



AMMENDMENT NO.1 - DECEMBER 1998  
*A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE BOULDER ART IN THE  
POWER STATION WADI HATTA DUBAI, STEPHEN A. GREEN*

for G.F.

AMMENDMENT NO.1 - DECEMBER 1998

*A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE BOULDER ART IN THE  
POWER STATION WADI HATTA DUBAI, STEPHEN A. GREEN*

CONTENTS

PAGE NO.

SECTION A. OBVIOUS ERRORS IN THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY

SECTION B. "HATAL" - GRAVEYARD AREA, INITIAL INSPECTION

SECTION C. ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS, SITES FURTHER UP THE WADI

SECTION D. A QUICK PREVIEW OF EXAMPLES  
FROM MASAFI

for Gary Feulner

 12/12/98.

①

**AMMENDMENT NO. 1**

**SECTION A.**

**OBVIOUS ERRORS IN THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY**

140

AMMENDMENT NO. 1

OBVIOUS ERRORS IN THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY

Page No.	Location	Error	Should read
4	3 <sup>rd</sup> line	in to	into
19	4 <sup>th</sup> line	in to	into
93	8 <sup>th</sup> line	find	found
95	11 <sup>th</sup> line	in to	into
98	12 <sup>th</sup> line	BUIDINGS	BUILDINGS
110	18 <sup>th</sup> line	in to	into
110	21 <sup>st</sup> line	fuller bodied	more realistic

Errors noted are mainly spelling and spacing. I have not adjusted any grammatical discrepancy.

**AMMENDMENT NO. 1**

**SECTION B.**

**"HATAL" - GRAVEYARD AREA,  
INITIAL INSPECTION**

142

AMMENDMENT NO. 1

"HATAL" - GRAVEYARD AREA, INITIAL INSPECTION

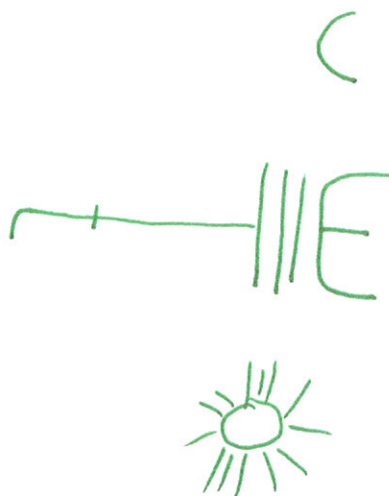
I mentioned in the initial preliminary report about the possible use of the 'Thamudic' script. After reviewing my photographs further especially in comparison to publications about Saudi Arabia, I am even more certain of this statement.

Thamudic is apparently an early Semitic language used in the period 500 BC to 200 AD. Either the language or the people using it spread from Yemen through South Arabia up into Oman and then up and across the Hajjar mountains (now the UAE) during this period.

The scripts of south-eastern Arabia are not well known, local dialects, the period of time in question and artistic license all effect the type of characters used. Translation and interpretation of Thamudic script is not easy.

An example of possible Thamudic script (rather than a simple picture) could be perceived in the scorpion pictograph illustrated on page 49 & 50 in the Preliminary Survey.

A reproduction of the carving follows;



143

This shows three lines of script.

The first line is a single moon (crescent)



this is the letter/sound **b**

The second line is a compound word of possibly three letters, from right to left,

a capital E;



this is the letter/sound **ha**

three bars and a tail;



this is the letter/sound **ta**

and a line with a curved end ;



this is the letter/sound **L**

The third line shows a sun;



this is the letter/sound **Sh**

It is towards the compound word on the second line that I would raise attention. This could be read **hatal**, the obvious comparison to the current name HATTA is exciting.

The use of the title Hatta in relation to the village/town is a reasonably modern association. The village used to be called 'Hajarain' (the place between two rocks) and the area around the village (the wadis and valleys) were the items termed Hatta.

I wonder if it is possible that the scorpion pictograph/Thamudic script is an inscription showing the early use (@ 2000 years old) of the term Hatta (**hatal**) to a wadi near the current town. Whether the term **hatal** refers to the wadi, the settlement or the people/tribe is unclear. I do not know if the sounds **b** or **Sh** give any help.

