

UC Merced

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology

Title

Holmes and Johnson: *The Chumash and Their Predecessors: An Annotated Bibliography*

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/47c7x11m>

Journal

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, 20(2)

ISSN

0191-3557

Author

Arnold, Jeanne E

Publication Date

1998-07-01

Peer reviewed

- Bettinger, Robert L., and R. E. Taylor
 1974 Suggested Revisions in Archaeological Sequences of the Great Basin and Interior Southern California. Reno: Nevada Archaeological Survey Research Paper 5:1-26.
- Elston, Robert G., and C. D. Zeier
 1984 The Sugarloaf Obsidian Quarry. Naval Weapons Center Administrative Publication 313, China Lake, California.
- Holmes, William H.
 1892 Modern Quarry Refuse and the Paleolithic Theory. *Science* 20:295-297.



The Chumash and Their Predecessors: An Annotated Bibliography. Compiled and annotated by Marie S. Holmes and John R. Johnson. Contributions in Anthropology No. 1, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 1998, xiv + 228 pp., 1 map, 3 indices, \$32.50 (paper).

Reviewed by:

JEANNE E. ARNOLD

Dept. of Anthropology and Institute of Archaeology,
 University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1510.

Twenty years after Ballena Press published Eugene Anderson's (1978) updated bibliography of the Chumash, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has released a beautifully produced current bibliography of the Chumash, compiled and annotated by Marie S. Holmes and John R. Johnson. Significant numbers of new published works in all areas of Chumash studies have appeared since the 1970s, as scholarly and educational interests in the cultural heritage of

this southern California group has expanded. As a result, the full scope of this literature has grown far beyond the grasp of most individual scholars. Holmes and Johnson pull together an astounding 1,177 original references which feature information on one or more aspects of Chumash life, complemented by nearly 100 citations of published reviews of books and other major works on the Chumash. Every serious student of Native Californian lifeways will want to have this volume. It is a well-organized, eminently useful sourcebook for research endeavors of all kinds, and readers will undoubtedly share my experience in using it—finding, at the very least, dozens of previously undiscovered, interesting new (or old) entries.

The volume opens with a map of Chumash towns in the late 1700s, which helps to orient readers to the important placenames and major geographic features of the contact era. The eight major sections represented are *Ethnology and Ethnohistory*, *Rock Art*, *Linguistics*, *Archaeology*, *Physical Anthropology*, *First Contacts: 1542-1780*, *Juvenile and Education*, and *Reviews*. Three invaluable indices at the end allow quick access to authors, subjects, and archaeological sites. Johnson's *Foreword* describes the nature of Chumash population and political organization, the origin of the appellation "Chumash," and the history of some of the early explorers and researchers who contacted the Chumash between the 1540s and 1930s. While it is worth noting that Johnson's view of heterarchical relations among the Chumash is not one shared by all scholars working on these problems, the *Foreword* as a whole is a balanced and essential introduction to the big issues and influential contributions found within this impressive body of literature. Extensive and appropriate acknowledgement is given to John P. Harrington, whose 200,000-plus pages of rich, multilingual, convoluted notes on the Chumash, deposited at the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution, serve as the source

for virtually all of the region's contemporary ethnological studies. Harrington's records of his interviews with Chumash consultants during the early decades of the twentieth century have spawned at least 10 ethnology-based books since the 1970s by Thomas Blackburn, Travis Hudson, and their various coauthors, plus many other articles and theses. Several of these are highlighted in Johnson's overview. In the main body of the bibliography, 331 ethnological and ethnohistorical works are annotated, including Kroeber's, Heizer's, and Harrington's own early studies.

The archaeological literature dominates the volume, numerically, with nearly 600 entries. Johnson traces the early expeditions of Schumacher, Rogers, Orr, Harrison, and others in Chumash territory, and sets the scene for the many cultural resource management (CRM) and university-sponsored archaeological investigations of the 1970s through the 1990s, including those by Glassow, King, Erlandson, and many others. Knowing this literature best, I was able to detect only a few minor oversights in Johnson's review and among the items in the bibliography. In the *Foreword*, it might have been valuable to bring attention to some of the recent works that place the Chumash—archaeologically, ethnologically, theoretically, etc.—in worldwide perspective via national and international publications. These works link the Chumash to other traditional groups with comparable political organizations, technologies, ideologies, and/or economic patterns in Europe, Florida, the Northwest Coast, and elsewhere, thus gaining greater visibility for all Chumash studies.

