

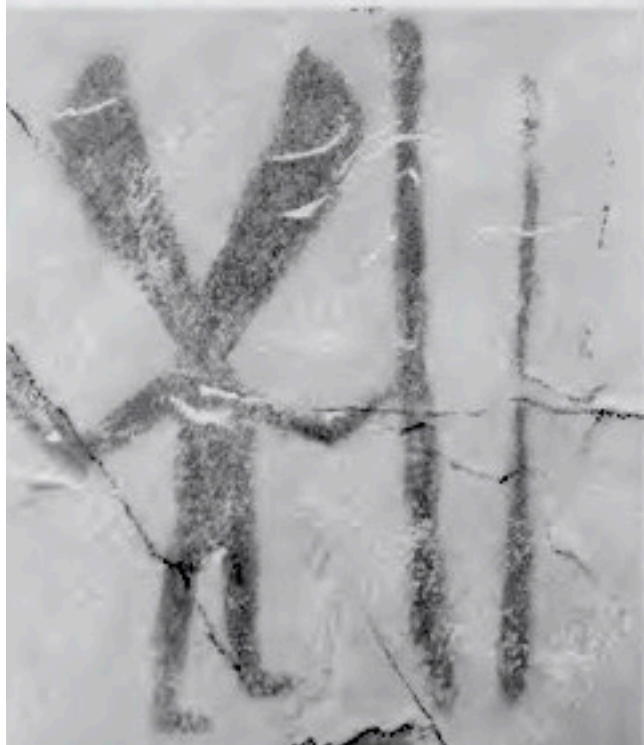
at Diamond and Scotia Lakes. Among the others are a canoe, a pig-like bear, and a likely fish.

Southeast Ontario

Southward from Lake Nipissing the Shield formation reaches as far as the Severn River to the west, the Kawartha Lakes in the centre, and to the east breaks through the St. Lawrence Lowlands to form the Thousand Isles. In all this area only three pictograph sites have been recorded: one group of petroglyphs north of Stony Lake by Sweetman in 1955, and two rock painting sites, fifty miles east, on Lake Mazinaw. A survey of the lakes in this region would probably reveal an unsuspected proportion of raised water levels from lumbering operations that go back in some districts a full century and more. Lingering reports of rock paintings in the Muskoka-Parry Sound

area so far have been impossible to localize. The one clear report I have is of paintings on a rock on the north shore of Lake Simcoe that broke off and fell into the water in 1914.

The Bon Echo site on Lake Mazinaw, however, amply compensates at least in extent for other sites that may have vanished in the area. The air view on the opposite page shows the *koo-chi-ching*, or "Little-lake-at-the-end-of-a-big-lake" of Lake Mazinaw, and the southern end of the main lake. The sandy spit we see is a part of the Bon Echo property, formerly owned by Merrill Dennison, now a Provincial Park. The huge granite escarpment on which the paintings appear is visible on the right, averaging 100 feet in height for a full mile. In numbers of paintings as well as for sheer bulk Bon Echo has no rival in Ontario. In June of '58 I recorded a hundred and thirty-



Lake Mazinaw
"Rabbit-man"



Courtesy, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests

five symbols, scattered over twenty-seven faces.

Site #38, on Little Mazinaw, roughly a mile and a half south of the main site, has three faces.

The following pages illustrate only about a fifth of the actual paintings on the site, all easily accessible by canoe. Of those omitted many are either so weathered or so repetitive that the viewer would find them of minor interest. Handprints are entirely absent, canoes are rare, and the tendencies toward geometric types

of abstractions so marked that we are tempted to ask whether the paintings are not the product of a culture quite distinct from those farther west. They seem older, too, in so far as a large number have been weathered to near-disappearance. There can be no reasonable doubt that the lake's present name (variously spelled in early references as "Massanog," "Massinaw," etc.) is from the Algonkian word for "picture," "writing," "painting," "book" (*mu-zi-nu-hi-gun*).



Lake Mazinaw, Face II

Site #99, south of Devil's Bay, Lake of the Woods



The colour reproduction on the opposite page is from Face II, the second most northerly, one of the strongest in colour, and as mystifying as any. The weird central figure is surely no native animal, although the shoulder-neck area is too badly weathered for the viewer to be able to make out the original outline. The strong suggestion of cloven hoofs is unique. Note the small animal beneath this one's belly—not identifiable either, but far more typical of the other animals on the site.

