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The Publications Committee invites the submittal of original contributions dealing with the history and prehistory of the area. Although PCAS is especially interested in reports which shed further light on the early inhabitants of Orange County, it is always interested in reports on the wider Pacific Coast area.

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The PCAS Quarterly Committee takes full responsibility for the Spanish translations of the abstracts in this issue. We thank Lidia Funk for her assistance with the translations.

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Preface

Robert L. Hoover

Continuing from the last issue of the PCAS Quarterly, additional contributions to Spanish colonial archaeology in Alta California complete this volume. The issue editor apologizes for all of the fine work conducted at various sites—Missions San José, San Juan Bautista, Santa Barbara, San Buenaventura, San Juan Capistrano, and San Luis Rey—that cannot be represented here due to space limitations. Extensive archaeological research has also been conducted at the Presidios of Santa Barbara and San Francisco. Perhaps, these efforts can receive the recognition they deserve at a later date.

This issue begins with Glenn Farris’ research at the La Purísima Mission granary. For many years, this feature was interpreted as a warehouse. It was partially excavated by James Deetz in the early 1960s, but a final report was never published. The granary straddles a public highway, and the park was expanded in recent years to include the entire feature. Farris has exhaustively explored historical documents and comparative archaeology to arrive a new, accurate interpretation of the feature.

The Presidio San Diego represents the most scientifically important of Spain’s four military posts in Alta California. In the past, it has been the victim of neglect by local organization with other interests and of being “tested to death” by a variety of researchers on a very limited scale. Reports on this research were not forthcoming. Jack Williams has finally excavated a large enough area to provide meaningful interpretations and has done this using a meticulous methodology that can provide comparability. He has now produced a report on this work that is of great value. Whether the north wing of the site will be reconstructed, like the Presidio of Santa Barbara, or be reburied as a passive resource under a lawn, remains to be seen. The site is an excellent sample of the conflicting values of science, education, and preservation.

Luther Bertrando’s report on the excavations of features at Mission San Antonio over the last several years shows, by contrast, the value a limited excavation has, combined with extensive documentary and comparative research. The interpretations of the functioning and purpose of the goat corral, horse-powered mill, and water system prove that clear thinking and logic are still necessary in an increasingly high-tech discipline. Our classes were small, be we had very bright, motivated students who made valuable contributions to the research. Students learned that one does not need to recover large numbers of artifacts in order to understand the culture of the Spanish colonial period.