

REMARKABLE CARVINGS AT WOLLOMBI ABORIGINAL ART

In the course of a lecture delivered to the members of the Anthropological Society in Sydney, recently, Mr Frederick Slater said that the theory that the blacks of Australia came from Egypt was confirmed by the aboriginal carvings at Devil's Rock, Wollombi.

The totems, symbols, and ideographs carved, he said, showed that the ancestors of the Australian aborigines migrated, probably from Egypt, in the late paleolithic and the neolithic ages.

One striking ideograph, the Muron, found at Wollombi, had been preserved by the blacks for more than 100,000 years.

It suggested that the exodus took place about the time when Egypt was developing its mythology and eschatology before the people had become agricultural.

The carvings confirmed the deductions of the late Professor Grafton Elliott Smith, both as to time and origin.

The statements made by Mr Slater have aroused considerable interest in the Wollombi district.

Only a few weeks ago Mr John Dean, of Wollombi, together with Mr Crosdale, of Congewoi, who is a keen student of aboriginal arts and customs, journeyed to the Devil's Rock and returned with many photos and two specimens cut from the rock itself. One carving is shaded like the imprint of a huge bird. These carvings can be found in an unbroken line along the rock for at least a quarter of a mile. Aboriginal carvings of dilly-bags, emus, black-fellows, dingoes, kangaroos, etc., are still discernible and in a good state of preservation.

A natural camping ground where three creeks meet, Wollombi, in aboriginal language, means "the meeting of the waters."