Even the canoe, if we so interpret the lower part of the painting, is

strikingly different from others elsewhere. Are the diagonal strokes intended for arms, or paddles, or something else? And what about the strange little animal to the lower left (related perhaps to the large one), for dorsal spines are quite clear along its back, appearing also on the intact portion of the larger animal's back?

Below, by way of contrast, is a colour reproduction of the bison at Site # 99, on Lake of the Woods at the opposite end of the province.

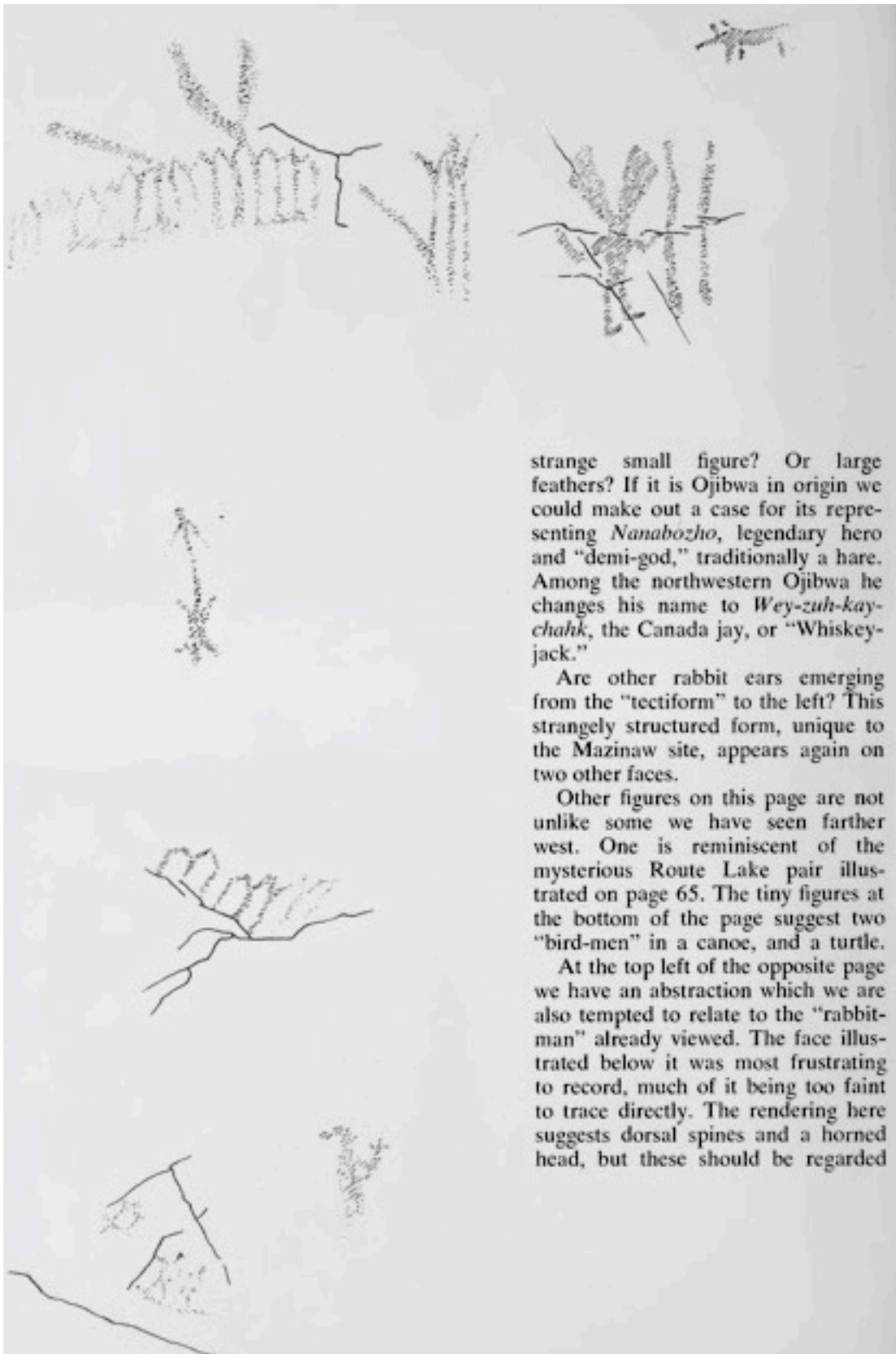
When it comes to the human renderings above, we are again at a loss. Are these a hare's ears on this

Lake
Mazinaw
site

Face VII

Face II





strange small figure? Or large feathers? If it is Ojibwa in origin we could make out a case for its representing *Nanabozho*, legendary hero and "demi-god," traditionally a hare. Among the northwestern Ojibwa he changes his name to *Wey-zuh-kay-chahk*, the Canada jay, or "Whiskey-jack."

