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Hunt: *Death Valley: Geology, Ecology, Archaeology*

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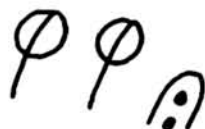
territories of the Kamia of Imperial Valley and the Southern Diegueño of the Peninsular Range. Neither group made much use of the area, though travelers and traders passed through it. A topical arrangement (agriculture, gathering, hunting, etc.) is followed in handling the ethnographic data. Perhaps separate synopses of Kamia and Southern Diegueño cultures might have been more meaningful.

Next, the ethnohistorical sources are dealt with fully and admirably by Harry W. Lawton. Because all routes from the Colorado River to the Pacific Coast crossed the Yuha Desert, many travelers trudged across its sandy wastes. But most of these wanderers did not linger long, for, until they reached Carrizo Wash, there was no large and certain supply of water. Consequently, their journals and diaries contain at best only brief mention of the region's native inhabitants. Although no complete picture of Indian life can be drawn from these scraps of information they do provide some valuable insights into aboriginal utilization of the land.

The remaining three papers, all written by Margaret L. Weide, are concerned with archaeology. The first presents a history of prehistoric research. To date, no study of the Yuha Desert as such has been undertaken. Nevertheless, parts of it have been searched, most often in connection with larger investigations, beginning with Malcolm J. Rogers' pioneer explorations in the Colorado and Mojave Deserts. A rapid and rather superficial survey of museum collections makes up the second paper. The problem of human occupation is tackled in the third. Scanty evidence points to two main periods of habitation. The earliest (corresponding to Rogers' hazy San Dieguito I) began about 9000 years ago when the countryside was much better watered. Then followed a long time span for which only scant traces of man's presence exist. With the final filling of Lake Cahuilla, ca. A.D. 1050, people entered the region in some numbers.

Around A.D. 1400 or 1500, however, the lake began to evaporate rapidly and a population movement out of the Yuha district occurred.

Taken together, the six papers provide a useful summary of current knowledge about an interesting stretch of desert country and its native inhabitants, historic and prehistoric.



***Death Valley: Geology, Ecology, Archaeology.*** Charles B. Hunt. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1976. 234 pp. Illustrations. \$14.95 (cloth). \$6.95 (paper).

*Reviewed by* WILLIAM J. WALLACE  
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A refreshing feature of this attractively produced book is that its primary data come from fieldwork and first-hand observation rather than from the body of tired, overworked facts and non-facts so often drawn upon by writers of general accounts of Death Valley. From 1955 to 1960, the author, Charles B. Hunt, studied the geology of Death Valley for the United States Geological Survey, concentrating his efforts in and around the salt pan, a great expanse of rough and pitted salt in the lowest part of the valley floor. The results of his work appeared in three of the Survey's professional papers. At the same time, his wife, Alice Hunt, made an archaeological reconnaissance of the same general area. Her findings were published by the University of Utah as one of its *Anthropological Papers*. The essence of the four reports is presented here in a very readable, often witty style.

As expected, the bulk of the volume deals with earth history. After a brief introduction to this famous (or infamous) valley, its geology is

examined in five fact-filled chapters. Water supplies, past and present, and their sources receive first attention. The salt pan—its minerals, their zoning, and geological history—is then investigated. Next comes a discussion of the gravel fans which separate the salt pan from the surrounding mountains. Rocks, their kinds, locations, and time sequence, form the subject matter of a fourth chapter. The fifth is concerned with earth movements, faults, granite intrusions, and volcanism.

Human history and prehistory are dealt with in three succeeding chapters. A short one carries the history of prospecting and mining from its beginnings through four main stages into modern times. The vexing current problem stemming from Death Valley's being left open to prospecting and mining after it became a national monument in 1933 is discussed and a solution proposed.

The long prehistory period receives more detailed treatment. Archaeological evidence points to 10,000 or so years of human occupation. This long time span is divided into four stages, each of which is analyzed in terms of its characteristic artifacts and other cultural features. Geological work aided in the relative dating of the earlier stages. But this is not a one-way relationship, for archaeological facts proved useful in the temporal placement of more recent geological features.

Old trails and the usefulness of litter for dating historical sites are assessed in a chapter titled "Archaeology Since 1949." Trails were mapped in some detail to estimate rates of erosion. Suitable only for traveling by foot or horseback, they were abandoned when vehicles became the chief means of transport. That the trails were used by prospectors before 1900 is clearly demonstrated by the early-type tin cans, bottles, and other debris found along them. Good evidence exists that they served as Indian pathways long before white men entered the country.

The book closes with an interesting discussion of plant and animal geography. Particular attention is given to the important role played by geological factors in controlling plant growth. This chapter might well have been fitted in earlier.

*Death Valley: Geology, Ecology, Archaeology* conveys a surprisingly large amount of information, and generally overcomes the difficulties of compression and simplification. A special word of praise must be given to the maps, line drawings, and photographs (161 in all). Of excellent quality and well integrated with the text, they form a valuable part of the book. The seven-page bibliography shows that the author did not neglect published sources.



*Fifty Years of Archaeology in the California Desert: An Archaeological Overview of Joshua Tree National Monument.* Thomas F. King. The Western Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Tuscon, Arizona. 1975.

Reviewed by MAKOTO KOWTA  
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According to its author, this instructive study aims to (a) specify the kinds of archaeological resources present or suspected to be present in the monument, (b) make a systematic analysis of the already completed archaeological studies directly related to the area, (c) present a consideration of the kinds of research that can be usefully pursued with the resources available, and (d) indicate the