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# **Brief Notes on Recent Publications**

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The Reflexed Sinew-Backed Bow of the Sierra Miwok. Craig Bates. San Diego Museum of Man. Ethnic Technology Notes No. 16, 25 pp., 2 figs., 5 pls., 1978. Description of a bow in which backing sinews incorporate hooked nocks, specific to groups in the Yosemite region, and suggested as a trade item to coastal groups in Central California.

The Effect of Epidemic Diseases on the Natives of North America. Pauline A. Keehn. Survival International Document V, London, 21 pp. (not dated: probably published 1978). An annotated bibliography, with an index of diseases, peoples, and geographic areas covered. California, because of the work of S. F. Cook, is well represented.

A Bibliography of Idaho Archaeology, 1889-1976. Max G. Pavesic, Mark G. Plew, and Roderick Sprague. Northwest Anthropological Research Notes, Memoir No. 5, Moscow, Idaho, 54 pp., 1979. Probably most entries refer to Plateau archaeology, but also included are many entries on the northern Great Basin.

Indian Missions: A Critical Bibliography. James P. Ronda and James Axtell. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press (Published for the Newberry Library Center for the History of the American Indian Bibliographical Series, Chicago), 85 pp., 1978. More than half of this book is a bibliographical essay, written for general coverage of missionary activity by the principal Euro-American denominations in North America. The California missions are therefore only cursorily mentioned.

Rock Art of the Chumash Area: An Annotated Bibliography. Georgia Lee and C. William Clewlow Jr. With an appendix, Index of Harrington's Chumash Recordings, by Gary Tegler. Los Angeles: University of California, Institute of Archaeology. Occasional Paper No. 3, 48 pp., 1979. A valuable and probably complete collection, to date, of entries pertaining to monographs or sketches on the rock art of the Santa Barbara area. Appendix is justified here on the basis of links between rock art and music to cosmology, mythology, and religion.

Journal of New World Archaeology, Vol. II, No. 4, (Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology), 45 pp., 1978. This issue contains five titles on the subject of rock art, mostly in California: (1) Rock Art Dating Methods, by Richard L. Weisbrod (pp. 1-8); (2) A New Site with Tufa-Covered Petroglyphs near Travertine Point, Imperial County, California, by L. A. Wilke and P. J. Wilke (pp. 9-14); (3) Female Fertility Themes in Rock Art, by Charlotte McGowan (pp. 15-27); (4) Two Rock Art Sites in the San Fernando Valley: Ven-149 and LAn-357, by Delmer Sanburg, Jr., Dana Bleitz Sanburg,

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Frank Bleitz, and Edith Bleitz (pp. 28-39); and (5) *Channel Islands Pictographs*, by Richard Quist (pp. 40-45).

Rock Art of East Mexico and Central America: An Annotated Bibliography. Matthias Strecker. Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology, Monograph X, 81 pp., 1979. Occasionally it is worthwhile for students of California and Great Basin rock art to consider art perhaps remotely related but in the same continuum in the New World. This bibliography provides titles pertaining to rock art produced by a variety of peoples at various points of technological achievement. Some titles and notes may offer ideas. on interpretation of astronomical phenomena for example, that may be useful for those working with the California or Great Basin data.



Analysis of Prehistoric Coprolites from Utah. Gary F. Fry. University of Utah, Anthropological Papers No. 97, 1976, xii + 45 pp., illus., \$8.00 (paper).

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Prior to the 1960's, a person could almost count on one hand the total number of published articles pertaining to prehistoric human coprolite (preserved feces) analysis. Since the 1960's that number has increased, and many new innovative methods of coprolite analysis have been developed and reported. Even today, however, the field of coprolite analysis is still a limited field within archaeology with few specialists who regularly pursue this type of research. Today, as before, the main limiting factor is not a scarcity of samples, but a scar-

city of researchers who have the background and patience needed for completing this type of study.

Gary Fry is one of these researchers who during his graduate studies at the University of Utah undertook the study of prehistoric human coprolites. His dissertation centered on the analysis of coprolites from Danger and Hogup caves, and resulted in this monograph which is an abridged version of that dissertation.

Fry's report on the analysis of prehistoric coprolites from Utah is an important document that should be kept readily available to those archaeologists who might someday find coprolites during their excavations. The report is not lengthy, is broken into easy-to-find sections, and discusses the basic philosophy and methods of coprolitic analyses. It is a valuable research resource for researchers interested both in the prehistoric record of Utah and the merits of coprolite analysis.

This monograph is divided into four major sections: (1) Introduction, (2) Methods and Procedures, (3) Analysis Results, and (4) Summary and Conclusions. The five-page introduction is short and to the point. It offers a brief history of coprolite analysis, a review of how coprolite analysis has changed during the past seventy years and a glimpse of the culture history and physical setting of the two caves (Danger and Hogup) which contained most of the prehistoric coprolites Fry examined. The three-page methods and procedures section is the most important for anyone interested in learning how and why coprolite studies are done. It contains a step-by-step examination of how to process coprolites and how to avoid the problems of "overextending" the results derived from coprolite studies. In other words, it tells the researcher what to do and what pitfalls to avoid. In the third major section, Fry discusses what he found in the 146 coprolite samples he examined, how that information can be used to reconstruct patterns of pre-