the prized treasure is and no one else knowing is no small part of the buried treasure syndrome.

Generally speaking the person who has his treasure buried in his own back yard needs no elaborate system of signs or symbols, such as carved rocks or trees to find his way back to his treasure. HE knows that he buried it under the lilac bush, out directly from that one large limb.

BUT let something happen to that person and it becomes lost treasure. There is no way of knowing exactly how many back yards have a lost buried treasure resting within its boundary and the present owner or renter not knowing it is lying there just waiting for discovery!

While this country was largely unsettled and unexplored there were many people who had no place to conceal their wealth. Explorers, trappers, traders, mountain men, conquistadores, prospectors, travelers, and others. They had to select their treasure-hiding sites in the wide-open spaces, lots of times, far from habitation, and where one rock looked exactly like the next.

Signs along the trail indicated the nature of the country, warn of danger, point to water or convey other needed information. Some were there mainly to mislead unauthorized searchers.

A starting of a trail was sometimes at the confluence of two streams, a large and peculiarly-shaped boulder, a group of hills, the opening of a cave on a mountain side. From the location the owner could easily locate markers and follow the trail of signs to the markers that lead to the treasure site. The builder of this trail generally made a map so he would not forget the symbols he himself had placed.

When the American Revolution began, many Tories fled with whatever possessions they could carry. Often they buried their coins along the way. A quickly carved sign on a rock or a tree was usually an "X", sometimes the owners'



initials were used. British soldiers carved the crown. Mexicans fleeing from Texas buried what they couldn't take with them, and they left signs in the Spanish manner. Some of these signs have been found and interpreted and the treasure found. Signs made on trees have disappeared when the trees were cut down, or burned.

Ranchers buried their wealth because banks were too far away, they didn't trust them, or wanted their money near at hand, easily gotten to. They selected a certain rock close to the ranch house and used it as either the place of concealment or as a center spot to measure from. Fences were used lots of times with post holes banks becoming popular. Generally a stone again was used as a marker. More often a rock was laid where the fence started and marked one mark for each post between this main stone and the post where the treasure was buried.

The Spaniards devised the most comprehensible trail for returning to the treasure. Their signs were simple and based on common-sense deductions. Tracks of a horse or mule pointing in the direction meant to go in the direction they pointed. Same with a turtle, go in the direction he was going. When the turtle was used with other signs it could mean danger. i.e. a turtle with an arrow could mean hostile Indian country ahead.

Many of these carved directions have endured on trees and rocks for more than three centuries. But time, weather and vandalism have taken their toll. The weather has erased carvings; the removal of trees surely does away with any carving; the treasure hunter has moved it, cut down the trees, broken the rocks, or taken them home with them. All this has hindered the finding of many good caches.

By using your imagination and logic-reasoning freely, using good equipment such as metal detectors, probes, etc, you do increase your odds of recovery. The day may await you when you find the missing link and the thrill of discovery. NEVER give up!



Arrows

ARROWS

Arrows were employed mainly as treasure direction indicators. However, the arrow was not always a treasure symbol. It was used by all kinds of travelers to mark their return route or to blaze trails for others. It was also an Indian symbol. An arrow with feathers, a flying arrow, was an Indian sign usually symbolizing the direction to be taken, by a hunting or war party. Therefore the exact meaning is a matter for each person to decide.



enemy, direction or to other signs



to treasure or water



follow to next mark



3 enemies



box below



downward to treasure downhill to treasure



treasure below, look below














direction, alertness look-up



5 enemies



Arrows

		
toward the sun, toward the moon	to the right of the trail or landmark	around, circle, look around you
		
divided treasure	away from treasure away from next sign	wrong direction
		
water nearby, to to water, to creek, river or stream, ocean	straight across a landmark, river or road	proceed, then turn turn right
		
direction change		defeat, death



Arrows



points to,
from lightning



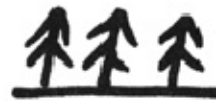
wards off evil spirits,
protects,
toward the center



direction
change



go around, to the
left or reverse



treasure in woods



beneath
the water



warriors,
death



treasure to one
side



direction change



here, over
and under



this is the place,
friendship



Native Peoples & Homelands – Native American Petroglyph



Indians were great for drawing symbols where they meant to give warning, pure directions or to tell others of an event.

Source:

<http://www.usgcrp.gov/usgcrp/Library/nationalassessment/overviewnative.htm>



Snakes

SNAKES

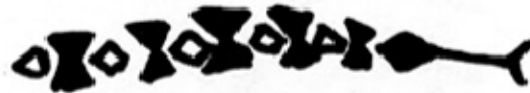
Snakes were a common symbol because they were rather easily represented on stone or wood by a simple wavy line with a circle for a head. A popular sign with the early Spanish and Mexicans. The position of the head was the direction indicator.



coiled snake =
treasure beneath, or
head or tail points to
location.
3 bars = 3 varras



head up-go in direction
of head to new sign



Rattlesnake:
go ahead with caution



head or tail to next
sign



head points down, go in
direction of head 10x
distance, to ground to
treasure or next sign



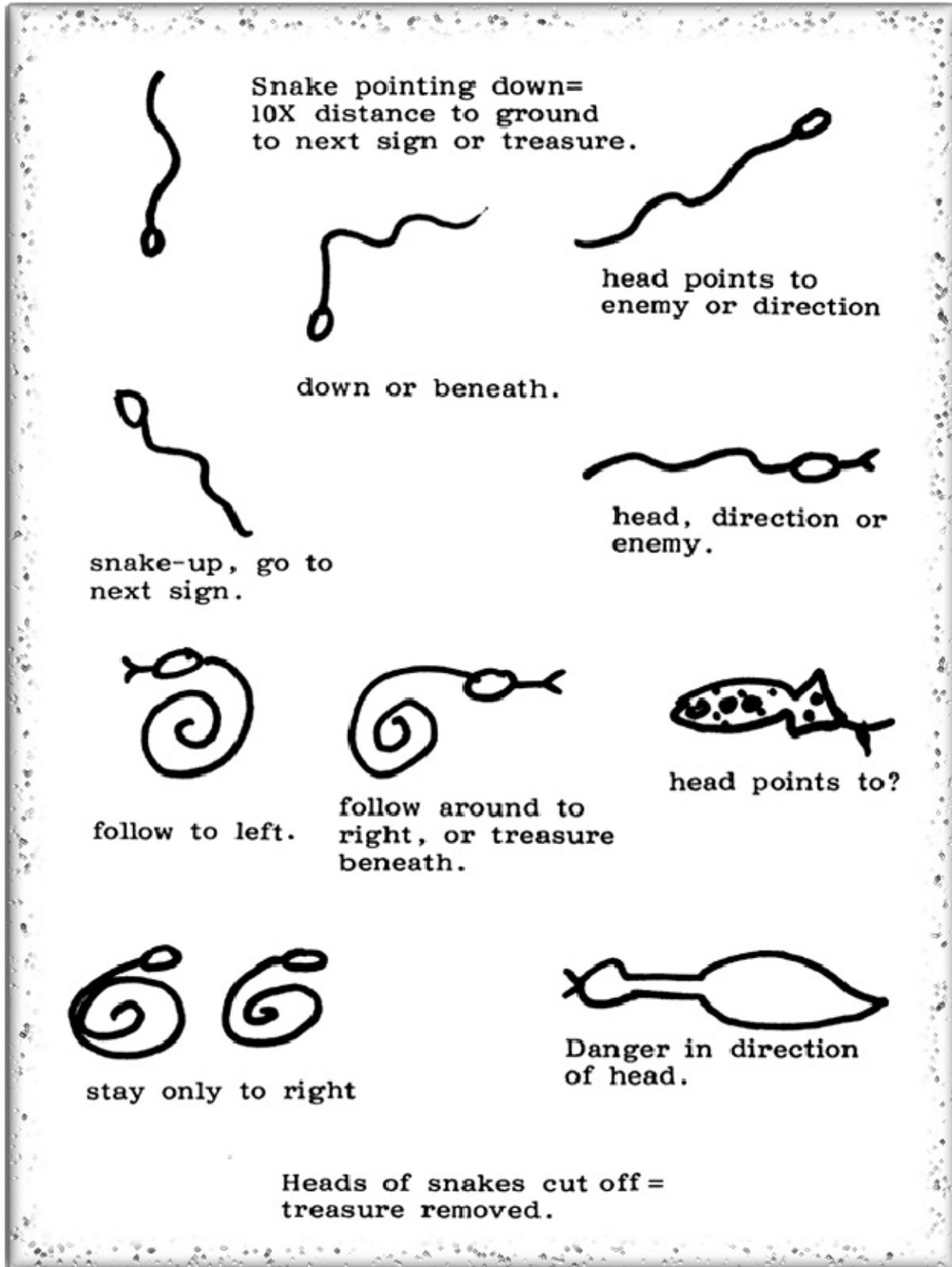
Blacksnake: follow,
safe.



Head points to?



Snakes



Snake pointing down=
10X distance to ground
to next sign or treasure.

head points to
enemy or direction

down or beneath.

snake-up, go to
next sign.

head, direction or
enemy.

follow to left.

follow around to
right, or treasure
beneath.

head points to?

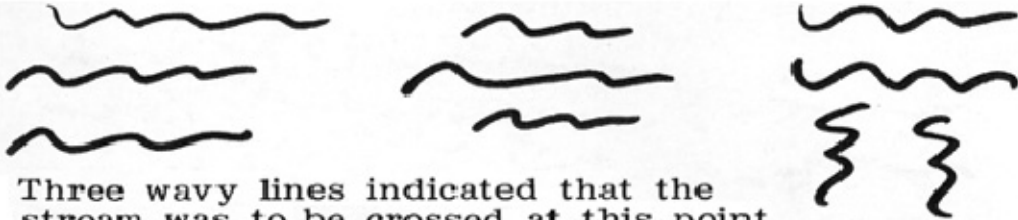
stay only to right

Danger in direction
of head.

Heads of snakes cut off =
treasure removed.



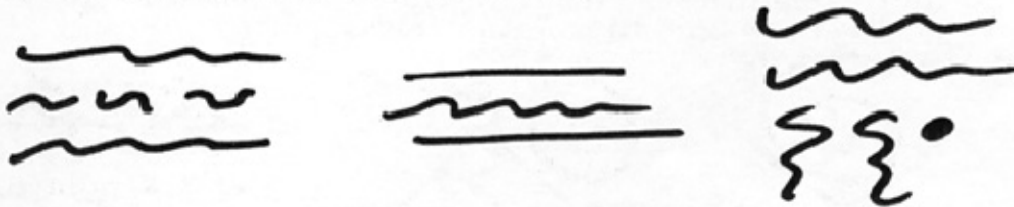
STREAMS OR WATER



Three wavy lines indicated that the stream was to be crossed at this point and the searcher was to continue on in the direction he had been traveling.

One longer wavy line in the middle of three, indicated that the searcher was to cross the stream and go in the direction of the longer line.