**AMMENDMENT NO. 1**

**SECTION C**

**ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS,  
SITES FURTHER UP THE WADI**

145



ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS,  
SITES FURTHER UP THE WADI

AN ANALYSIS (AND COMPARISON) OF THE BOULDER ART FOUND FURTHER UP THE WADI.

A= animal, W= wasum, ?= best guess, X= no idea, O= object, P= person,

No.	type	desc. 1	desc. 2	desc. 3	desc. 4
1	AWO	moon?	Sheep?	M	dead animal?
2	AWO	W	dead animal	sun	
3	X	dots			
4	X	dots			
5	WA	crouching leopard			
6	AP	donkey?	Dead man?	Half man?	
7	W	M			
8	W	M			
9	APO	branded sheep?	Person in box?		
10	P	goddess			
11	W	foot			
12	W	foot			
13	W	line			
14	W	half leopard W??			
15	X	ball?			
16	X	ball?			
17	X	circles??			
18	X	geometric??			
19	P	running person			

Boulders	containing no of Individual carvings	approx total carvings
14x	1	14
2x	2	4
2x	3	6
1x	4	4
	total=	28

Once again the majority of boulders contain a single carving/message.

### ANIMALS

D= domesticated, W= wild & local

D	sheep (or cow?)	NOT a horse,	associated with a wasum
D	dead sheep (or cat?)	NOT a horse,	associated with a wasum
D	dead sheep?	NOT a horse,	associated with a wasum
W	leopard ?		
D	donkey??	Possible wild horse, NOT reined or ridden, killing a man?	
D	branded sheep?	Associated with a person in a container? (box/house/grave??)	

Domesticated = 5

Wild & local= 1

The type of animal is unclear. There are no horns. There are no curly tailed leopards. I assume the illustrations are cows or sheep – I may be wrong. Whatever they are the most significant difference in comparison to the lower wadi is the exclusion of reined & ridden horses. There are **NO reined or ridden horses**. Along with the absence of pottery could this indicate an older settlement. The hairs on the back of the donkey/ass indicate a wild or untamed animal?

## PEOPLE

S= single, C= coupled with something

- C under donkey
- C standing behind donkey
- C inside a border (house/box/grave?) – possible breasts i.e. female (& near a branded sheep)
- S **GODDESS**, female with breasts
- S running person (holding bow or shield? And standing on something?)

We have significant differences to the lower sites; Females!!, a moving figure and dead people.

Could the women indicate a separate living area for females? Could it indicate separate burial practises for females? Could it indicate an initial society based on matriarchy?

## OBJECTS

M= man made, N= natural

- N moon
- N sun ? (circle)
- M border (box, house, grave, container?)

There is no clear pattern as there are not enough objects. The circle and crescent may be Thamudic script. There are no large boats or ships.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Numerous dots/poundings 2
- Sun bursts or balls 2
- Geometric 2

A lot of work for no apparent message or picture/representation.

SUMMARY

ANIMALS	PEOPLE	OBJECTS	WASUMS	WRITING	MISC
6	5	3	12	0	6

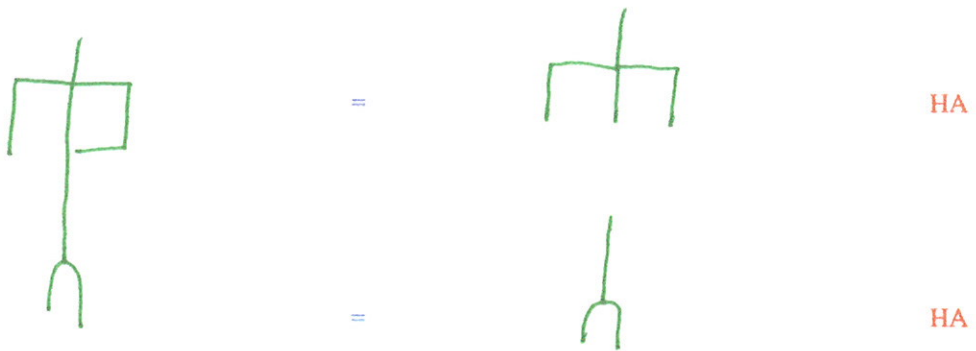
Wasums clearly predominate – this is different from before.  
Animals and people are secondary.  
The animals are not being ridden.  
There are no Arabic inscriptions.

