



Piasa Bird

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The Piasa Bird (pronounced Pie-a-saw), is a local legend in the Alton area. Its foundations go back to 1673 when Father Jacques Marquette, in recording his famous journey down the Mississippi River with Louis Joliet, described the "Piasa" as a birdlike monster painted high on the bluffs along the Mississippi River, where the city of Alton, Illinois now stands.