Two horizontal wavy lines with wavy bottom lines centered signified the treasure was buried at the junction of two streams.



Three horizontal wavy lines with a broken center line shows that the stream further on where the treasure was buried would be dry certain times of the year.

A single wavy line between two horizontal lines meant that the searcher was to go ahead and find the treasure in a stream with steep banks on both sides. Two wavy lines with a single straight bar indicated the stream where the treasure was buried had only one steep bank and the side was indicated by which side the straight bar was on.

A dot with the wavy lines to the right or left of these lines indicated this was the treasure site and the treasure buried corresponding to the dot.





One dot on the middle wavy line of three, meant that the treasure was buried in a stream and to continue on the way he was going.

A dot in the center of a middle wavy line and one below the third wavy line meant that the treasure was buried in the middle of THIS stream.

Three wavy lines with a rectangle or square in the center meant that the treasure was in a chest or box in the center of THIS stream.



An angle pointed downward indicated that the treasure would be found in a mountain stream located by the next marker.

If an angle passed through one wavy line, the search was to go in the direction of the angle to a stream.

A series of triangles above three wavy horizontal lines indicated that the treasure was hidden or buried along the banks of a mountain stream further on.



Turtles

TURTLES

The figure of a turtle was sometimes used by the Spanish, but because it was difficult to carve, it was more frequently outlined in rocks on the ground. Such pictographs sometimes covered a large area of land, and sometimes it was so large as to be missed by the hunter, or could only be seen from a neighboring hill.



follow turtle to next sign



feet close to body, go slow.



follow turtle in direction of tail



obverse feet = go to right



head in = danger, objects hidden.



bent head, follow direction of head

4 diamonds and varra symbol = 4 varras in direction the varra symbol points



CALENDÁRIO ASTECA



The Aztec calendar is the calendar system that was used by the Aztecs as well as other Pre-Columbian peoples of central Mexico. It is one of the Mesoamerican calendars, sharing the basic structure of calendars from throughout ancient Mesoamerica. The calendar consisted of a 365 day calendar cycle called xiuhpohualli (year count) and a 260 day ritual cycle called tonalpohualli (day count). These two cycles together formed a 52 year "century," sometimes called the "Calendar Round."

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aztec_calendar



Sun

SUN



sun, minerals close by



sun god



large quantity of minerals, gold sign



rising sun, look east
number of rays is
number of days



gold, treasure nearby



setting sun,
look west



ascending sun



descending sun



sun sign =
bright prospects,
opening



eclipse, gold,
in the shadow
of the sun.



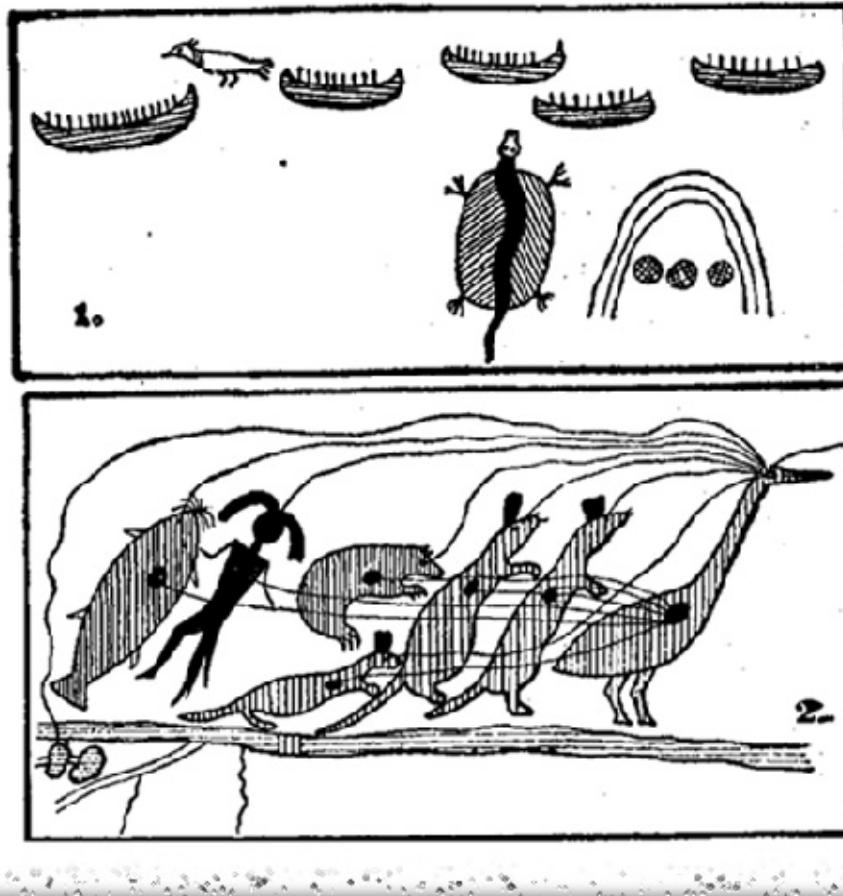
early example of sun,
windlass, mine,
treasure below vault



sun, time, light,
opening, air



INDIAN PICTURE WRITING H.G. WELLS, 1920



No. 1, painted on a rock on the shore of Lake Superior, records an expedition across the lake, in which five canoes took part. The upright strokes in each indicate the number of the crew, and the bird represents a chief, The Kingfisher. The three circles (suns) under the arch (of heaven) indicate that the voyage lasted three days, and the tortoise, a symbol of land, denotes a safe arrival. No. 2 is a petition sent to the United States Congress by a group of Indian tribes, asking for fishing rights in certain small lakes. The tribes are represented by their totems, martens, bear, man, and catfish, led by the crane. Lines running from the heart and eye of each animal to the heart and eye of the crane denote that they are all of one mind; and a line runs from the eye of the crane to the lakes, shown in the crude little "map" in the lower left-hand corner.

Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Wells_american_indian_picture_writing.png



MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS



STREAM, SPRING, RUNNING WATER, FOLLOW STREAM, CROSS STREAM OR RIVER.



Pentagram = 5 point star = house, safety



RIVER WITH A FORK IN IT.



teepee, tent



KEY



BAR



CAPTAIN AND CABIN BOY



GHOST OR ANGEL



FIRST MATE



SWORD = GENERAL SYMBOL, POINTS TO.



CONQUISTADOR BOOT = FOLLOW BLUNT END



Miscellaneous Signs



THE DRAGONS
EYE



stones =
marking a trail,
burial



WATER, DEATH



WATER, LAGOON,
SEA OR OCEAN



4 HOUSES OR
4 CAMPS WITH
PEOPLE, FORT



WATER, THE
WATERS.



BAY, OCEAN,
WATER, OR WATER
CONTAINER



RUNNING WATER,
EARTHLY WATERS.



CACTUS



INDIAN HOUSE
ON STILTS













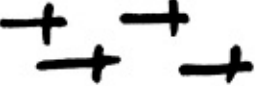


FOUR POINTED STAR =
GRAVE DANGER.
SIX POINTED STAR =
MORE GRAVE DANGER.



ISLAND,
MOUND



Miscellaneous Signs

		
look below or follow legs	paths cross this place here	around bend, away from triangle
		
church treasure or objects here, follow the large knob	anchor, follow arrow	triangle of trees or rocks, treasure to one side
		
around the hill, stone, etc. turn right	go up slope	go down slope
	variation, follow point to treasure	
		
follow direction	rocks enclose treasure in triangle	marks a spot, or follow the longest arm.



Miscellaneous Signs



on line
of treasure



converging into
cave, etc. follow
center leg.



one leg points to
deposit, if on
rock, look below



candle =
follow flame



pointing limb = follow
limb, often used
by spaniards, pirates



perpendicular



right lower half



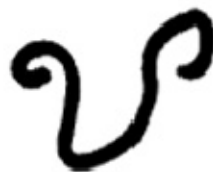
left upper half



central point



go down



go up



Miscellaneous Signs



trees = in the woods, between 3 trees.



key to meaning or to treasure



same, look above and below, 2 locations



change directions



follow point, jesuit symbol for gold or treasure here or nearby



follow 90° or follow point



north or follow opposite course to south



on course, follow in either direction



follow to east - can be used with a W, S, or N.



