To continue our sweep southward along the Manitoba boundary we come to the Bloodvein River system. Within an area comparable to that of Quetico Provincial Park there is a matching density of sites, with seven known locations on the Manitoba side and nine in Ontario. Hansen Lake (east of Rostoul), Bigshell, and Beamish lakes all add their water to the upper Bloodvein, while Larus and Artery lakes are enlargements of the mainstream. The dramatic site just east of Artery has already been described on page 60. About thirty-five miles upstream just west of Larus Lake is a group of paintings in a similar setting. Both sites have a northerly exposure. This would normally ensure a heavy growth of lichens because of the lack of sunlight that would speed the drying of the surface after a wind-driven rain. On both these sites, however, the granite has been so smoothed by glacial action that the algae and fungus spores, whose union makes the plant possible, find little encouragement to lodge on any rock faces that are also protected by overhangs. The upper portion of the second face of the Larus-Bloodvein site, consisting of vestigial handprints and abstractions, is not shown here, and much that is illustrated is familiar enough from other sites that the reader will require no comment. My rendering of the human figure at the base of Face III reflects my uncertainty as to whether the apparent head-dress, and detail attached to the body actually belong to the original. What is both striking and clear, though the colour is faint, is the large figure holding up the...
smaller one: a sort of giant-and-pygmy motif. Nothing more readily invites the viewer's personal projections: Is it a father proudly displaying his new-born son? Or a Weyndigow about to devour his human victim?

Regarding handprints, I might note that I know of only one occurrence farther west, on a site near Snow Lake, northeast of The Pas, Manitoba. Southward they abound to the Shield's edge, but to the east they extend only a site or two past Lake Nipigon.

The second set of Larus-Bloodvein paintings is even more obscured than the reproductions on this page suggest. The alert viewer will pick out five human figures, if he includes the one in a thunderbird style and the tiny little human beside a vaguely animal form. The animal with the heavy shoulder hump and the long ears—against a background of vestigial paintings—I take for a moose, mainly because a bell is faintly visible.