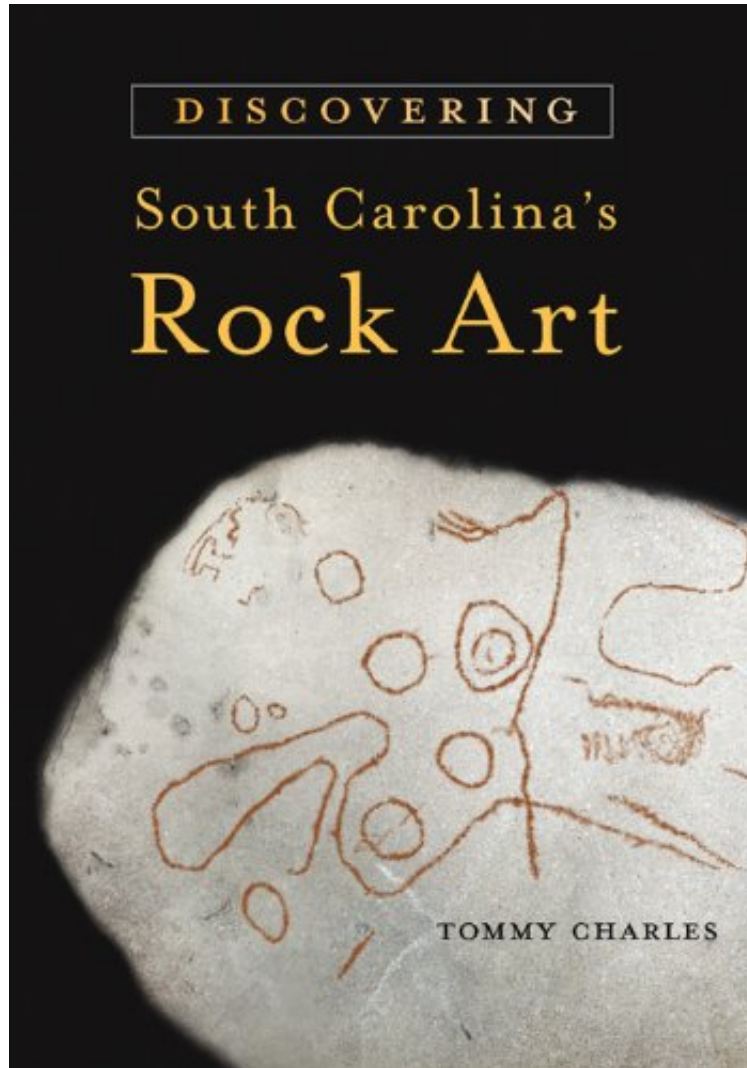


[Download ebook] Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art

Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art

Tommy Charles

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Tommy Charles : Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art:

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An excellent book. I am an amateur artifact collector and find these things extremely fascinating. The book is well written, organized, and covers a subject that gets very little attention in South Carolina.
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The premier source of information on the discovery and methods used to find petroglyphs in South Carolina. Completely fascinating, informative and inspiring.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A definitive study, yet accessible to the general readerBy Anson Cassel Mills
This work is the result of a survey, begun in 1997 and jointly conducted by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and

Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and a group of Greenville County citizens who helped fund the project. Before 1983 it was generally believed that there were no prehistoric petroglyphs in South Carolina; but the survey discovered 61 rock art sites in the Upstate, some that included many glyphs. Obviously, the subject is of interest to comparatively few people; but the book is definitive within its sphere, clearly written and nicely illustrated; easily accessible to the general reader.

For years Tommy Charles scoured South Carolina's upcountry for examples of ancient rock art carvings and paintings, efforts conducted on behalf of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). As SCIAA's collections coordinator, Charles amassed considerable field experience in both prehistoric and historic archaeology and had firsthand involvement in cataloging sixty-four sites of South Carolina rock art. Charles chronicles his adventures in exploration and preservation in *Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art*. Although Native American rock art is common in the western United States and even at many sites east of the Mississippi, it was believed to be almost nonexistent in South Carolina until the 1980s, when several randomly discovered petroglyphs were reported in the upstate. These discoveries set in motion the first organized endeavor to identify and document these ancient examples of human expression in South Carolina. Over the ensuing years, and assisted by a host of volunteers and avocational collectors, Charles scoured the Piedmont and mountains of South Carolina in search of additional rock art. Frustrated by the inability to find these elusive artifacts, many of which are eroded almost beyond visibility, Charles began employing methods still considered unorthodox by current scientific standards for archaeological research to assist with his search and documentation. Survey efforts led to the discovery of rock art created by Native Americans and Europeans. Of particular interest are the many circle-and-line petroglyphs the survey found in South Carolina. Seeking a reason for this repetitive symbol, Charles's investigation into these finds led to the discovery that similar motifs had been identified along the Appalachian Mountains from Alabama to New York, as well as in the American Southwest and Western Europe. This engrossing account of the search for South Carolina's rock art brings awareness to the precarious state of these artifacts, threatened not only by natural attrition but also by human activities. Charles argues that, if left unprotected, rock art is ultimately doomed to exist only in our historical records.

From the Inside Flap
An adventure tale of archaeological research, discovery, and preservation in the South Carolina upcountry
About the Author
A native of Union, South Carolina, Tommy Charles began his interest in archaeology as a child. In 1979 Charles joined the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), a research arm of the University of South Carolina. He has participated in many research projects over the years, and in 1993 he joined the SCIAA Research Division to pursue his research interests in prehistoric Native American culture. Now retired, Charles continues his own research in the South Carolina upstate.