camps occupied by people who came to collect the seeds of desert marsh plants and grasses, and catch the rabbits, small rodents, insects, and lizards of the locality.

Professional archaeologists need to write more books of this kind, to convey their research to the public that supports it. Madsen has appropriately mentioned but not unduly belabored the esoteric concerns of archaeologists, while keeping the account descriptive and focused on what is most interesting about prehistoric people, the ways in which they lived in their time and place. The illustrations are plentiful, well-chosen, and beautifully executed. The overall design of the book is elegant. All involved in the Utah Museum of Natural History project that produced this work have done a good thing.

Papers on the Archaeology of the Mojave Desert. Mark Q. Sutton, ed. Salinas: Coyote Press *Archives of California Prehistory* No. 10, 1987, 152 pp., $12.45 (paper).

Reviewed by:
CLAUDE N. WARREN
Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV 89154.

Mark Q. Sutton has brought together a series of six papers addressing four subjects: (1) A Pinto occupation at Black Butte; (2) the prehistoric and ethnohistoric use of mesquite in the southwest Great Basin; (3) alignments of cairns at two sites; and (4) the archaeology, faunal remains, and pottery from the Denning Springs Rockshelter. The papers of this collection are both short and limited in their contribution to the prehistory of California. However, these papers do include important data and/or ideas that are of value and interest to researchers working in the Mojave Desert.

Martin Lord's paper on the Black Butte Pinto site is based on his analysis of a collection housed in the San Bernardino County Museum, and observations made by Lord and others. This primarily is a descriptive report with sections on geological setting and environment, the site, the artifacts, a general characterization of the assemblage, and a brief interpretation of its chronological placement. This paper makes available important data from a Pinto Period site. Lord notes the existence of questions of chronological interpretation and problems of cultural processes associated with Pinto material, but he does not address these questions. To do so requires more than a traditional descriptive report with and this clearly was not the intent of the author.

Adella Schroth's paper on the use of mesquite in the southwestern Great Basin is a literature survey of the uses of mesquite in the Mojave and Colorado deserts (mesquite is not found in the Great Basin Desert). Schroth presents a thorough coverage of this topic including the pertinent information on the distribution and biology of mesquite, ethnographic uses, and archaeological evidence for its use. Two minor errors should not detract from this paper: Ash Meadows is to the east of Death Valley, not west of it as stated on p. 57; and the mesquite from Ash Meadows dated to 4,450±360 B.P. was not found in an archaeological context as she states. This mesquite sample was recovered from the sand dune-peat bog interface, in a stratum of burned material that could not be positively identified as having a cultural origin. This is an important paper for anyone interested in historical or prehistoric use of mesquite and how it may have been integrated into the subsistence strategies of past societies of these desert regions.

Thomas T. Taylor, Diann L. Taylor, Delbert Alcorn, Edward B. Weil, and Martin Tambunga collaborated in investigating two sites consisting of fields of stone piles in the Mojave sink region. This paper describes the stone piles, the sites and their settings, undertakes comparative studies, and some analysis. The authors then postulate that these stone features may result from clearing surface rocks to increase runoff of rain water directed toward patches of native food plants. This interpretation is based on an analogy to features described by Evenari et al. (1971) in the Negev. The authors caution the reader that the data available from the Mojave sites are insufficient for anything more than a tentative conclusion.

Taylor and others do provide the first clear and adequate descriptions of this kind of enigmatic site in the Mojave Desert. Drawings of cross sections and plan maps of several of the features would have been valuable additions to the soil profiles and two photographs of features provided in the report. The authors also argue that these features may be as old as the Lake Mojave Complex because they are located in the vicinity of features or artifacts associated with that complex. Another, and perhaps more interesting postulate, might be that these features date to the ethnohistoric period when peoples using pottery had sites scattered throughout the Mojave Sink. It is to this late period that the corn cobs reported from the Crucero area (Rogers 1933) and from the Soda Springs Rockshelter (Schroth 1984) most likely date.