treasure close by, look for last sign

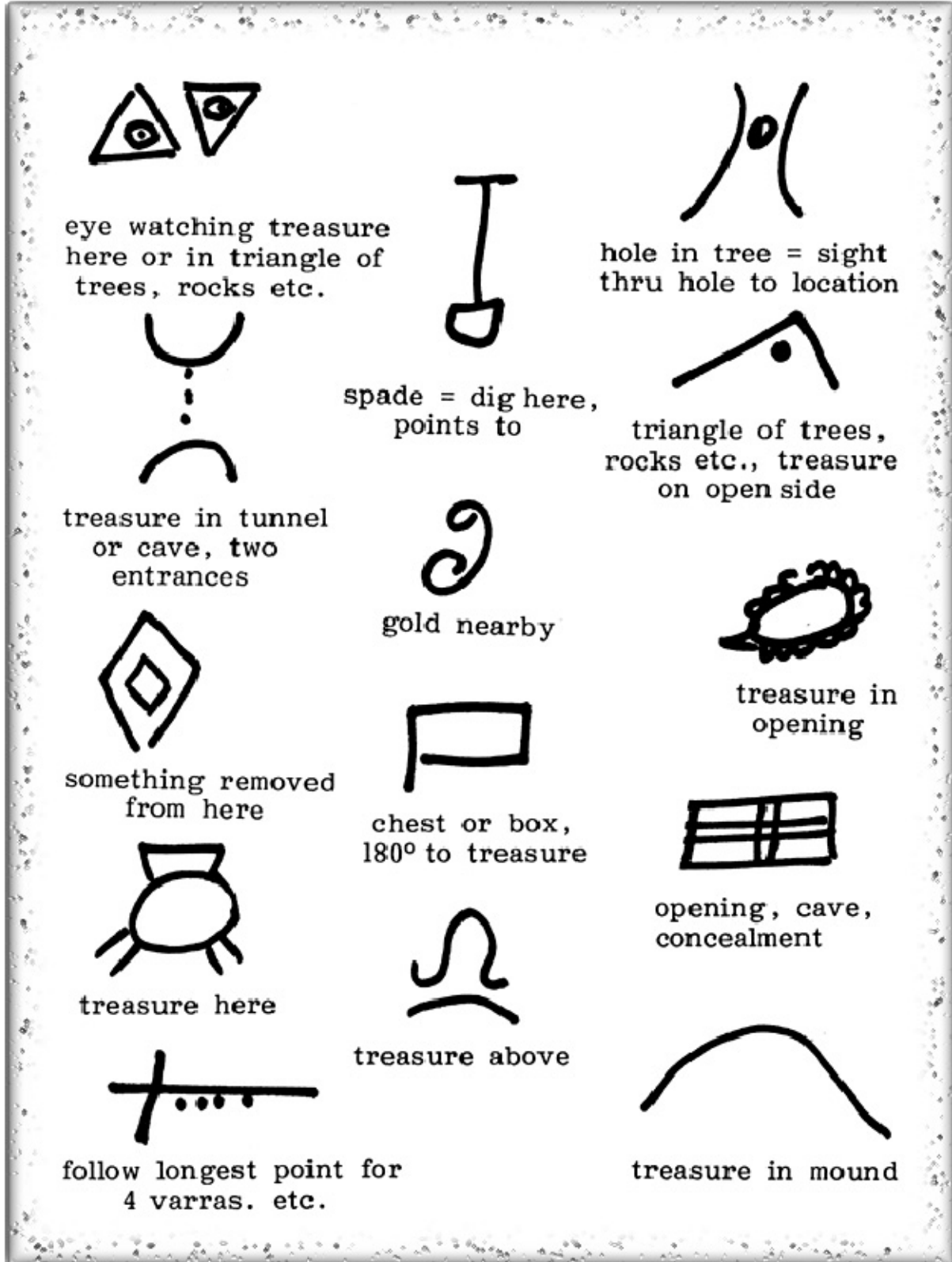


follow points, the four great primary forces, go opposite

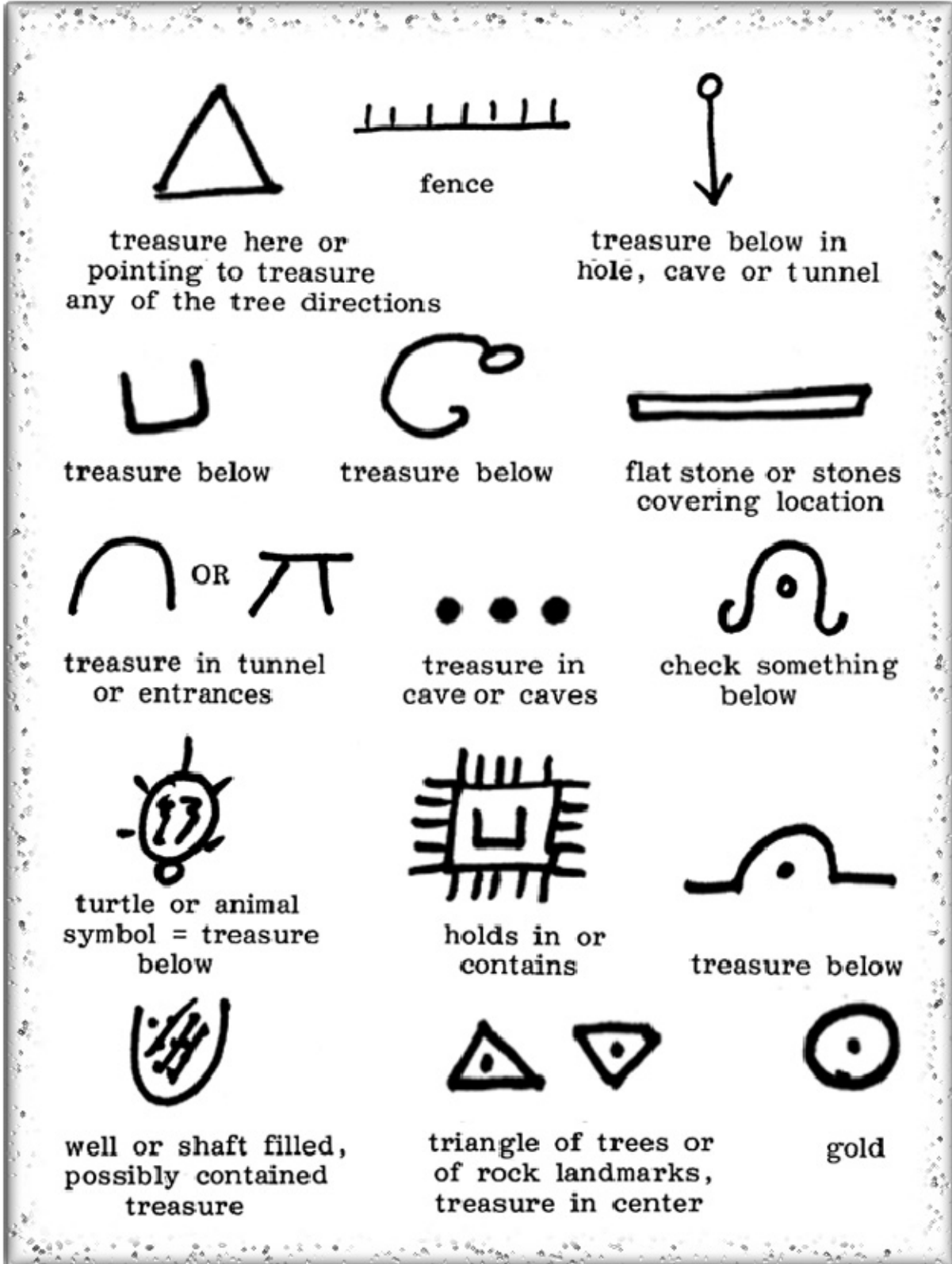


bell = near treasure, favorite pirate symbol





Miscellaneous Signs



Miscellaneous Signs



CLOUDS



BIRD
WATCHING OCEAN
OCEAN



DEATH,
CAMPFIRE



RIVER WITH ISLANDS
OR STONES.



