



Altadome

Grahamstown.

10/6/1932.

Dear Miss Bleek,

First of all let me thank you for your letter which I received on our return home + for the cheque of £11:1.

I am afraid you will be disappointed in the Graaff Reier paintings, certainly in the amount we were able to do.

Miss Wilman will be glad to hear that we found engravings though I don't know if they are what she expected. The farmer said they were chipped in the rock but we found they were only scratched - though I expect that was what Stone as referred to when he mentioned engravings.

We found it very difficult to get any information regarding the farms you named but eventually someone suggested the secretary of the publicity association who was able to supply us with the names of the present owners.

To the South West of Graaff Reier, about twenty four miles out, we found Doorn plaats, Katbosch + de Erf + as you see the paintings were very poor, mostly the caves were filled with spots + crude scribbles. Mr Maasdorp who owned Doorn plaats years ago says that near the



homestead he dug up a bushman grave in which he found a skeleton sitting upright with its implements in a pile in front of it. He had to shut in the grave again owing to the troublous times so I suppose it is still there intact. What seems interesting to me is that the bushman should be found sealed, according to Shos they were buried on their sides facing the East - Mr Minnaar one of another old Graaff-Reinet family, also dug up similar sealed figures so that it seems that it was the general rule in that district.

When we visited Kalbrosch it was pouring with rain & frightfully <sup>cold</sup>, & at de Erf we had to walk for over an hour to get to the cave, so, as you can imagine, we were very disappointed to find such poor paintings.

We then went to a small town thirty odd miles North West of Graaff-Reinet called New Bethesda where we were to find Driefontein Weltevreden Hondebek & Africander's Kloof. I rang up the farmers of the first three farms but none of them knew of paintings on their respective farms & although they invited us to go out to look for them, we didn't think it worth while especially as we had heard that many of the paintings in that district had been used for target-shooting. At Africander's Kloof of course we found numerous paintings & they seemed superior too.



We had not found any engravings + were doubting their existence when we heard in New Belvedere that there were paintings on Mr Ocher's farm Steilkrantz, + on ringing him up found that they were not paintings, but chippings on the rock. In great hopes we walked miles to find them, + of course were disappointed. We did not know how to make copies of the engravings but did the best we could, however luckily the photos we took were quite clear + you can see more or less what they were like.

I believe there are more paintings in the district of the Tooverberg + others, In fact I have a list that the garage man gave me the day we left.

Baai hook belonged to a Mr R.H. Murray, who said that to get to the caves on this farm we would have to walk miles + as far as he knew there were no paintings there, but when next he went up to the farm he would have a good look, + that if he found anything he would let us know.

I do hope we have managed to get a big enough selection for you

yours very sincerely

Joyce van der Riet