A more even treatment of the CRM literature would be ideal, although in practice I recognize that this is a huge—and probably insurmountable—challenge. Presently included in the volume are many of the well-circulated reports (e.g., those that the originating firm or agency bound and sent to regional specialists) and those that the museum holds in its own library. In

reality, inclusion of *all* CRM technical reports could bloat this volume another 100-150 pages. How would the compilers decide whether to include the thousands of short, letter-style reports and more lengthy but not widely distributed technical reports that are found at the Archaeological Information Centers at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)? The selection task alone would be daunting, not to mention the effort invested in annotations. However this process is best done, I suggest that *draft* CRM reports, some of which contain significant errors, should not be listed in future editions of this volume. Also a bit unevenly represented are university Master's theses. Most are present, but one or two from UCSB and UCLA are missing. Scholars in possession of relevant theses—myself included!—should collectively share in the responsibility of forwarding thesis titles and copies to Holmes and Johnson so that they may round out their lists.

In a hurried editorial correction (J. R. Johnson, personal communication 1998; the only error of fact that I detected in the book), one passage in Johnson's *Foreword* mistakenly attributes the identification of the Middle to Late Transitional period to another author, but it was my fieldwork during the 1980s on Santa Cruz Island that led to the recognition of this era in Chumash prehistory. The concept and term were introduced in several articles discussing craft specialization and political evolution published in the early 1990s.

Clearly, these are very minor problems in an otherwise extraordinarily thorough and even-handed treatment of the subject. The authors anticipated that they might miss some works and encourage readers to contact them via the museum's web page for corrections and additions. I will send along a few, but the volume easily passed more than 99% of my periodic "tests" for comprehensiveness. There is also very good cross-referencing within some of the annotations

and entries, making it possible to follow certain intellectual threads. The annotations are uniformly succinct and well-conceived. Readers will find it exciting to review the volume, discovering many new sources to add to their libraries (I found quite a few, particularly on religion, collections abroad, plant uses, and linguistics). Every chapter seems complete, accurate, and virtually error-free. Chapter 6 (First Contacts: 1542-1780) is a particular delight, bringing a listing of all of the early diaries, accounts, and translations together in one place for the first time. Indeed, a similar section focused on resources pertaining to the Mission and early American eras (1780s to 1890s), which Johnson would be uniquely qualified to produce, would be a welcome addition.

In addition, perhaps it would be feasible to add a listing of images (early photographs, drawings) of the Chumash and their art and technologies. There are roughly 100 rock art entries in the bibliography—which would be nicely complemented by a reference guide to art images and to institutional resources such as rock art archives in the state—and about 60 linguistics entries, including quite a few immediately forthcoming works on current investigations. These sections appear to be very comprehensive. Review of the physical anthropology chapter led to the surprising and historically interesting discovery that there are fewer than 40 entries, most of which date either to the 1920s (and earlier) or to the period 1978-1998, during the era that Phillip Walker and his students have been active in their wide-ranging research on health, disease, stature, and conflict. And last but not least, the education-related annotations are a great source for primary and secondary teachers and museum personnel who want to guide schoolchildren and nonprofessionals to these resources. The reviews section directs readers to multiple, interesting, and sometimes divergent professional opinions about many of the book-length works on the Chumash published over the past 40 years.

This volume is quite an achievement and will no doubt find a prominent place on the shelves of most scholars, educators, and libraries throughout the state. I suspect that the future will witness updated versions on CD-ROM or on the web. My suggestions for new sections should not be misconstrued as criticisms in any sense. To the contrary, this volume is so good that readers' appetites will be whetted for much more. It would be all too easy to underestimate just how much careful scholarship went into this volume. Holmes and Johnson are to be thanked and congratulated by the entire academic community in California for an outstanding contribution.

REFERENCE

- Anderson, Eugene N., Jr.
1978 A Revised, Annotated Bibliography of the Chumash and Their Predecessors. Socorro: Ballena Press Anthropological Papers No. 11.



Unit Issues in Archaeology: Measuring Time, Space, and Material. Ann F. Ramenofsky and Anastasia Steffen, eds. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1998, 245 pp., 53 figs., 18 tables, index, \$55.00 (hard cover), \$25.00 (paper).

Reviewed by:

STEPHANIE D. LIVINGSTON

Quaternary Sciences Center, Desert Research Institute,
2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512.

The common theme that runs through the eleven papers in this book is a critical examination