CONQUISTADOR
INDIAN, GUARDING,
CAUTION



FIRE, WATER



eagle feathers
be alert



pipe, peace,
follow stem



strut, support,
unity, passage
through narrow way



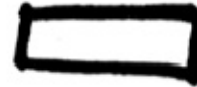
Miscellaneous Signs



new moon, pointing down, dig here, silver, cave nearby, over cave



rising sun = treasure below



box or chest, buried here, or square foot



circle of rocks on indian mound or hill = treasure here



circle of rocks around tree - treasure here



shaft or tunnel at foot of hill



symbols of gold



on line, land mark, or to break to divide or 10

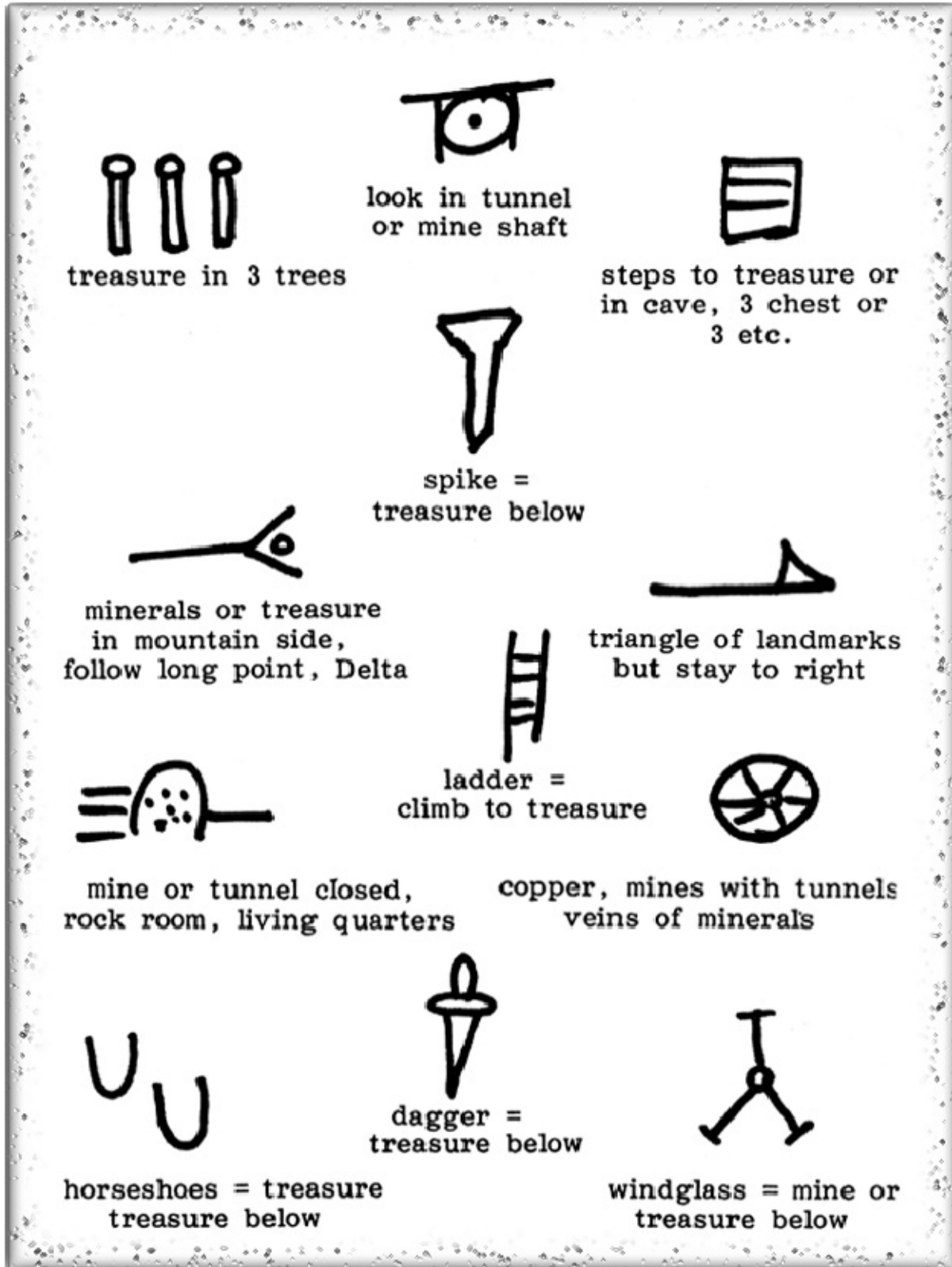


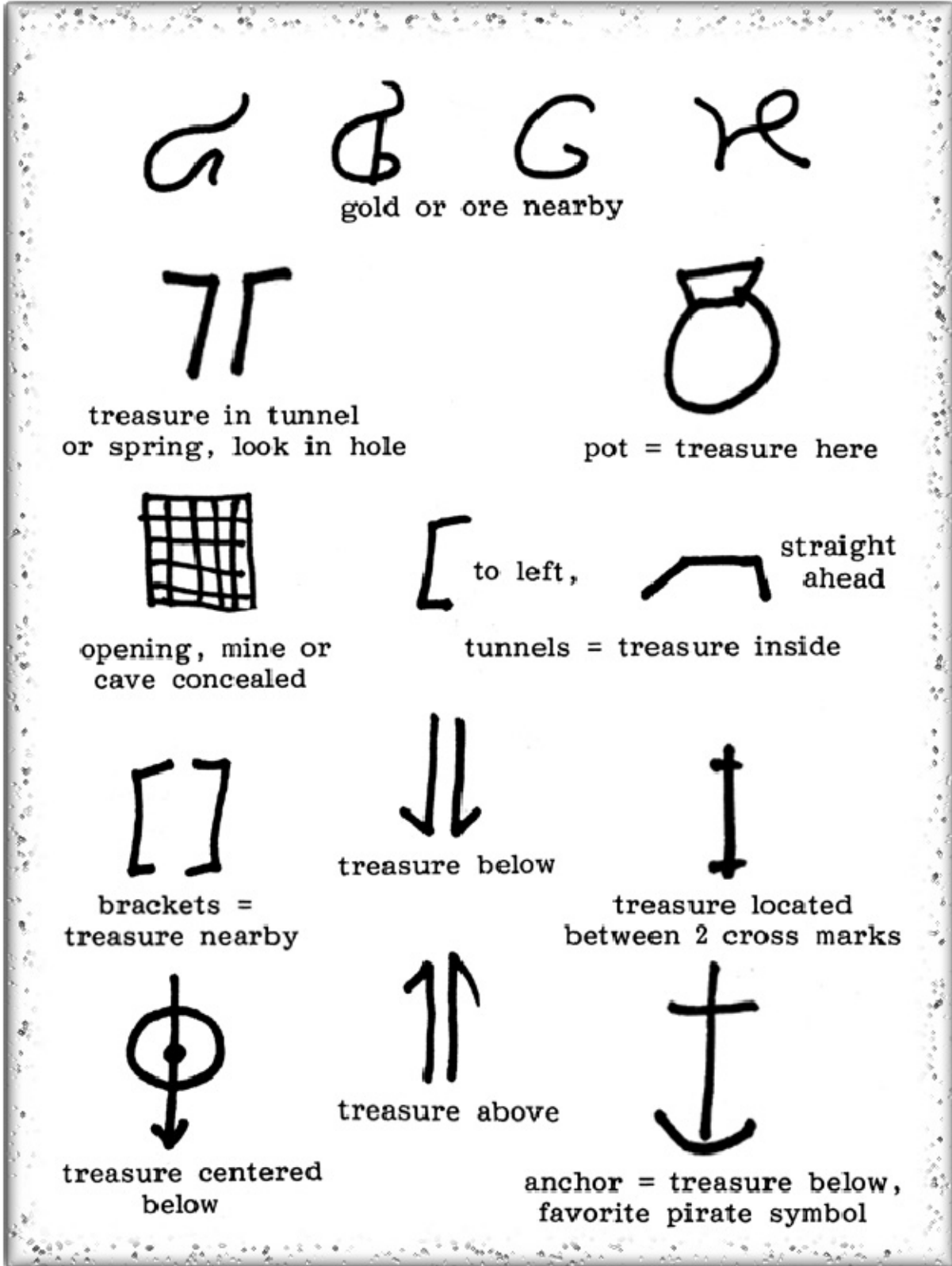
precious stones nearby, or 4 or variant of cross



clear deposit in triangle of trees or rocks







Miscellaneous Signs

silver buried here or nearby

look closely, medicine man

watchful eye = guarding treasure, follow "line" from eye

church symbol = artifacts or church treasures in vault

mouth = look down or to right

barrels or kegs = coins or treasure

location = here or within short distance

3 treasures in triangle or here

container of water well, spring, near or under water

bear track, good omen, follow track go opposite

cannons buried or lying here

in route, keep going



Miscellaneous Signs



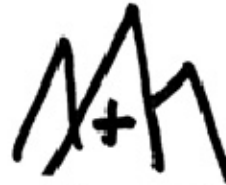
spike in tree = follow end of spike to location or next sign, measure distance to ground then 10x to location.



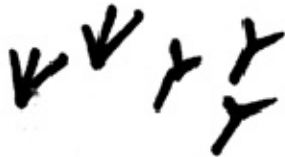
tree root with marks = follow direction of root or limb. No. of cuts may or may not be measurements



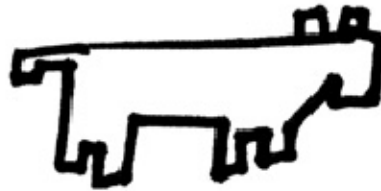
mountain range = follow to



mountains with cave or tunnel = follow to



bird tracks = follow direction of tracks



horse = journey on to location.



thunderbird tracks = follow tracks, prospects good



watchful eye = treasure is guarded, follow line from eye.



coyote tracks = follow non directional



Miscellaneous Signs

divine power

boat,
canoe
direction

ice

palm tree
creative power

the valley

broken sword,
defeat, death

earth fire water air

circle around,
almost circled

god

god

hairs = 400

bag = 800

therefore



Miscellaneous Signs



minerals close by
mexican sun



gila monster,
desert, poison



morning star,
guidance



rain,
clouds



sun rays emitting
count rays



life, power,
fleur-de-lis
the flower of light



rope lasso,
captivity, danger



charity,
heart



infinity



ship, Spanish
galleons



lightning,
proceed fast



Miscellaneous Signs



Double Flail,
Double Hook



the spade



pot-hanger



wolfs tooth



eye of fire



the wave



shephards or
bishops symbol



jug, water



sign of unity



city, castle



mission symbol,
stone masons mark, church symbol
family mark



lower,
cross



higher,
cross



comet



Miscellaneous Signs



spring



autumn



Sunday,
annual



summer



winter



Monday



Tuesday,
biennial



Wednesday



Thursday,
perennial plant



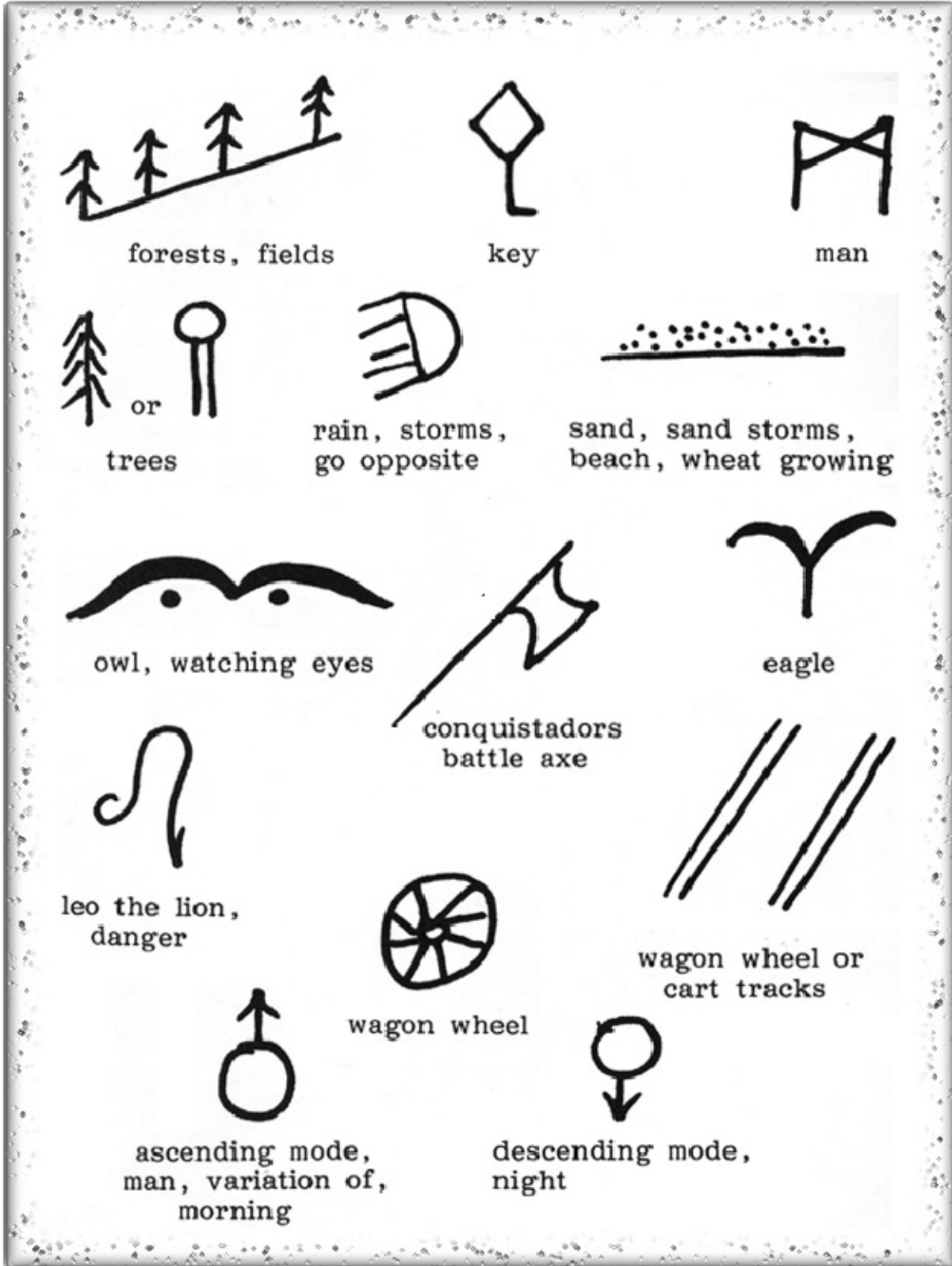
Friday



Saturday



Miscellaneous Signs



Miscellaneous Signs



or



the four
primary forces



the dot = the
beginning of all
symbols, mother
earth



the life symbol



tepee, tent



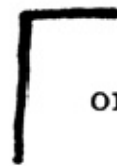
the pentagram
5 point star =
house of safety



cardinal points



ground plan,
house



or



builders square,
masons, masonry,
direction



man



woman















the family



crow, owl



Miscellaneous Signs

		
steps descending down to	steps leading or ascending to	conquistador helmet, army
		
wealth	rattlesnake, jaw, danger poison	possession, treasure
		
saddle bags	Pueblo or adobe house	flag = 20, camp, army, fort
		
tree	brush	hat = no. in party, white man



Miscellaneous Signs



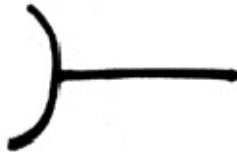
or



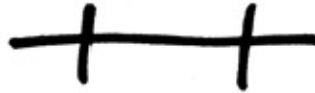
death



cactus, desert
scarce water



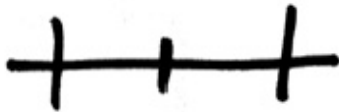
crutch, death
direction



fence,
distance



eye of bird



fences,
in the middle



ladder



heaven



owl, eyes
watching



symbol of
the waters



creator dwells
in heaven



Horseshoes –Mystery & Tradition Surround This Symbol!

LUCK POURS OUT!