Are other rabbit ears emerging from the "tectiform" to the left? This strangely structured form, unique to the Mazinaw site, appears again on two other faces.

Other figures on this page are not unlike some we have seen farther west. One is reminiscent of the mysterious Route Lake pair illustrated on page 65. The tiny figures at the bottom of the page suggest two "bird-men" in a canoe, and a turtle.

At the top left of the opposite page we have an abstraction which we are also tempted to relate to the "rabbit-man" already viewed. The face illustrated below it was most frustrating to record, much of it being too faint to trace directly. The rendering here suggests dorsal spines and a horned head, but these should be regarded

with some suspicion; I may well here have succumbed to my own wishful thinking. The more familiar forms below call for little comment, but those in the bottom margin are strange indeed. The one might have been influenced by a pottery design; the other might be described as "geometricized tree branches" for lack of a better guess.

On the next page are still further examples of relatively complex abstractions so typical of this site. Along with this tendency is an equally marked absence of any urge to naturalism, a trend that seems to grow in strength as one moves west. Recall that here we are on the southern periphery of the Shield formation and this is not too surprising. In historical times this was the border country between the nomadic Algonkian hunters of the Shield woodlands and the corn-raising Iroquoians of the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes lowlands. Regardless of the ebb and flow of prehistoric cultures, geography





Site #37, Face XXVIIIa

would always have exerted a borderland influence here.

Beyond its geographical situation the Mazinaw setting itself must have exerted a powerful spell on any human group to whom it was familiar. The awe and disquietude associated with far less impressive sites in the north and west is clearly indicated by the lingering mythological associations. How much more would the Mazinaw setting have stimulated such responses!

For Christopher, Irene, and me it was a sobering experience merely to paddle along the base of this cliff, sensing the depth of the water beneath and the height of the rock above, where occasionally jutting crags eighty or ninety feet overhead seemed ready to plunge down on us—and undoubtedly *would* fall some day. One afternoon we were more than a little startled to see the water



Little Mazinaw Lake, Face III

nearby begin an inexplicable whirling motion, accelerating till it lifted suddenly into a miniature waterspout, then vanishing as quickly as it had appeared. A trick of the air currents, no doubt, with thermals playing around the cliff on a hot summer day; but uncanny for all that.

Site #38 is only a mile south of the main Mazinaw site, with only three small faces, one of which is illustrated here. There surely were others in neighbouring lakes; but it is a century or more since lumbering operations began, and it is altogether likely that dams have drowned out the others. I have had only one report of another site in the region—in the Gananoque Lakes area.

This completes the roster of Shield sites so far recorded and the reader will be ready to view them from the broader perspective of Kenneth Kidd in the final pages of our story.



Site #37,
Face XXIV

Pictograph Sites

SITES marked by (*) are not illustrated in this book. Sites marked by (†) are outside of the Canadian Shield.

1957

1. Agnes Lake, south of Narrows, Quetico Provincial Park, 23, 24
2. Agnes Lake, centre, Q.P.P., 25, 58
3. "Ahsin Lake," southwest of Williams Lake, Q.P.P., 24
4. *"Keewatin Lake," between Agnes and Kawnipi, Q.P.P., 24
5. Lac la Croix, Irving Island, Q.P.P., 3, 24-9, 82
6. *Lac la Croix, just west of site # 5, Q.P.P.
7. Crooked Lake, Basswood River, Minn., 16, 29-30, 113
8. Darky Lake, Q.P.P., 33, 34, 36, 40, 114
9. *Burt Lake, Q.P.P., 34
10. An unnamed lake north of Hurlburt Lake, Q.P.P., 34
11. *Agnes Lake, central west shore, Q.P.P., 34

1958

12. Cache Bay, Q.P.P., 16, 30, 32, 34, 40
13. Northern Lights Lake, Nelson Bay,
14. Northern Lights Lake, Trafalgar Bay, 32
15. Pictured Lake, southwest of Fort William, 54, 73, 74
16. Hegman Lake, Superior National Forest, Minnesota, 16, 36, 38
17. Kawishiwi River, south of Lake Alice, S.N.F., Minn., 37
18. Burntside Lake, west of Ely, Minn., 37, 73
19. *Island River, south of Isabella Lake, S.N.F., Minn., 36, 37

