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Contents

Preface........................................................................................................................................... vi
Mari A. Pritchard Parker

A Comparative Analysis of Pollen from Millingstones from CA-RIV-102
(Hemet) and CA-RIV-150 (La Quinta)...................................................................................... 1
Mari A. Pritchard Parker

The Significance to California Prehistory of the
Earliest Mortars and Pestles ......................................................................................................... 14
Michael A. Glassow

A Model for the Production of Portable
Stone Mortars and Bowls ........................................................................................................ 27
Joan S. Schneider and Richard H. Osborne

A Charmstone Cache from the Southern San Joaquin Valley ........................................ 41
Mark Q. Sutton

An Ethnographic Review of Grinding, Pounding, Pulverizing, and
Smoothing with Stones .............................................................................................................. 55
Adella B. Schroth

A 2,000 Year Old Milling Tool Kit from CA-SDI-10148, San Diego,
California ................................................................................................................................... 76
Carolyn E. Kyle

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly Index ............................................................. 88
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Preface

Mari A. Pritchard Parker

“Current Topics in Ground Stone Analysis–II” is the result of a bi-annual symposium held at the Society for California Archaeology meeting in Ventura, March, 1994. The first symposium on ground stone was held in 1990, and was co-organized by Joan Schneider and Mari Pritchard Parker. We had hoped to bring researchers together to share their ideas and work in a format that would stimulate discussion, disseminate information, and provide an opportunity to critically and constructively review each other’s work. Lithic analysts are relatively uncommon, but those who actually specialize in ground stone studies can probably be described as scarce, at least in California. In this issue ground stone analyses take priority over flake-tool industries. Energy is spent on investigations of changes in ground stone morphology and style or in material use over time as well as the ground stone assemblage is described and stratigraphically dated. This issue augments work that is published in “gray literature” as cultural resource management reports.

The promotion of continued discussion and dissemination of ground stone research is the focus of these ground stone symposia. We provide information from both cultural resource management projects and from academic research on ground stone analysis. These symposia are open to all interested participants. All participants are invited to submit papers based on the work presented at the symposium. The papers in this volume represent a portion of what was discussed at the symposium and provide a significant contribution to the published literature on ground stone. I would like to express our appreciation to the peer reviewers for their comments and to the Publication Committee of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly, for giving us the opportunity to publish in this, and in the previous, volume on ground stone. We were especially fortunate to have Dr. Clement Meighan, of the University of California at Los Angeles, serve as a reviewer for both special ground stone issues. His reviews were timely, concise, and very helpful. His extensive knowledge of California archaeology, and his willingness to share it with us is greatly appreciated.