Horseshoes are considered a good luck charm in many cultures. The shape, fabrication, placement, and manner of sourcing are all important. A common tradition is that if a horseshoe is hung on a door with the two ends pointing up (as shown here) then good luck will occur. However, if the two ends point downwards then bad luck will occur. Traditions do differ on this point, though. In some cultures, the horseshoe is hung points down (so the luck pours onto you); in others, it is hung points up (so the luck doesn't fall out); still in others it doesn't matter so long as the horseshoe has been used (not new), was found (not purchased), and can be touched. In all traditions, luck is contained in the shoe and can pour out through the ends. In some traditions, any good or bad luck achieved will only occur to the owner of the horseshoe, not the person who hangs it up. Therefore, if the horseshoe was stolen, borrowed, or even just found then the owner, not the person who found or stole the horseshoe will get any good or bad luck. Other traditions require that the horseshoe be found to be effective.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horseshoe>



Horseshoes

HORSESHOES



A horseshoe turned downward with a tree inside indicated the treasure hunter was to travel to, or through a forest to the treasure site.



A downward turned horseshow with a triangle inside indicated that the searcher was to go to the nearest mountain.



A downward turned horseshoe with an open arch like figure inside indicated the treasure would be found in a cave.



If a horseshoe pointed straight down, the treasure was directly underneath it. Dots inside indicated one vara per dot in depth.



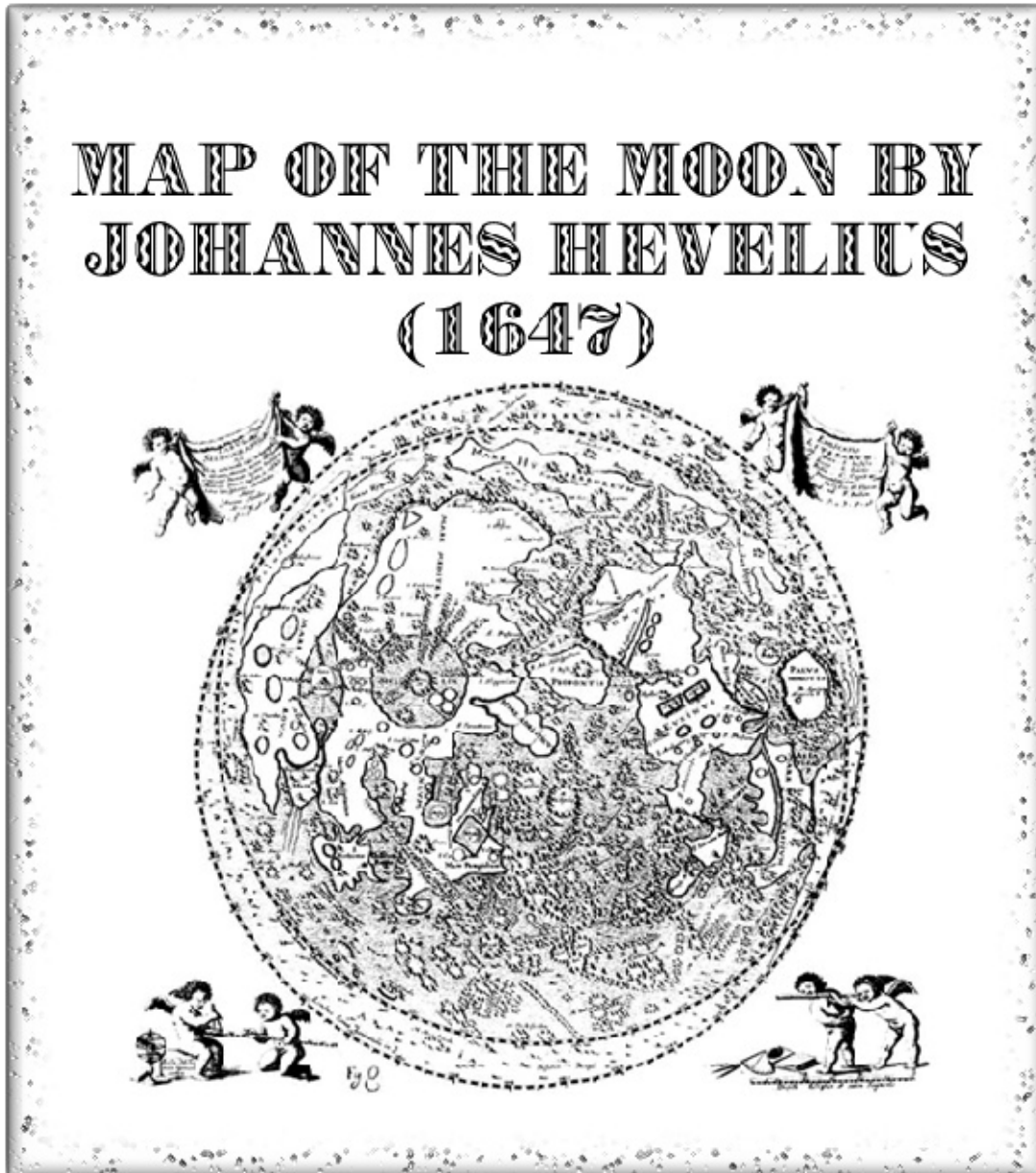
A tepee within a downward turned horseshoe told the searcher he was to pass through Indian country to the treasure site, or that it would be buried in Indian territory.



Three wavy lines within a horseshoe indicated that the seeker would have to go on to the nearest stream.



**The Moon Was Thought To Be A Deity
Or Other Supernatural Phenomenon**



The Moon has been the subject of many works of art and literature and the inspiration for countless others. It is a motif in the visual arts, the performing arts, poetry, prose, and music. A 5,000-year-old rock carving at Knowth, Ireland may represent the Moon, which would be the earliest depiction discovered. In many prehistoric and ancient cultures, the Moon was thought to be a deity or other supernatural phenomenon, and astrological views of the Moon continue to be propagated today.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon>

Image Source: Hevelius Map of the Moon 1647.jpg:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Hevelius_Map_of_the_Moon_1647.jpg



Moon

MOON



go to the right



new moon, go to
right, tides,
tidal waters



moon, also sun,
fire, face of water



waning moon,
look below



eclipse, danger
look here



go to the left



descending moon



moon over mountains,
go to mountains, west,



ascending moon



moon in clouds,
farther, look
higher



moon in woods,
look in forest

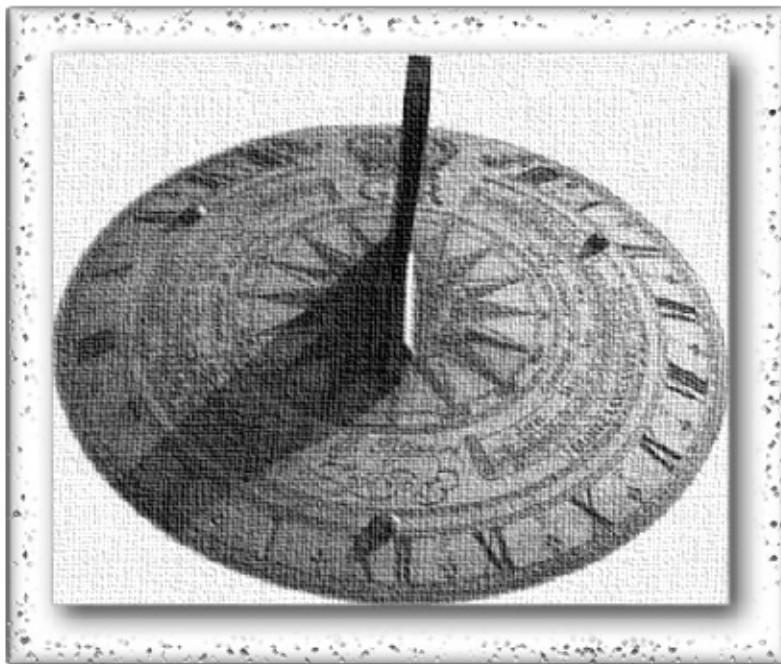


spanish symbol =
moon, month, time



To Live Is So Startling It Leaves
Little Time For Anything Else. ~ Emily Dickinson

LIVING SECOND BY
SECOND, AND
MINUTE BY MINUTE



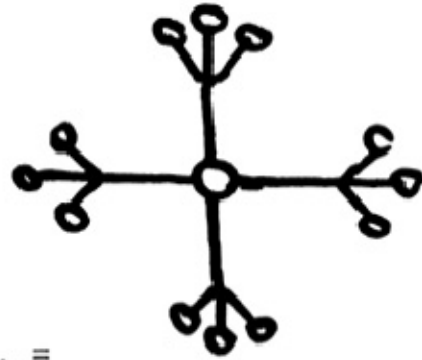
A sundial is a device that measures time by the position of the Sun. The most commonly seen designs, such as the 'ordinary' or standard garden sundial, cast a shadow on a flat surface marked with the hours of the day. As the position of the sun changes, the time indicated by the shadow changes. The classic garden sundial uses the same principle, except the lines of the disk are projected, using trigonometry, onto a face that is parallel to the ground. The advantage of the garden sundial is that it keeps time all year, and its face is never completely shaded in the daytime (as vertical sundials are). For use in a public area, this sundial can be made visible by placing it in a square, or making the face of frosted glass, elevated high in the air, and visible from underneath.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sundial>



Time

TIME



sun symbols, =
happiness, days of journey,
no. of days



hourglass = 1 day
1 day



short time,
short distance



moon = 3 months



sun = 4 days



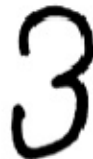
day, a days
journey



sun = 3 days



sundial = 1 day,
farther to go.