WASUMS

No. off	FULL/DOUBLE WASUM	HALF WASUM	PARTIAL WASUM
1x	EE		
1x	EE		
1x	EE	E	I
1x	M		
1x	A		

It is possible that the wasum M is derived from the upper body of the 'Mother Goddess'.

It is not impossible that the mother goddess herself is an artistic interpretation of two of the Thamudic letters for the sound 'ha' i.e.



The goddess pictograph could read 'HA HA'

This leaves the signs;

1x circle/sun



2x balls/abrasions



2x foot



this sign can be seen at other sites in the UAE, but it has not yet been found lower down the Power Station wadi

### COMPARISONS AND DIFFERENCES

**Similarities;** The wasums continue to be based around the capital W & M (Thamudic **ha**)

**Differences;** There are no reined or ridden horses, there is no pottery, there are illustrations of women, repatination or fading is occurring, there is no arabic writing, there are foot shapes, the people are not associated with riding horses, there are no boats or ships and the cairn structures do not occur elsewhere.

It is my opinion that the sites nearer the mountains are older than the sites lower down the wadi. Although certain similarities exist there are far more differences than I would have expected. I assume this indicates an older settlement.

**AMMENDMENT NO. 1**

**SECTION D**

**A QUICK PREVIEW OF**  
**EXAMPLES FROM MASAFI**

A QUICK PREVIEW OF  
EXAMPLES FROM MASAFI

As a last thought I enclose examples of the 'Boulder Art' from my new site near Masafi.

These do not do the site justice. They were taken very quickly on a disposable camera and I have only done one quick reconnaissance trip. I covered possibly half the site and did not take pictures of faded, repatinated or small carvings. I would estimate that there are between 100 to 120 boulders to record.

It can be seen from these examples that Thamudic script is once again present.

Possible translations of three examples would be;

No.1					
		ha	ta	L	t
		hatalt			
No. 2					
		t	ha	n	
		than			
No. 3					
		tha	j		
		thaj			

The similarity in construction and the word hatalt to *hatal* (Hatta?) in our scorpion pictograph at Hatta is interesting. The similarity of the word thaj to the well known and famous archaeological site in eastern Saudi Arabia is also surprising.

I will report in greater detail on the whole site at a later date.