Archaeological testing of the Denning Springs Rockshelter, with specialized papers on its fauna and pottery, comprise the subjects of the last three papers in this volume. Denning Springs, located in the Avawatz Mountains just south of Death Valley, has sites (and/or loci) of early and late prehistoric periods and of the period of historic mining. Sutton briefly summarizes the known data from the early site (CA-SBR-3828), comments on the presence of historic mining activities, but concentrates almost entirely on the late prehistoric occupation of the Denning Springs Rockshelter (CA-SBR-3829). Sutton describes the rockshelter, the excavation units, stratigraphy, and the artifacts recovered. He notes the disturbed nature of the deposits, but by means of two radiocarbon dates, one obsidian hydration reading, and time-sensitive artifacts (Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular points and pottery), tentatively dates the occupation to the late prehistoric period.

Robert Yohe's analysis of the faunal remains indicates that the important elements of the fauna are artiodactyla followed by reptiles (especially tortoise), but relatively few lagomorphs and rodents. Following Reynolds and Shaw's (1982) ratio for "deer-sized:rabbit-sized:rodent-sized mammals," Yohe concludes that the rockshelter most likely was occupied during the late fall to early spring. Yohe also astutely notes that if this were the case the taking of tortoise would require that they be dug from their burrows, a technique known from ethnographic sources.

Dennis Jenkins describes the five potsherds, noting that they probably came from only two vessels. One was a well-made instrument-impressed brown ware vessel, and the second a false corrugated jar. Both types have been reported from the Mojave Desert and may represent variations of the local brown ware.

The papers of this volume are by and large descriptions of new data and/or literature surveys, with small kernels of insight made by their authors. None of these papers will bring about major changes in Mojave Desert archaeology, but they all bring comparative data into print. The validity of

the existing archaeological interpretations cannot be tested without the development and publication of new data. Sutton notes, in his introduction to this volume, that there are relatively few archaeologists conducting fieldwork in the California deserts and that while there are some active CRM projects in the deserts, the results of those investigations seem destined for the files of some agency, where they are virtually inaccessible to other archaeologists actively conducting research. Perhaps Sutton is overly pessimistic. Coyote Press has made available much of the data generated by CRM and other projects through publication of special series and the *Archives of California Prehistory*. The small volume reviewed here is one such contribution. It is important that California archaeologists recognize the valuable service Coyote Press has done for our profession in providing these much-needed sources of data.

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Analyses of South-Central Californian Shell Artifacts: Studies from Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. Gary S. Breschini and Trudy Haversat, eds. Salinas: Coyote Press *Archives of California Prehistory* No. 23, 1988, xiv + 105 pp., 21 figs., 28 tables, $8.70, (paper).

Reviewed by:

RICHARD E. HUGHES
Dept. of Anthropology, California State Univ., Sacramento, CA 95819-6106.

It has been more than a half-century since Lillard et al. (1939) demonstrated a sequence of time-sensitive shell bead and ornament forms for the Lower Sacramento Valley and central California Delta. Subsequent to E. W. Gifford's (1947) descriptive study of shell artifacts from sites throughout the state, only a handful of publications have appeared in which the typologies advanced by these early workers were rethought, refined, and subsequently modified. The early typologies were exceedingly difficult to use because no clear metric guidelines were presented to allow independent researchers to decide how to classify specimens to fit existing types, or to facilitate recognition of lots of specimens that did not fit into existing type categories. The principal advocate for a shift away from the early intuitive idealized/outline shell bead and ornament typologies toward a more explicitly quantitative (i.e., metric) approach was James Bennyhoff, whose influence is strongly reflected in the papers under review here.

Analyses of South-Central Californian Shell Artifacts consists of six papers (and a short "Preface: Archaeological Background" by the editors) written between 1982 and 1987. Two papers each are written by James A. Bennyhoff ("Shell Artifacts from CA-SLO-99, Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo County, California," and "Shell Artifacts from CA-SCR-391, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, California") and