

UC Merced

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology

Title

Miscellaneous Collected Papers 19-24

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2dj1m9fz>

Journal

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, 1(2)

ISSN

0191-3557

Author

Busby, Colin I

Publication Date

1979-07-01

Peer reviewed

Miscellaneous Collected Papers 19-24. University of Utah *Anthropological Papers* No. 99, 1978, 163 pp., maps, plates, illustrations. \$8.00 (paper).

Reviewed by COLIN I. BUSBY
Basin Research Associates
4001 Fruitvale Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602

This volume contains a varied collection of "miscellaneous" papers on Nevada and Utah anthropology, the majority of which are finally seeing publication after 10 years "in press." The contributions include a petroglyph site report and analysis; two excavation reports; a museum collection description; a coprolite analysis; and a chronological theory and method paper.

C. Melvin Aikens' paper on "Indian Petroglyphs from White Pine County, Nevada" represents the first substantial site description and analysis of petroglyphs from a major site in northeastern Nevada, an area previous researchers thought to be devoid of petroglyphic rock art. Aikens presents his data, photographs of several of the designs, and his interpretations which lend support to and extend Heizer and Baumhoff's (1962) conclusions on the rock art of the Great Basin.

"The Palmer Collection from Southwestern Utah, 1875" by Don D. Fowler and John F. Matley is concerned with an analysis of ceramic material excavated from a small mound near Santa Clara, Utah. The paper also describes a small collection of ethnographic Southern Paiute specimens from the vicinity of St. George that were collected by Edward Palmer in 1875. This short but thorough piece of "attic anthropology" contributes data on the area's anthropology and provides an interesting historical background on Palmer and his collecting activities in Utah. Of special note is the reprinting of Palmer's original report on the mound, which is included for historical and comparative reasons.

The "Woodruff Bison Kill," a short report by Wayne F. Shields, details the excavation and analysis of a seasonal kill site in northeastern Utah dating to *ca.* A.D. 600-700. Strong similarities are noted with the "northern variant" of the Fremont culture, although no artifactual evidence is present to substantiate this connection.

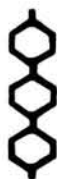
The "Bear River No. 3 Site" by Wayne F. Shields and Gardiner F. Dalley adds to previous material for the Bear River area of northern Utah. This report describes the excavation and analysis of the site, which is interpreted to represent a northern variant of the Fremont culture. Both corn and apparently permanent structures occur, in contrast to the material known for the Bear River No. 1 and 2 sites. Information from the site has been used to refine the economic interpretation offered by previous researchers for the area.

"Prehistoric Diet at Danger Cave, Utah, as Determined by the Analysis of Coprolites" by Gary F. Fry presents the analysis of Danger Cave coprolites. Fry's dissertation (1970) and a recently published monograph (1976) provide more detailed information than is presented in this paper.

An excellent discussion of dendrochronology and its value to archaeology is presented in Jeffrey S. Dean's paper entitled "Tree Ring Dating in Archaeology." This brief introduction to the subject includes sections on the history and conceptual background, calibration, sample collection, analysis, and applications of dendrochronology, and the value of the technique to archaeology in terms of chronology, behavioral analysis, and past environmental conditions. Examples are clearly presented to illustrate Dean's main points. The paper concludes with a brief section detailing the "bright future" of dendrochronology. Dean is to be commended on this recent paper that presents a well-thought and lucidly written introduction to dendrochronology.

REFERENCES

- Fry, Gary F.
 1970 Prehistoric Human Ecology in Utah: Based on the Analysis of Coprolites. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, University of Utah.
- 1976 Analysis of Prehistoric Coprolites from Utah. University of Utah Anthropological Papers No. 97.
- Heizer, R. F., and M. A. Baumhoff
 1962 Prehistoric Rock Art of Nevada and Eastern California. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.



Desert Foragers and Hunters: Indians of the Death Valley Region. William J. Wallace and Edith Wallace. Ramona, Calif.: Acoma Books, 1979, viii + 44 pp., 20 photos, pen sketches, \$3.25 (paper).

Reviewed by PHILIP J. WILKE

Dept. of Anthropology
 Univ. of California
 Riverside, CA 92521

Certainly anyone interested in the anthropology of small populations could not help but be fascinated by the Indians of Death Valley, who probably numbered no more than one hundred. *Desert Foragers and Hunters* is the most complete ethnography of the Panamint Shoshoni of Death Valley to be found anywhere in print. It is a companion volume to the Wallaces' *Ancient Peoples and Cultures of*

Death Valley National Monument, which was devoted to prehistory and which was published by Acoma Books last year.

The Wallaces draw upon previous ethnographic works, old photographs, and apparently on their own field ethnography among the few remaining Death Valley Shoshoni to describe in order the following topics: food getting, shelter and dress, handicrafts, family and community, religion and magic, life cycle, amusements, art and music, and oral literature. The text is accompanied by photographs, including several old images of domestic structures and encampments that are particularly interesting from an archaeological point of view: they provide a unique perspective of the cultural setting responsible for the light scatters of artifacts one finds in this hostile environment that rivals anything west of the Rockies.

While it is clear that this little volume was written for the layman, I find significant fault with none of its contents. Without compromising its utility for the lay person, however, the book could have been improved for use as a research tool by several additions: the inclusion of a map showing village locations and resource zones with reference to topographic features; the inclusion of credits on all of the photographs (those for which no credit is given were presumably taken by the authors); and the inclusion of references in the text. Although the bibliography lists all of the important ethnographic works on the region, it would be nice to know where and when bits of information were recorded. Were they recorded late in the last century or within the last decade or two? And were they recorded in Death Valley itself or in other parts of Panamint Shoshoni territory? Despite these minor criticisms, the volume is recommended for anyone with an interest in the Indians of the California deserts and the rest of the Great Basin.