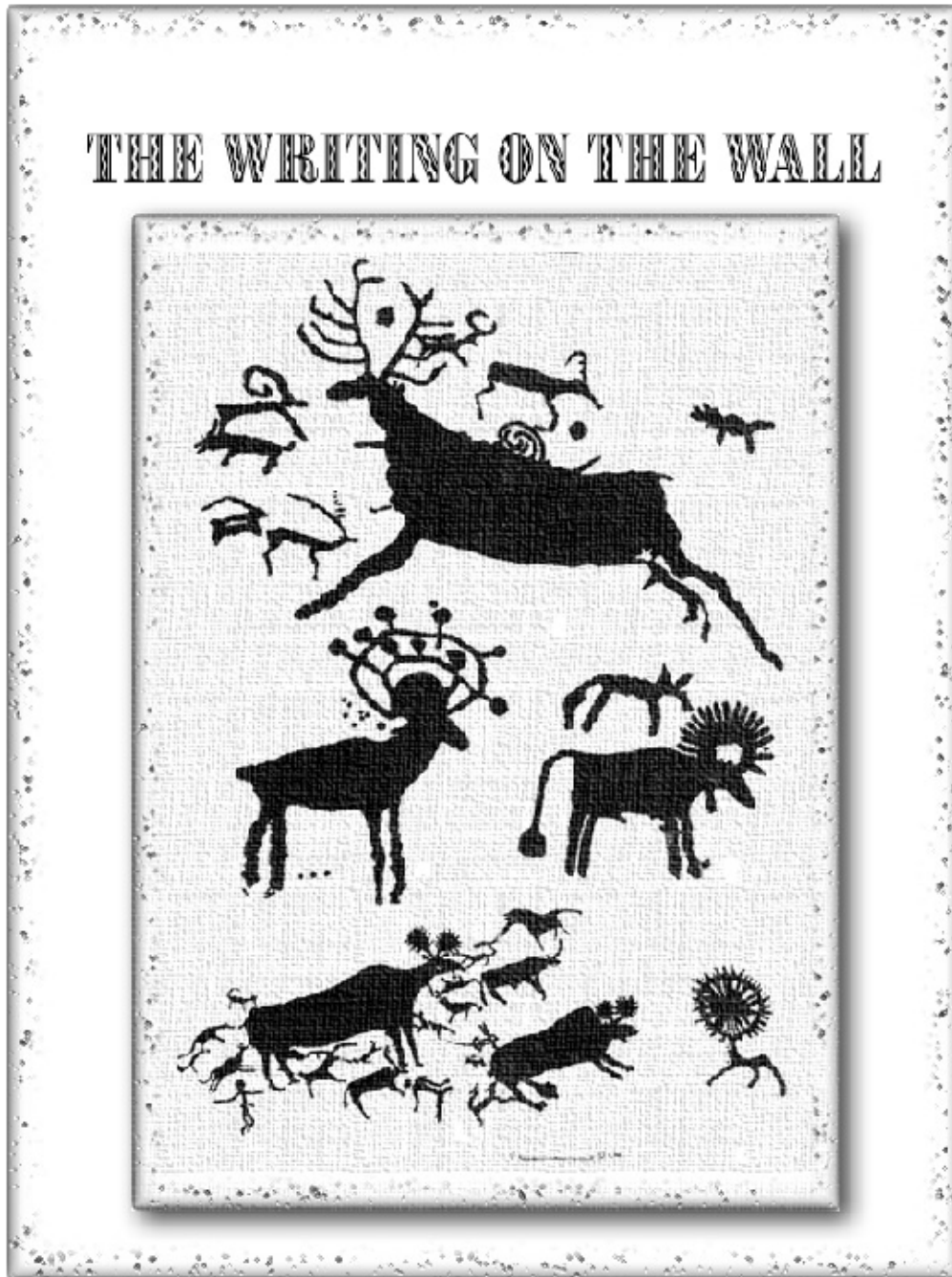
no. of days, journey
logic and reasoning



no. of days
and nights



Petroglyphs – Sacred Representations Of Animals



THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Russian and Mongolian – petroglyphs (prehistoric rock paintings). Examples are found in the Russian Altai (Altay) Mountains, in the Chuja (Chuya) Steppe (today partly autonomous Republic Altai), and in the Mongolian Altai in the Aimark Bajan-Ölgii area.

Forms similar to these are found in almost every place on the globe.

Source: http://www.face-music.ch/highaltai/stoneslabs/stoneslabs_en.html



ANIMALS



Figure for a dog, indicates the search to continue in direction dog is going.

Figure for a bear, head points in direction of treasure.

Figure indicated a mule or horse. Direction the figure is traveling indicates to continue in that direction.

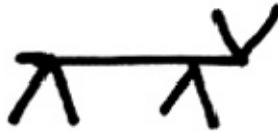


Figure for a deer--proceed in direction the figure is going.

Why were the Petroglyphs made?



There were many reasons for creating the Petroglyphs, most of which are not well understood by non-Indians. Petroglyphs are more than just "rock art," picture writing, or an imitation of the natural world. They should not be confused with hieroglyphics, which are symbols used to represent words, nor thought of as ancient Indian graffiti. Petroglyphs are powerful cultural symbols that reflect the complex societies and religions of the surrounding tribes.

Petroglyphs are central to the Petroglyph National Monument's sacred landscape where traditional ceremonies still take place. The context of each image is extremely important and integral to its meaning.

Source: Petroglyph National Monument, NPS.gov

Source: <http://www.nps.gov/petr/historyculture/why.htm>



The Distance Between Success And Failure
Can Only Be Measured By One's Desire

OBSOLETE MEASUREMENTS

DISTANCE

Varra was a Spanish measurement of space varying from 32 to 43 inches, depending on the locality using it. The length of 32 was used mostly by the Spaniards and Mexicans of the Southwest, it was also one mostly used by those who buried treasure.

Obsolete Spanish and Portuguese units of measurement

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Castilian system of units

There are a number of **Spanish and Portuguese units of measurement** of length or area that are now obsolete. They include the **vara**, the **cordel**, the **league** and the **labor**. The units of area used to express the area of land are still encountered in some transactions in land today.

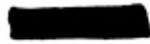
Spanish	English	Relationship
punto	"point"	1 linea = 12 punto
linea	"line"	1 pulgada = 12 lineas
pulgada	"inch"	1 pie = 12 pulgadas
pie	"foot"	1 vara = 3 pies
vara	"yard"	1 vara = 36 pulgadas
paso	"pace"	1 paso = 60 pulgadas
legua	"league"	1 legua = 5,000 varas

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsolete_Spanish_and_Portuguese_units_of_measurement

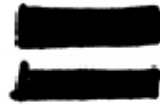


Distance

DISTANCE



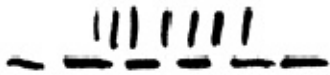
measurement =
50 varras
(33 1/3 inches)
sometimes 100 varras



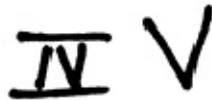
or



double distance



inches or seconds



4 varras



3 degrees,
3 minutes, 3 etc.
cave or caves,
minerals



8 feet, 8 varras
8 minutes
8 etc.



8 varras



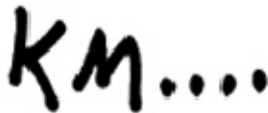
continuation of,
on correct line,
4 varras



3 varras, 3 etc,
to right



3 varras, 3 etc,
to left



4 kilometers
finger = one



finger
means one



5 varras in direction
of point on bottom



**Tonto National Forest (Arizona USA) Historical Photograph
USDA Forest Service / U.S. Department Of Agriculture**

WHICH WAY DID 'DEY GO?



1937 — Forest Service road directional signs and fire warning. These signs are at the junction of Payson-Colcord Mountain Road and Chamberlain Trail. The mountain and lookout are named for Colcords who came to Arizona in 1886, not the Biological Survey Colcord.

Photo by F. L. Kirby. (FS # 422972)

Source: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/about/history/ton/pages/ton033_jpg.htm



Direction

DIRECTION



masonry sign =
4 varras, follow point,
of triangles of arm
with 4 varras



up 4 feet or
4 varras



2 varras



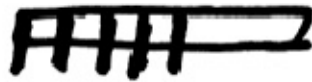
minute or
feet



inches or seconds



3 times distance,
follow point
3 varras



5 varras to left,
5 seconds, or
5 inches to left



still farther



hand 3 fingers =
3 varras 3 etc,
direction pointer



one finger and hand =
one varra, one etc.
follow direction of finger



Direction



here, the beginning, multiplied



further up, tree



double distance up or tree, look up, look down



to the right, going somewhere



to the left, coming from



around 180 degrees to treasure or next sign



2 times the distance, farther, a measurement cave.



up down, here, god power



here, earth to the left or right, varras, usually 50 or 100, minus or negative



greater than



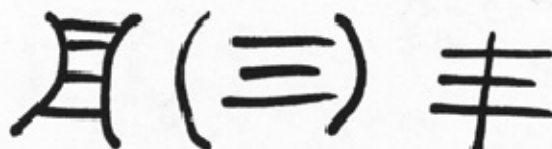
less than



up to the right, divided



here, contains within



ladders = leading to...



Treasure Direction

TREASURE DIRECTION



treasure below



treasure above



treasure beneath
or beneath crest
of mountain, below



pipe = stem points
direction to treasure
or next sign



treasure in a
mountain or cave,
or tunnel, look up,
over deposit



marks spot on line
follow longest arm
sword



going in correct
direction



cave or shaft,
filled, steps



shoe
pointing



knife points to
treasure or next sign



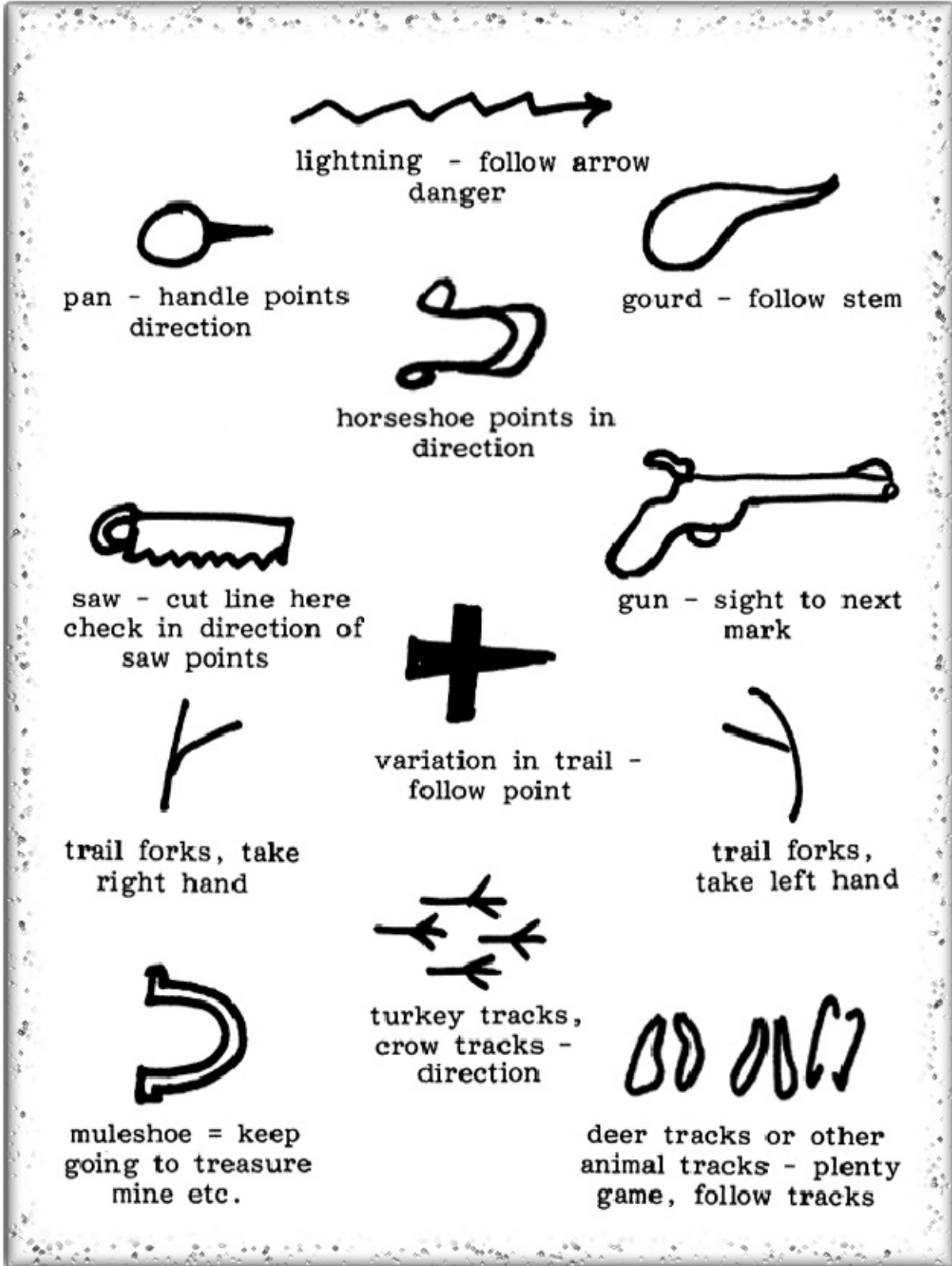
measure off curve



points to next sign



Treasure Direction



Treasure Direction



Treasure nearby in direction of line each circle represents the distance to treasure.

