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King: *Fifty Years of Archaeology in the California Desert*

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examined in five fact-filled chapters. Water supplies, past and present, and their sources receive first attention. The salt pan—its minerals, their zoning, and geological history—is then investigated. Next comes a discussion of the gravel fans which separate the salt pan from the surrounding mountains. Rocks, their kinds, locations, and time sequence, form the subject matter of a fourth chapter. The fifth is concerned with earth movements, faults, granite intrusions, and volcanism.

Human history and prehistory are dealt with in three succeeding chapters. A short one carries the history of prospecting and mining from its beginnings through four main stages into modern times. The vexing current problem stemming from Death Valley's being left open to prospecting and mining after it became a national monument in 1933 is discussed and a solution proposed.

The long prehistory period receives more detailed treatment. Archaeological evidence points to 10,000 or so years of human occupation. This long time span is divided into four stages, each of which is analyzed in terms of its characteristic artifacts and other cultural features. Geological work aided in the relative dating of the earlier stages. But this is not a one-way relationship, for archaeological facts proved useful in the temporal placement of more recent geological features.

Old trails and the usefulness of litter for dating historical sites are assessed in a chapter titled "Archaeology Since 1949." Trails were mapped in some detail to estimate rates of erosion. Suitable only for traveling by foot or horseback, they were abandoned when vehicles became the chief means of transport. That the trails were used by prospectors before 1900 is clearly demonstrated by the early-type tin cans, bottles, and other debris found along them. Good evidence exists that they served as Indian pathways long before white men entered the country.

The book closes with an interesting discussion of plant and animal geography. Particular attention is given to the important role played by geological factors in controlling plant growth. This chapter might well have been fitted in earlier.

Death Valley: Geology, Ecology, Archaeology conveys a surprisingly large amount of information, and generally overcomes the difficulties of compression and simplification. A special word of praise must be given to the maps, line drawings, and photographs (161 in all). Of excellent quality and well integrated with the text, they form a valuable part of the book. The seven-page bibliography shows that the author did not neglect published sources.



Fifty Years of Archaeology in the California Desert: An Archaeological Overview of Joshua Tree National Monument. Thomas F. King. The Western Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Tuscon, Arizona. 1975.

Reviewed by MAKOTO KOWTA
California State University, Chico

According to its author, this instructive study aims to (a) specify the kinds of archaeological resources present or suspected to be present in the monument, (b) make a systematic analysis of the already completed archaeological studies directly related to the area, (c) present a consideration of the kinds of research that can be usefully pursued with the resources available, and (d) indicate the

operations which should be undertaken to facilitate the evaluation of the resources present.

As should be the case in all such endeavors, King is careful to state the theoretical bias that governs his evaluations and recommendations. Essentially, this bias is that of the logical positivistic search for regularities in human behavior utilizing archaeological materials as evidence. This bias is also reflected in his statement that "Above all else, archaeological resources are research resources," and that the overview ". . . is . . . a tool for the management of archaeological resources in the interest of future research."

Within this framework, the document covers the material well, and some new and interesting historical details are revealed in the process.

Only one major point of concern emerges, and this may have originated in circumstances not fully apparent in the document itself. This involves the orientation of the overview to the management of archaeological resources *for research purposes*. Especially for an agency such as the National Park Service, directed as it is to public service, there should *also* be a concern with the management of archaeological resources vis-à-vis the non-specialist public. It may be hoped that other studies address this aspect of resource management in the monument.



American Indian Ethnohistory: California and Great Basin-Plateau Indians. David Agee Horr, compiler and editor. New York and London: Garland Publishing Company. 1974. Vols. I-VI (Vol. 1 in 3 parts). \$28.00 per volume (\$224 for the set).

Reviewed by ROBERT F. HEIZER
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This series of 8 volumes is a major contribution to a special aspect of California Indian history. They contain most, but not all, of the formal written reports submitted by expert witnesses (mostly anthropologists) as evidence in the Indian Claims case of the California Indians (combined Dockets No. 31 and 37), plaintiffs, versus The United States of America, defendant. This case was heard by the three Indian Claims Commissioners (E. Witt, L. O'Marr, W. Holt) in a series of court hearings in the 1950's. The verbal testimony was taken down by a court stenographer and prepared in typewritten form. Its length runs to many thousands of pages, and it is probably of more importance than the data contained in the 8-volume set here reviewed because it contains the direct testimony and give-and-take cross-examination between witnesses, lawyers, and the Commissioners. This is available in the National Archives or the Indian Claims Commission. Other copies of the courtroom transcripts are held by the plaintiffs' lawyers. Since the Commission decided against the defendant, it therefore is probable that the most powerful arguments for the decision lie in these courtroom transcripts. As the Docket 31/37 case progressed through the years, there were prepared by both sides a series of Proposed Findings of Fact (not published here) which were offset printed. Some of these contain summaries of data contained in the 8 volumes under review, and in addition legal arguments favorable to either the Indians of California or the U.S. Department of Justice. These are also of interest