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#### **Authors**

Hammett, Julia E.

Jones, Laura

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important contribution to Great Basin archaeology.

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*Essays on the Prehistory of Maritime California.* Terry L. Jones, ed. Center for Archaeological Research at Davis, Publication No. 11, 1992, vii + 277 pp., 72 figs, 56 tables, \$22.00 (paper).

*Reviewed by:*

**JULIA E. HAMMETT** and **LAURA JONES**  
Campus Archaeology, 855 Serra Street, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-6115.

Terry Jones has assembled an attractive, well-illustrated collection of papers representing two recent symposia on prehistoric adaptations along the California coast. This is the first such anthology to include contributions from northern, central, southern, and Baja California. Sixteen papers are organized geographically from north to south. Jones' useful introduction defines four coastal environments (subregions) according to paleo- and current environmental regimes, outlines settlement, mobility, and subsistence trends over time, and highlights current interpretive models.

Lightfoot covers coastal hunter-gatherer settlement systems in the southern North Coast Range (Mendocino and Sonoma counties). From

the northern central coast Schwaderer reports test excavations at Duncans Point Cave (CA-SON-348/H). Simons deciphers prehistoric mammal exploitation in the San Francisco Bay region. D. Jones examines a Binfordian forager-collector model for the prehistoric Monterey Bay area.

The southern California coast dominates the volume, beginning with Glassow's consideration of the relative dietary importance of marine and terrestrial mammal foods through time in western Santa Barbara County. Arnold reprises her model of Channel Islands prehistory. Martz finds status distinctions reflected in Chumash mortuary populations in the Santa Monica Mountains. Salls questions whether subsistence changes on the Channel Islands are due to environmental or cultural factors. Raab and Yatsko attempt to explain maritime adaptations on San Clemente Island.

Three contributions from San Diego County and two from the Baja peninsula round out the volume. Gross describes site formation and transformation processes in coastal shell middens and shell-rich sites. Gallegos presents some patterns and implications of coastal settlement in San Diego County between 9,000 and 1,300 years ago. Christensen investigates late prehistoric coastal Yuman settlements and subsistence systems. Laylander overviews the development of Baja California prehistory. Ritter and Payen provide information regarding archaeological discoveries along Laguna Ojo del Liebre, Baja California. The concluding essay by Erlandson and Yesner provides an overview of the papers and puts current endeavors in California prehistory into the larger context of North American coastal archaeology.

Several theoretical threads run through this volume. Various authors combine intriguing hybrid models related to settlement patterns, the origins of cultural complexity, and several popular themes derived from foraging theory, including mobility, optimization, scarcity, and

risk-reduction. Baumhoff's acorn-deer-fish triad model, however, apparently still typifies ecological thinking in northern and central California, while southern California is awash in controversy focusing on three stress-driven scenarios (population circumscription à la Carneiro and Cohen, environmental determinism via El Niño, and over-exploitation of food resources).

Notably absent is incorporation of the wealth of information related to identifying resource management strategies throughout Native California (Blackburn and Anderson 1993). In addition, many ecologists worldwide now view the Native Californians as harvesters, not foragers; only D. Jones and Christensen make this important distinction. Current evolutionary ecology views diversification of resource management strategies, scheduling, and diet choice as ways of increasing resource predictability and ensuring a secure lifestyle (see Wills 1988; Winterhalder 1990). Ironically, Simons, Salls, Arnold, Raab, and Yatsko view resource diversity as flux (e.g., see Salls' over-eaters model). But even *if* changing environmental factors affected diet breadth, one can not assume that scarcity was the stimulus behind the change.

Arnold (p. 129) argues that "the appearance of specialization and the evolution of greater cultural complexity may be linked to increasing political and economic control exercised by emerging elites under disruptive environmental conditions." No one discounts increased cultural complexity, but a disruptive environment remains undemonstrated. Of course all human groups make mistakes but to characterize the evolution of Native Californian society as doomsday-driven is probably unwise (see Klein and Cruz-Uribe 1984). Of the authors concerned with subsistence, only Glassow and Christensen appear to recognize the limitations of our current data base and the problems inherent with prime mover scenarios.