154

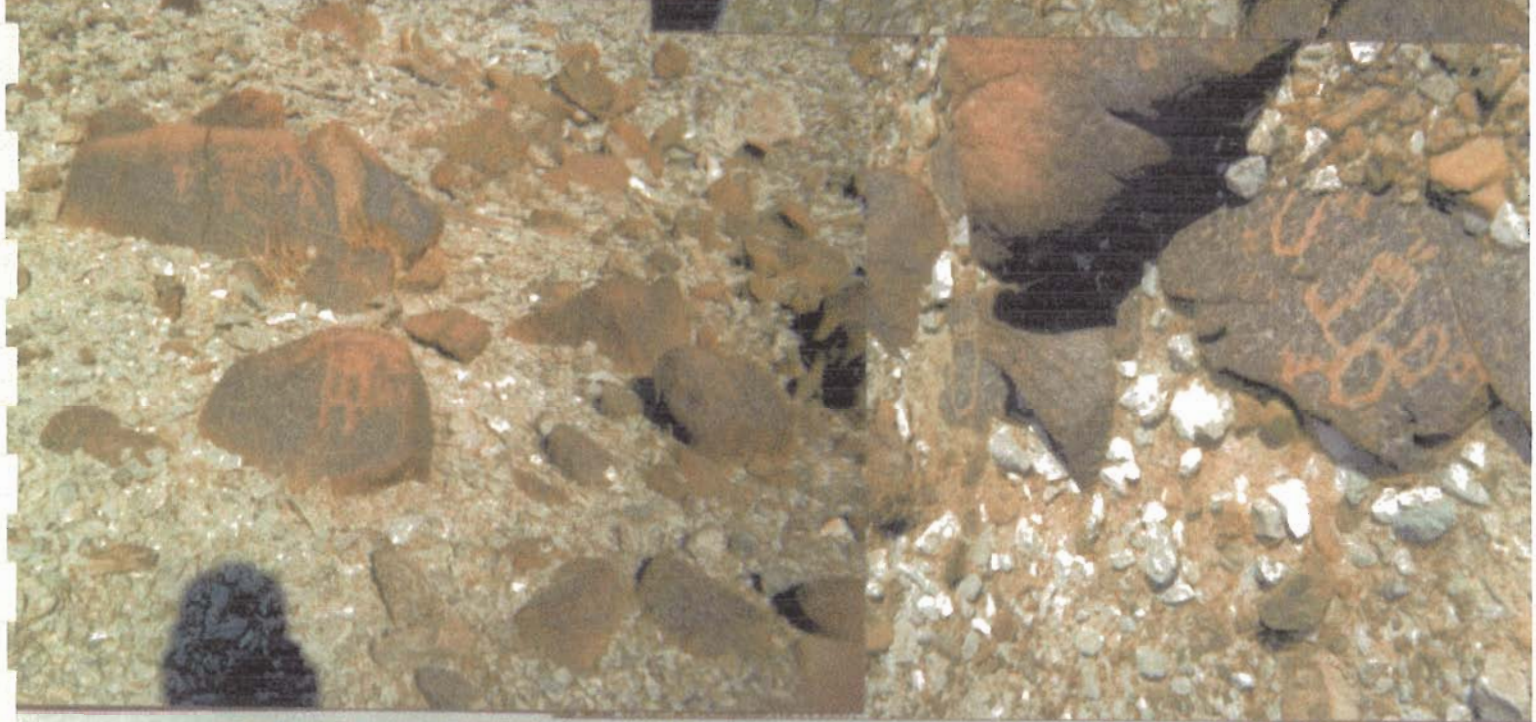
16



155



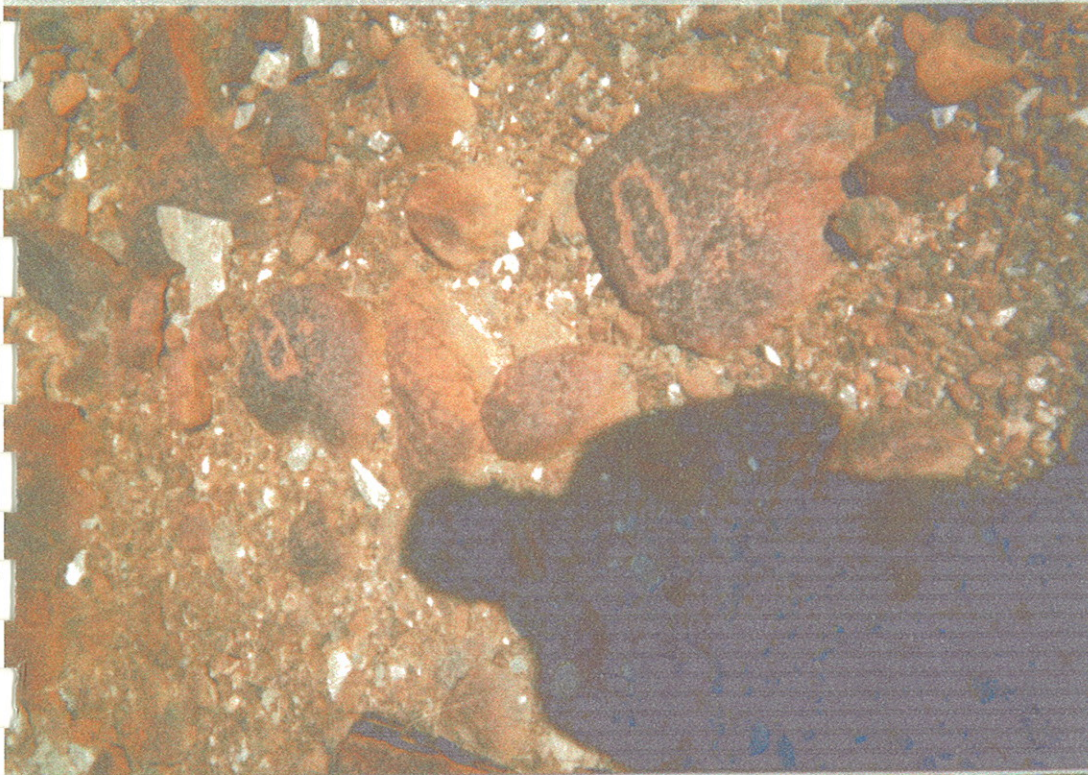
156



157







160