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# A Note From the Editors

The Editors

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*A Note from the Editors*

In Fall, 2004, this journal published the first of a series of papers that made the claim that Palaeolithic art is more than art—it is writing, and it was at that time understandable by people living everywhere on earth. It has proven difficult for our peer reviewers—in this case anthropologists and archaeologists—to deal with material this startling.

When we were first approached by Don Burgy, the author of this material, he brought the documents to an editorial board meeting and we debated for hours what to do with it. After he led us through “reading” the materials for ourselves, and after visiting the archaeology museum in Fairbanks, Alaska, where we were shown very old Inuit carvings with similar “writing” on them (which we could read), we decided to print his paper, and three others after that, including the one in this issue.

Our Editor’s notes from the first printing continue to apply:

Writing is as old as art. This may appear to be an astonishing claim to those who have been admiring Palaeolithic art for the past century as simple art, but who have not been able to read what may well be the writing system intrinsic in the art itself.

The author has been visiting Palaeolithic sites for decades. He believes that writing did not appear xenogenetically in Mesopotamia 5,000 years ago but has in fact been a continuing human and universal system since at least as early as 12,500 BCE. In making these assertions he is presenting, we believe, an argument novel to our field of the comparative study of civilizations that there has been a human and universal writing system at least as early as 12,500 BCE.

In addition, Burgy has analyzed many pieces of rock and cave art and has concluded that these are universal stories. That is, they tell of the work and skills of our primeval ancestors, and they also relate the meaning of these lives to the story tellers and their audiences.

We realize that this might appear to some of our readers as an unusual article to run, but we believe it will stimulate discussion on the rise of writing amongst human beings. Please note that the editors were asked not to edit or copy read the text and we have reproduced the text exactly as received. We look forward to the readers’ comments and will hope to post the dialogue on our web site: <http://civiltasblog.blogspot.com/2009/07/can-civilization-survive-and-if-sowhat.html>