20. *Nett Lake, Minnesota (petroglyphs), 34, 38, 42
21. Lower Manitou Lake, west shore of Narrows, 71, 72
22. Painted Narrows, Rainy Lake, 16, 40, 89
23. Namakan Narrows, north entrance, 38, 39
24. Namakan Narrows, centre, 38, 39
25. Namakan Lake, island in east end, 38, 39
26. Cuttle Lake, small site, 69, 70
27. Cuttle Lake, large site, 10, 11, 69, 70, 71
28. Southwest of Sioux Narrows, Lake of the Woods, 46, 48, 49
29. Blindfold Lake, 2, 46, 55
30. *"Irene Lake," east of Kenora
31. Northern Twin Lake, 4-7
32. *Orient Bay, south of Royal Windsor Lodge, 75, 76
33. *French River, east of Recollect Falls, 93
34. Ninth Lake, East Spanish River, 88, 89
35. Fairy Point, Lake Missinaibi, 2, 84-87
36. Agawa Rock, Lake Superior Provincial Park, 10, 14, 16, 17, 79-82, 113, 114

1959

37. ~~Mazinaw Lake, Bon Echo Provincial Park, 22, 94-100~~
38. ~~Little Mazinaw Lake, south of Bon Echo, 94, 95, 100~~
39. Collins Inlet, Georgian Bay, 92

40. Diamond Lake, Timagami district, 91, 94
41. *Bear Island, Lake Timagami, 91, 92
42. Northwest Arm, Lake Timagami, 92
43. *Upper Grassy Lake, east end, 90
44. *Upper Grassy Lake, centre, 90, 91
45. Ferris Lake, 90
46. *Terrier Lake, north of Nakina, 84
47. Echo Rock, Lake Nipigon, 75, 76, 77
48. Gull Bay (I), 76, 77
49. Gull Bay (II), 76, 77
50. Gull Bay (III), 76, 77
51. Red Rock, mouth of Nipigon River, 16, 17, 54, 74
52. Mamcigwess Lake, 52, 67, 68, 69
53. *Indian Lake, 69
54. Carling Lake, Vermilion River, 65
55. Vincent Lake (I), 65, 66
56. Vincent Lake (II), 65, 66
57. *Schist Lake, 66
58. Cochrane River, northwest of Deer Lake, 57, 58
59. Sharpstone Lake, 60, 61
60. Bloodvein River, 52, 57, 58, 59
61. Grassy Narrows, 62
62. Delaney Lake (I), 62
63. Delaney Lake (II), 62
64. White Dog, Islington Indian Reserve, 63
65. An unnamed lake west of Rex Lake, 62
66. Near portage into west end of Rex Lake, 62
67. Dryberry Lake (I), 67
68. Dryberry Lake (II), 67
69. Picture Rock Island, Whitefish Bay, 53, 54, 55
70. Cliff Island, Sunset Channel, 42
71. *Sunset Channel (petroglyphs), 35, 42
72. Quetico Lake (I), Q.P.P., 35, 93
73. *Quetico Lake (II), Q.P.P., 35
74. Little Missinaibi Lake (I), 88
75. Little Missinaibi Lake (II), 88
76. Little Missinaibi Lake (III), 88
77. Killarney Bay, Georgian Bay, 92
78. Scotia Lake, 88, 89, 90, 94
- 1960
79. *†Burnt Bluff, I, Fayette Peninsula, 105
80. *†Burnt Bluff II, Fayette Peninsula, 105
81. *Upper French River, west of Keystone Lodge, 93, 94
82. Upper French River, west of Keystone Lodge, 93, 94
83. *Pine Point, Lac des Mille Lacs, 72, 73
84. *Turtle River (I), 69
85. Turtle River (II), 69
86. Red Lake (Ont.), 63, 64
87. *Cliff Lake, 64
88. Route Lake (I), 64
89. Route Lake (II), 64
90. Route Lake (III), 64
91. Hayter Peninsula, Lake of the Woods, 49, 50
92. Devil's Hole, Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods, 51, 52
93. Annie Island, Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods, 49, 50, 51, 54
94. *Portage Bay, Lake of the Woods, 42
95. Picture Rock Point, Lake of the Woods, 42
96. *Ball Lake, English River
97. *Shoal Lake (petroglyphs), 34, 42
98. Devil's Bay, Whitefish Bay, Lake of the Woods, 49, 51
99. Whitefish Bay, south of Devil's Bay, Lake of the Woods, 49, 52, 53
100. Sabaskong-Obabikon Channel, Lake of the Woods, 43
101. *Obabikon Narrows (lichenoglyphs), 43
102. Painted Rock Island, south of Aulneau Peninsula, Lake of the Woods, 43, 44