Simons' faunal data from the San Francisco Bay region indicate tradeoffs between sea and

terrestrial mammals. His findings appear to be exactly opposite the temporal pattern identified by Glassow's data in western Santa Barbara County less than 200 miles south. This inter-regional view begs further scrutiny and may elucidate resource variation observed within regions.

This volume has some valuable methodological highlights. Lightfoot's analysis of settlement patterns based on surface survey data is an important reminder of the efficacy of nondestructive techniques. Schwaderer's analysis of the contents of a single 1.5 m<sup>2</sup> unit at Duncans Point Cave is a model of how to maximize information and minimize impact. She is also the only author to use macrobotanical data. Reconstruction of prehistoric landscapes and economies will not be possible until paleoethnobotanical analyses become as automatic a component of archaeological research in California as obsidian hydration and radiocarbon dating. The chapter by Gross describing mixing of archaeological materials at the White-tailed Kite site in San Diego County nicely illustrates site formation processes.

Several authors (Simons, Glassow, Martz) use comparative statistical analyses to suggest regional evolutionary trends which typically prove problematic. For example, in an effort to mitigate the problems of interpreting small sample sizes from substantially deep sand dune deposits, Glassow (p. 117) argues that "spatial variations in the deposition of faunal remains tend to average, assuming that the locations of depositional activities shifted relatively frequently during hundreds of years of occupation." Yet as Erlandson and Yesner (p. 268) warn, "despite the problems posed by . . . stratigraphic mixing, it should not be assumed that a midden is completely homogeneous." Perhaps more tenuous are the regional overviews that use data from projects spanning more than 30 years without regard for changes in methods, record keeping, and sampling. Several authors apparently equate

data from salvage excavations with controlled, problem-oriented, rigorously sampled excavations. Only Christensen and Glassow express concern with variation in excavation methods and sampling size.

A final methodological problem is a common disinclination to acknowledge the importance of modern California Indian communities to advances in archaeological research. The single exception (Schwaderer) benefits from the insights gained from observations by Pomo/Miwok project consultant June Dollar (p. 63). In addition, several papers (e.g., Lightfoot) disregard the historic ethnographic record as biased. One wonders why the archaeological record is not treated with similar skepticism.

The volume falls short of Jones' (p. v) desired mark: that "the diversity of interpretive foci evident among these papers mirrors the breadth and complexity of the current field of hunter-gatherer research." Absent are all advances made in the last decade in disturbance, landscape (e.g., Lewis and Ferguson 1988), critical ecologies, humanism (e.g., Lee 1992), paleoethnobotany, and coevolution (Winterhalder 1990). Further, trade, storage, and territoriality are all but ignored. Finally, it is crucial to consider whether the maritime economy of Late Period prehistoric Native California was based on highly mobile hunter-gathering or rather semi-sedentary harvesting (D. Jones; Christensen).

Aside from the limited theoretical and methodological problems shared by a handful of authors, many significant advances emerge. Two articles by Schwaderer and Christensen provide well-balanced, descriptive, data-based accounts that incorporate fundamental archaeology. Laylander provides an extremely valuable overview of Baja California archaeology, while Ritter and Payen offer an equally valuable appraisal of a limited lagoonal area of central Baja California. In addition, while these authors make no attempt to resolve major theoretical

issues, all make solid contributions to our understanding of California archaeology without fogging the issues.

Perhaps the most noteworthy asset of this volume is the presentation of comparative data from north to south, including settlement patterns, chronologies, and climatic reconstructions. Nowhere else are these data synthesized for so many subregions. This bold attempt at constructive model-building is well-organized and highly readable. The maps and other illustrations are for the most part attractive and clearly presented. Overall, this is an extremely timely and worthwhile addition to California archaeology and North American maritime prehistory.

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