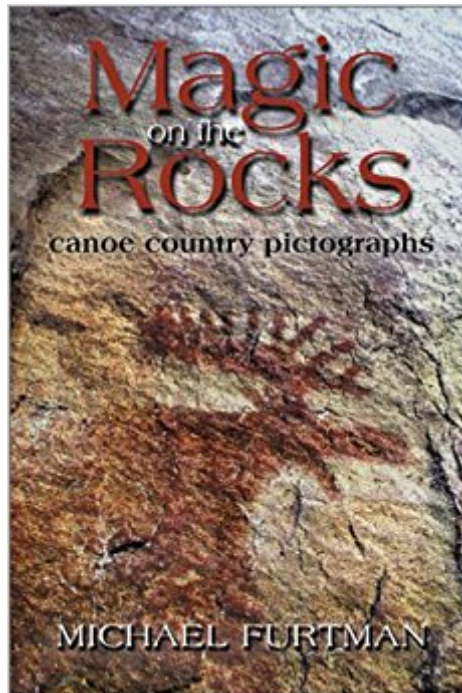




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Magic On The Rocks : Canoe Country Pictographs



Synopsis

Scattered across the Boundary Waters and Quetico, left by its native people on canvases of stone, are hundreds of enigmatic paintings. Generations of canoe country travelers have wondered what these mysterious drawings might mean. Now, in this book, award-winning author Michael Furtman presents a comprehensive guide to the canoe country's known pictographs and provides insight into the artists' visions and the traditions that spawned them. Complete with maps and directions to dozens of sites, and the most accurate reproductions of pictographs to date, *Magic on the Rocks* is an indispensable tool for those who would respectfully visit the sacred sites of a wise and ancient culture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Furtman is a writer and photographer who often takes as his subject matter the Minnesota wilderness. He is an active member of the Izaak Walton League and frequently works with the US Forest Service. He has written many other books, among them *A Boundary Waters Fishing Guide* (1984) and *A Season For Wilderness* (1989), as well as articles for *Field and Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Canoe*, *Wildfowl*, *Fly-Fisherman*, and many other national and regional publications. A life-long resident of Duluth, Furtman lives with his wife, Mary Jo, and Labrador, Rascal.

I really like the idea of this book. In use, however, it ended up being useless. The descriptions of where the pictographs actually are was incredibly lacking in precision. When some of these pictographs are quite faded and the area where the pictograph is (rock face) is, sometime, hundreds

of meters long, your chance of finding these can statistically approach zero. Also, the author has decided to show the pictures of the pictographs, with only the pictograph itself showing and none of the surrounding rock. So, of course, the images in the book stand out quite well, with the pictograph being rock and the background being a nice even grey. In the real world, there's no way to see how these pictographs stand out against the real rock they're on. On our trip through Quetico we passed by 6 different pictograph sites and saw zero pictographs. One description was something like "on the rock, near the water, where the arrow is pointing on the map". In this instance, the island on the map was rather small and the real island was about 750m long and the whole east side of the island was rock face. Again, I like the idea of the book but the descriptions of pictograph location could be greatly improved. Certainly, now, he could do GPS coordinates. I understand not putting the GPS coords in the book, as actually finding it myself with the crude description would have been a great treat, but heck, throw us a bone. Also, there has to be a better way of showing the pictograph so it might help others find it. That said, some of the history and stories given are quite interesting. If it weren't for that and I didn't like the idea of this book so much it would have been 1-star.

Interesting book with lots of information about the native Americans believed to have made the drawings. I plan to check out a few of the sites this summer. GPS coordinates would be nice, but are not included.

Preparing and planning BWCA west to east tripartite in Boundary Waters Journal recommended this book

I would very much enjoy canoeing to see these rock paintings.

While I was somewhat disappointed with the format of this book, it was still fairly helpful to me. I had expected more photographs.

Interesting information and descriptions about the Ojibway red ochre paintings and their meanings, and lore. It added greatly to my adventure observing these pictographs first-hand.

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