

ABORIGINAL ROCK ART IN CARNARVON GORGE,
SOUTH CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

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PREFACE

The specific data on which this thesis is based was entirely recorded by myself or directly under my supervision. Recording procedures were developed specifically for this project and improved upon during the course of the survey, they may perhaps be applicable to other preliminary regional rock art studies. I have adopted the standard terminology and classification for Australian rock art as proposed by Lesley Maynard; although her elaborate numerical system has not been completely followed through.

Published and unpublished reports by various scientific specialists and historical and ethnographic accounts were drawn upon for the introductory chapter. General surveys of Australian Aboriginal rock art and archaeology, notably those of McCarthy and Mulvaney were consulted. Specific archaeological evidence was extracted from published and unpublished excavation reports. Information regarding the distribution of the regional rock art comes from some published sources, but mainly from my own surveys and inspections and the files of the Queensland Museum and the Archaeological Division, Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Island Affairs (now Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement).

Grateful thanks are made to my wife Susan and my other colleague in the field, Allan Easton, the Queensland Museum photographer. They both marched for many miles, carrying heavy and awkward packs in a variety of weathers with no complaints. Allan Easton took the great majority of the photographs. I would also like to thank Lloyd and Ruth Waldron of 'Waldrona' station via Roma for their lavish and continuing hospitality to museum field parties,

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The Queensland Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs, the Hon. N.T.E. Hewitt granted a permit to carry out the survey permit provisions of the *Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act of 1967*. Finally I should acknowledge the permission of the Director and Board of Trustees of the Queensland Museum to present this material in the form of a thesis.