Road or trail.

Spanish sign for Silver.



Bow and arrow. The arrow forms a right angle with the bow telling the searcher to look for other signs in vicinity.

This sign indicated direction.

Indian face usually points toward a sealed cave.



INFLUENCE OF SPANISH GOLD, CHRISTIANITY, AND THE MISSIONS



Mission San Xavier del Bac is a historic Spanish Catholic mission located about 10 miles (16 km) south of downtown Tucson, Arizona on the Tohono O'odham San Xavier Indian Reservation. Named for a pioneering Christian missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order), the Mission is also known as the "place where the water appears" as the Santa Cruz River (which runs underground) surfaces nearby. The Mission is situated in the center of a centuries-old Indian settlement, the Tohono O'odham (formerly known as Papago), located along the banks of the Santa Cruz River.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mission_San_Xavier_del_Bac

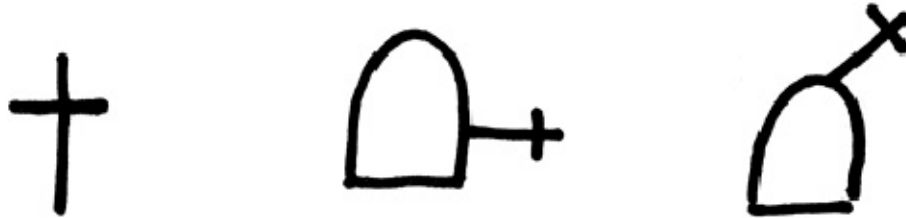
Image Source: Mission San Xavier Arizona USA.jpg -

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Mission_San_Xavier_Arizona_USA.jpg



Examples Of Interpretation

EXAMPLES OF INTERPRETATION



An upright cross indicated that the treasure belonged to the church.

A cross tilted on an arch meant that the treasure was buried near a mission in the direction indicated by the longer arm of the cross.

A cross fallen from the steeple indicated that the treasure was buried near the ruins of a mission.



An upright cross indicated that a treasure was buried at or near an active mission.

An arc with two upright trees signal for the searcher to look for a valley or canyon having trees on both sides.

Horizontal bars, one on top of the other also designates the number of varras to the treasure site.



Examples Of Interpretation



A loop joined to the point of a right angle with a small triangle above the top line was a change-of-direction symbol, instructing the searcher to curve around the upcoming hill or mountain to his right. If reversed, the trail led to the left.

The figure could be reversed and told the searcher to either turn right or left, the closed $\frac{1}{4}$ circle indicating which way to go.

A horizontal bar joined at the left end by a shorter bar was a change-of-direction marker, this one signifying a left turn, reversed meant a right turn.

An up-side-down Y indicates that the searcher should travel straight ahead and cross the mountain he was coming to.

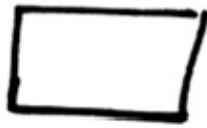


A horizontal line through the center of a circle with a longer line out from the half circle told the searcher that part of the treasure was buried underneath while another part was farther on in the direction of the extended line.

A closed circle with a radius line told the searcher that a treasure was buried in the center of a certain nearby circle. The circle might be a ring of rocks, trees etc, and the line from it told in which direction this circle was located.



Examples Of Interpretation



A plain rectangle indicated that the treasure was buried with a certain area formed in a rectangle with a rock at the four corners. Often a dot would be carved on one rock to show that they were markers.

Two half rectangles denoted that the treasure was buried in two parts. The treasure was buried at the ends of the upper and lower short lines, both of which terminated at the dot.

A circle with spokes was to have symbolized a hole in the ground, the number of spokes suggesting the depth the treasure was buried.



A horizontal line with a half arc over the left end and an angle made by a straight line downward at the right indicated a return to the last marker.

A circle with two horizontal and two vertical bars joined by a small open dot possibly represented the sun and warned the searcher not to try to recover the treasure in the daytime.

A circle crossed by a longer line with two or more dots indicated that the treasure was divided into two or more parts, one dot for each part, and buried on the circumference of the circle.



Examples Of Interpretation



X within a circle, added assurance that the searcher was on the right trail. Not used too much.

X within a half circle meant the treasure was buried directly underneath the object the sign was carved on.

X with an arc connecting its lower arms meant that the treasure would be found directly under it.



An X with extended horizontal base lines with a small triangle inside the angle at the bottom, found in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona. Meant that the treasure was buried on a mountain straight ahead.

Two miners' picks crossed to form an X indicated that the searcher was on the right trail to buried treasure, buried or hidden in a mine shaft.

A triangle with a tree in its center signified that the treasure could be found in an area marked out by three trees. Each tree would have an identifying mark.



Examples Of Interpretation



A right-angle triangle with an arc connecting the points of the vertical side suggested that the treasure would be found at the midpoint of the vertical line of the triangle.

A triangle within a triangle formed by an equal number of dots on each side meant that the treasure was buried within an equal-sided triangle, each dot representing one varra in length. Large rocks of some other distinctive mark was placed at each corner of the triangle.

Sometimes small triangles meant tepees. When used the upper one pointed to the treasure some distance away in Indian territory, and the direction was indicated by the points of the tepees.



A gourd, indicated direction to water, sometimes to treasure.

The feather warns that the treasure was hidden or buried in hostile Indian territory.



PESO = SPANISH FOR "WEIGHT"



The peso (Spanish: "weight") is a unit of currency that originated in Spain and is now used by several former Spanish colonies. The peso coin weighed 27 grams and was of 92 percent pure silver. Today the term peso is sometimes used interchangeably to include the historic Spanish eight real coin (also called the Spanish dollar or colloquially "pieces of eight"), which was the main Spanish coin during colonial times. This is primarily because pesos were of similar weight and diameter to the eight real coin. However the term peso did not appear on Spanish coinage until 1864, and it is more accurate to refer to the older coinage as the eight real coin (or Spanish dollar, or "pieces of eight").

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peso>



Spanish Signs

SPANISH SIGNS

01 7⁹⁹ 12 ₧

DIECISIETE PESOS UN REAL DOS GRANOS

5 $\frac{3}{4}$  %

CINCO TRES CUARTOS ONZAS EST, ES

 +  


LIBRAS ESTERLINAS
(POUNDS STERLING)

CRUZ

2   

DOS PESOS

PESOS FUERTES

 $\frac{m}{n}$

Pesos Moneda Nacional (Govt. Money)



Spanish Signs

CON

CON, CUEN, COR

ONZA

CUATRO

PESOS

DOS REALES

Y UN CUARTO

Y UN CUARTO

MIL

por ciento

PARRAFO

PESOS

Primero
(Primary
Principal)

Segundo
(2nd)

