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Beard: *The Wappo: A Report*

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from Ft. Tejon into the Owens Valley in search of livestock stolen earlier in the year from *rancherías* in the San Fernando and Santa Clara valleys. They failed to recover the missing stock, but succeeded in bringing back the first good account of Native American life in this remote area of eastern California. Wilke and Lawton's splendid little volume makes this important, but previously unpublished document, available for the first time. It includes Davidson's short report on his original investigation of the thefts in May, 1859, his much longer statement on the subsequent reconnaissance of the valleys of the upper Kern and the Owens, and an anonymous account of the expedition which appeared under the byline 'Quis' in the Los Angeles *Star* on 27 August of the same year. To these the editors have added a brief introduction, 14 pages of comprehensive footnotes, and several photographs.

Davidson's report and that of the *Star* correspondent are of particular interest in that both document the practice of large-scale root crop irrigation in the northern Owens Valley prior to the time of European settlement. Their comments on the size of the irrigated plots, the kinds of plants being cultivated, and their economic importance, corroborate earlier observations by members of the von Schmidt and MacKenzie parties; and together with later statements by A.S. Taylor, support the argument made by Steward and his Paiute informants that the system was an indigenous development (cf. Lawton et al. 1976). Davidson also describes other aspects of the traditional economy (notably the capture and consumption of *kutsavi* [*Ephydra* sp. larvae]), offers estimates of the size of the native populations in the upper Kern and Owens valleys, and comments on various features of the terrain crossed on the route of march.

The editors' introduction and annotation add greatly to the value of the publication. They provide useful information on earlier exploration in the Owens Valley, on the

circumstances behind Davidson's expedition, and on the identity and background of the principal parties involved. They identify most of the plants and animals discussed in Davidson's report, and even retraced his route in order to pinpoint the various locations mentioned. They also cite an exhaustive list of pertinent historical, ethnographic, and archaeological references. The exercise is one for which the reader cannot help but be grateful.

I find fault with the report on only two points. First, it suffers from the lack of an adequate map of Owens Valley. Had one been included, it would have been easier to understand the connection between text and terrain, particularly as discussed in the footnotes. The other problem is that several of the otherwise excellent photographs did not reproduce well.

Apart from these points, I can only compliment the editors for their very professional effort. The volume is an important addition to the ethnography of eastern California.

REFERENCE

- Lawton, H.W., P.J. Wilke,
M. DeDecker, and W.M. Mason
1976 Agriculture Among the Paiute of Owens Valley. *Journal of California Anthropology* 3(1):13-50.



The Wappo: A Report. Yolande S. Beard. St. Helena, Calif.: Yolande S. Beard, P.O. Box 16, 84574. 1977. 80 pp., illustrations. \$5.25 (paper).

Reviewed by VERA-MAE FREDRICKSON
Berkeley, California

"A Report," the sub-title of this modest paperback, accurately conveys the intent of the author who is also the illustrator and publisher. It is a summarizing report, written

in agreeable, non-technical prose, of what is known about the Wappo Indians who were the inhabitants of the Napa Valley when Europeans arrived, and whose descendants remain in the area today. It is evident that the author has consulted the most relevant archaeological and ethnographic literature and numerous primary and secondary historical sources. In reviewing the social history of the region and the painful contacts between the Iberian and Anglo Americans and the Native Americans, the author's tone is thoughtful and saddened rather than strident.

The largest section of the book treats the social and spiritual life of the Wappo in pre-European times. To acquaint the reader with the most common Napa Valley artifact types the author has included eight pages of shaded line drawings. Good use has been made of both the archaeological and ethnographic information. While there are a number of facts which are open to varying interpretations, this reviewer found only one questionable statement; commenting on the introduction of European trade beads, the author says, "The beads also introduced the aborigines to the idea of status based on wealth." The available evidence indicates that this idea was already well-developed, for example, in association with the clam shell disc complex in northern California.

Scattered throughout the text and expanded in the coda are the author's reasoned pleas to the reader to help preserve the remaining prehistory of the Wappo that is still to be found in archaeological sites. The names are given of institutions in the local area which can be contacted for information on the proper treatment of sites and for the disposition of artifact collections. Equally important are statements on what not to do. "DO NOT call in your friends for an exciting dig!" (the emphasis is the author's). There is also a list, with brief explanations, of Federal and State legislation pertaining to the preservation of archaeo-

logical sites. This informed concern with archaeological conservation will be welcomed by all thoughtful persons. The book concludes with four pages of references listing the most useful archaeological, ethnographic, and historic publications available on the Wappo and the Napa Valley area.

Overall, this is a most attractive little book which covers a surprisingly wide range of materials. It is an excellent addition to the all-too-sparse number of books designed to draw together available information on a particular Native American group for the non-scholarly but informed reader. Although the author wisely dispenses with some of the more cumbersome scholarly apparatus inappropriate for the general reader, there is one potentially frustrating omission. The lack of citations within the text will make it difficult (but not impossible) for a reader to pursue interests aroused by particular statements. This criticism aside, Yolande Beard has produced a very readable work on a subject which has clearly captured her curiosity, historical interest, and moral concern. It will probably perform the same service for her readers.



Chiefs and Challengers: Indian Resistance and Cooperation in Southern California.

George Harwood Phillips. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975. xi + 225 pp., illus. \$10.95.

Reviewed by WILLIAM MASON
*Los Angeles County Museum
of Natural History*

This book is a significant contribution to the ethnohistory of southern California. Phillips outdistances what has been written about the Garra rebellion, and his book will probably stand for some time as the definitive work on that episode. He also meshes into this