Tersero

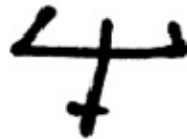


Chemical Signs

CHEMICAL SIGNS



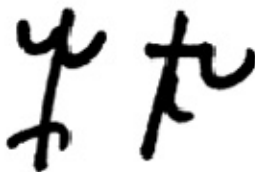
COPPER
OXIDES, SAFFRON



OIL



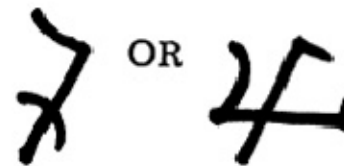
OLIVE OIL



ARSENIC



VINEGAR,
ACID



OR

TIN



TALC



SALT PETER
OR PETRE



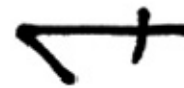
ALMAGAM



WOOD



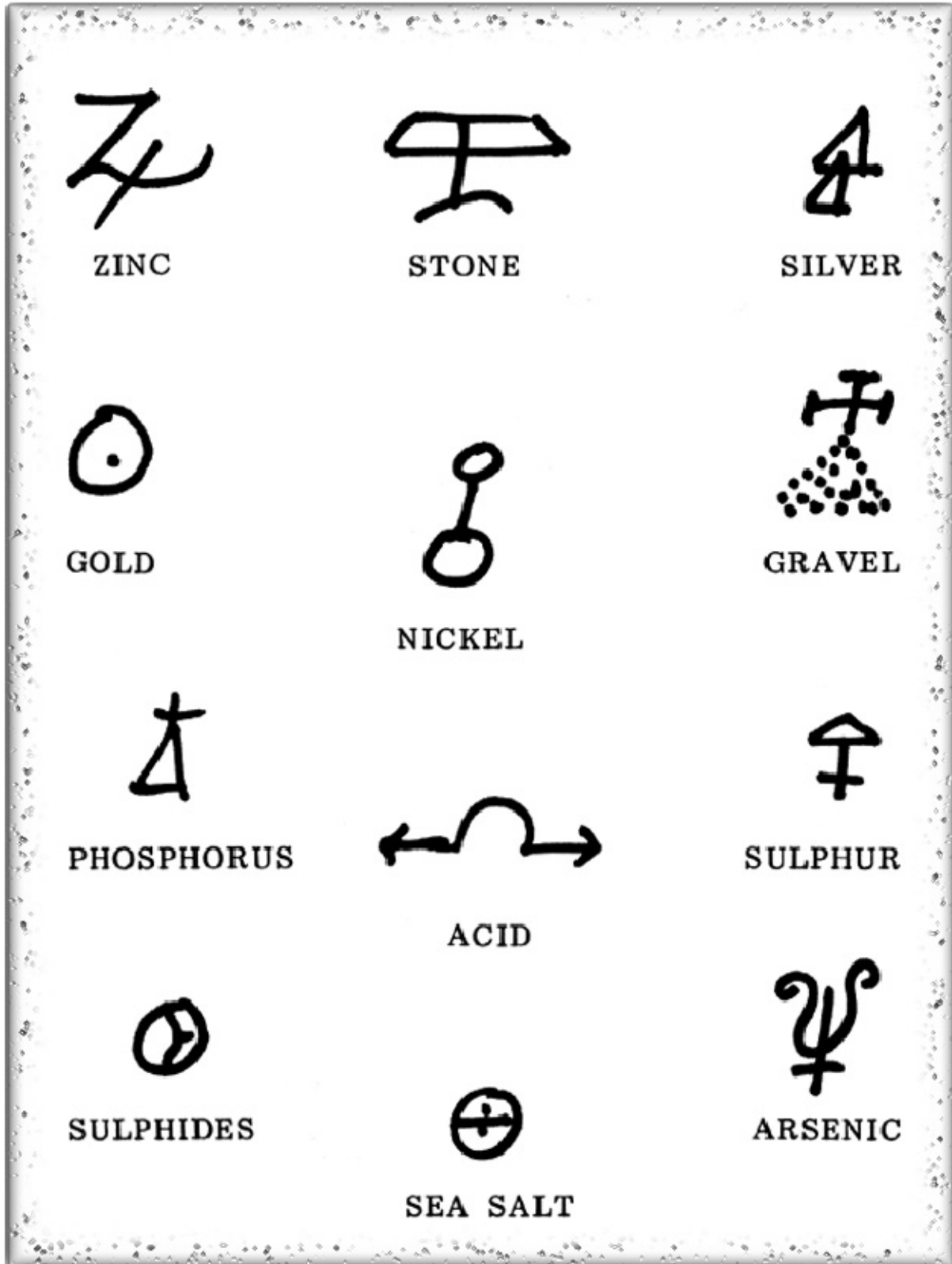
ALCOHOL


















WAX



Chemical Signs



Chemical Signs

				
MERCURY	IRON SULPHIDE	SALT WATER	POTASH	
				
COPPER SULPHIDE	ANTIMONY	SILVER AMALGAM	SAL AMMONIAC	
				
LEAD	HEPATITE	LEAD (OXIDE)		
	OR			
IRON				
			OR	
		COPPER		



Modern Day Signs

ARE YOU FOLLOWING IN ANCIENT TRADITION?



Treasure Hunters can employ methods that have been in use for eons. Consider the Nazca "Lines" near Lima, Peru, and markings on the earth that can best be seen by air.

South of Lima Peru, in the Peruvian desert, there are a series of lines drawn in the ground. These lines are in the shape of various geometric symbols and the forms of animals. There are triangles, an "astronaut," birds, spiders, and many other interesting shapes. There are over 900 drawings and most can only be seen from high in the sky.

Source: Lines of Nasca, <http://www.cps.k12.va.us/departments/planetarium/Nascalines.htm>
Information on the Chesapeake Public Schools' website generally is considered public information and may be distributed and copied.

Terms: <http://www.cps.k12.va.us/terms.html>

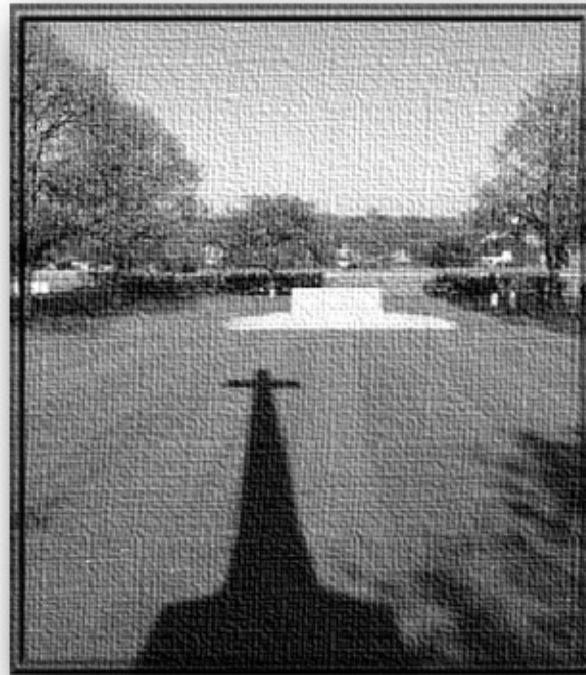


MODERN DAY SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

Modern day treasure hunters may at one time or another need to know up-to-date signs and symbols to use themselves.

*Many Signs & Symbols Are Based
On Timeless Visual Aids*

Shadow signals can be very effective when made in clearings with sufficient contrast and size.



An often-used pointing signal is a shadow, which will direct the seeker in the correct direction.



Modern Day Signs

In Canada and Alaska, a cross whose arms point northeast and southwest, and northwest and southeast will cast the most shadow. Along the equator the direct north-south and east-west will cast more sun shadow.

In the winter a single trail will show a lot in snow and if this trail is tramped back and forth will show more.



In the north, blocks of snow can be cut and placed on the north side, and in the south twigs and branches from trees can be cut and placed in the bottom of the dug trench. If in the north, there are evergreen trees, the contrast in color can be used to emphasize the trench.



Modern Day Signs

Consider Again The Nazca "Lines" In Peru



So, how were these drawings made before the invention of flight? Why were they made? The mystery remains unanswered to this day.

Except...WHAT Could Nazca Do For You??

Treasure hunting techniques have changed. We look for things from the air. We use radar, sonar, GPS, and observe from miles in the air. Lines on the earth might not be noticed by those on the ground... but for those "in the know," the lines YOU make, lead right to that which you've hidden.



















The Nasca Lines cover an area approximately 37 miles long and 1 mile wide. The drawings are divided into two types. The "geoglyphs," which are geometric shapes, and the "biomorphs," which represent living forms. It is believed that the biomorphs are the oldest drawings and were made sometime around 200 BC. The geoglyphs were drawn about 500 years later. The area is desert with thousands of small rocks. It appears the figures are made by moving all the rocks aside, exposing the smooth ground.

The Final List Of Signs & Symbols

The following signals are ones generally used to tell rescuers in airplanes a message. These should be made ten feet thick and forty feet tall in order to be easily understood from the air.



Modern Day Signs

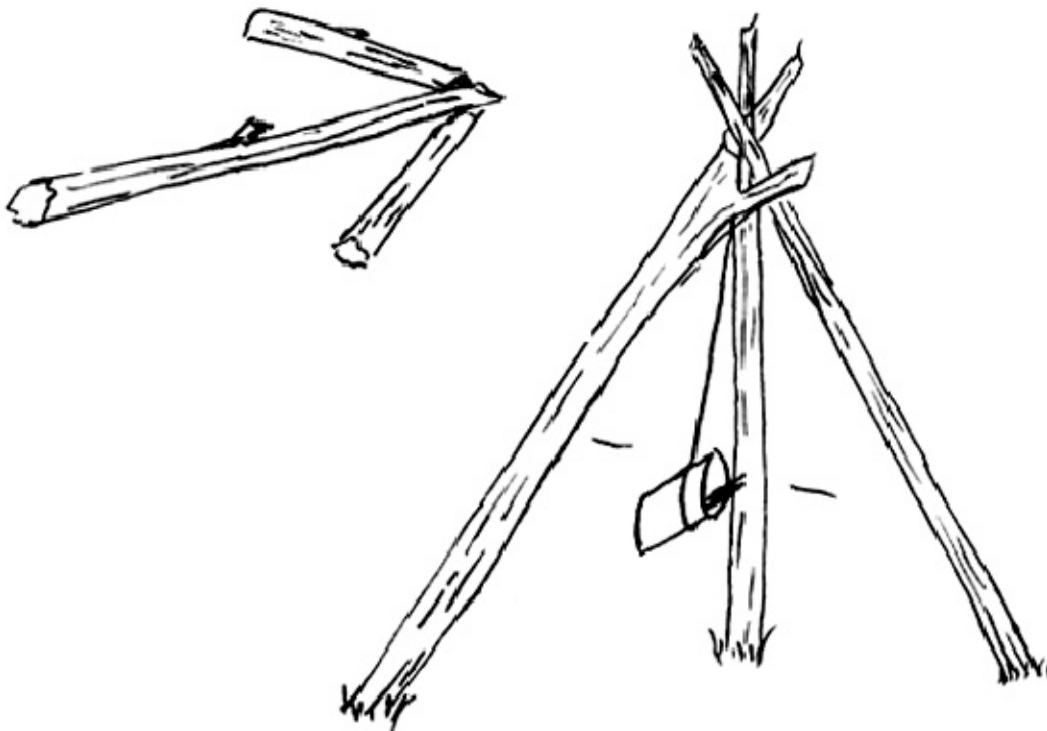
		
Serious injuries --need doctor	Need medical supplies	Will attempt to take off
		
Probably safe to land here	Yes	NO
		
Unable to proceed	All is well	Indicate direction to proceed
		
Need food and water	Need engineer	Aircraft badly damaged
		
Need gun and ammunition	Am proceeding in this direction	Need fuel and oil
		
Need signal lamp	Need compass and map	Not understood



SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

Leave written messages for a search party if you leave your camp site. Write information: date, direction you are taking, number of people in your party and their condition. Leave this message in a bottle or can, suspended from a tree or tripod or under a rock cairn.

Again, signs should be large enough to be visible from the air, and laid out to give direction of your travel. Then be sure you blaze a trail so ground parties can follow. This part of your directions cannot be over-emphasized! The following are examples of how you can blaze a trail in the wilderness.

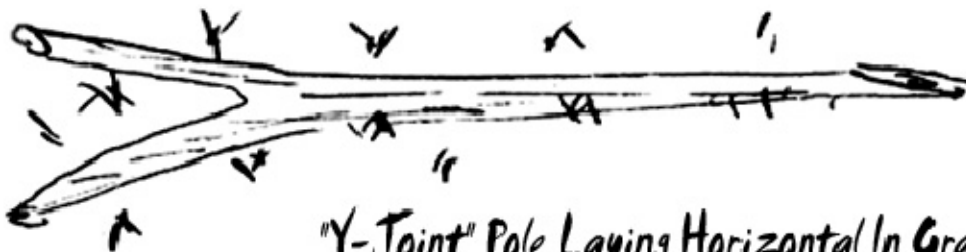


SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS BLAZE YOUR TRAIL!



Branches on Stump -
Pointing In Correct Direction

Vertical "Y-Joint" Pole
With Pointer Branch
Indicating Direction



"Y-Joint" Pole Laying Horizontal In Grass,
With Pointing End Indicating Direction



SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS BLAZE YOUR TRAIL!



Notch In Tree Trunk
Or Stump - On The Side
Of The Correct Direction



Pile Of Rocks, With "Pointer Rock"
(May Also Be Done With Snow Blocks)



Simple Arrow Made
From Rocks

Bent Or Broken Tree, With
Top Broken Part Indicating
The Correct Direction





*a horseshoe for luck
and a place for your notes*



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Handbook of Treasure Signs, first and second edition by Dr. Arnold Kortejarvi

Treasure Signs & Symbols by Thomas Penfield

Pocket book of Treasure Signs by Thomas Terry

Survival With Style by Bradford Angier

~ **My thanks to all of them! ...Mary Carson**

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