Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly

The Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly is a publication of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS), which was organized in 1961. PCAS is an avocational group formed to study and to preserve the anthropological and archaeological history of the original inhabitants of Orange County, California, and adjacent areas.

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 region.

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About the Authors

Karen Adams has an undergraduate degree in anthropology from Miami University in Ohio and a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona. She has devoted the past 25 years to ethnobotanical projects focused on the archaeological record and she is president-elect of the Society of Ethnobiology. Her major interests include ancient subsistence reconstruction and human/environment interactions. She is currently Director of Environmental Archaeology at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado, and a consultant for the Gila River Indian Community Cultural Resource Management group in Arizona, as well as an Adjunct in Anthropology at Lakehead University, Ontario, Canada. In addition to her Baja California research, she has recently worked with scholars in Italy, the Gulf of Alaska, Mexico, and Canada.

Julie Burcell is an archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Ukiah, California. She earned her Bachelor’s of Art degree from Sonoma State University and is now enrolled in their master’s program in the Anthropology Department. Her principal research interest involves the study of rock alignments and other ground figures and features of Panamint Valley and in the surrounding desert regions of California.

Harumi Fujita obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in archaeology in 1985 at Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Mexico City. Since 1991 she has been an investigator for the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia in Baja California Sur, Mexico. Her main interests are the cultural and natural interrelations in prehistoric hunting-gathering-fishing groups. She has conducted many surveys for the whole Cape region in the coastal zones, including Espíritu Santo, La Partida, and Cerralvo islands. She has also directed excavations at five sites: El Conchalito, El Medano, Barco Varado, Ensenada de los Muertos 6, and Las Tinas 3. She next plans to work in the interior region to compare settlement patterns between the two areas.

J. Eldon Molto is a professor of Biological Anthropology at Lakehead University, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. His research interests focus on the skeletal biology, paleogenetics, and paleoepidemiology of ancient ‘desert’ populations. Currently, he is the bioarchaeological director of international projects in Dakhleh, Egypt and Anyang, China. In the mid 1990's he directed a major bioarchaeological project in Baja California Sur, that focused on reconstructing the Las Palmas population. Since 1995 he developed and now co-directs an ancient-DNA laboratory at Lakehead University.

Gema Poyatos de Paz obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in American Anthropology in 1992, at Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. Her main research interest has focused on cultural ecology and researching hunting-gathering economies of desert environments.
Paula J. Reimer is currently a Postgraduate Research Fellow in the School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Ireland. She received her Ph.D. in geological sciences at the University of Washington in 1998. Her research interests include radiocarbon calibration, marine reservoir corrections, and interhemispheric 14C offsets with an emphasis on understanding the possible paleoenvironmental causes of the variations. She is co-author of CALIB, the widely used radiocarbon calibration program, and is involved in the continued evolution of the international radiocarbon calibration data sets and calibration software.

Eric W. Ritter received his B.A. in anthropology from the University of Arizona and a masters and doctorate in anthropology from the University of California at Davis. He has taught at both Davis and the University of California at Riverside. He is currently an archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management in Redding, California and a research associate with the University of California at Berkeley. He has undertaken extensive archaeological work in California, Baja California, and the Great Basin. He has been a regular contributor to the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly as well as guest editor for several issues on Baja California.

Joe D. Stewart is an archaeologist and Professor of Anthropology at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, where he teaches in the Department of Anthropology and the Interdisciplinary Program in Geoarchaeology. He received his Ph.D. in archaeology from the University of Calgary. Fieldwork has taken him to many projects from Central America to the high Canadian Arctic. He is currently co-directing a project in Chihuahua, Mexico. His current research and publications involve excavations, archaeometric materials studies, and chronometric studies, especially using radiocarbon dating.
Preface

Eric W. Ritter, Issue Editor

This publication of papers on Baja California archaeology forms the second set of contributions (with the exception of the Ritter-Burcell paper) from the Society for California Archaeology 1998 Annual Meeting session in San Diego on issues related to past peoples of Baja California. This writer and Dr. J. E. Molto chaired the session on New Inquiries Regarding the Archaeology and Bioarchaeology of Baja California: A Symposium in Honor of William C. Massey. The session brought together many of the active scholars involved in the fields of archaeology, bioarchaeology, history, ethnohistory and other specialties dealing with the peninsula. Researchers from Canada, Mexico and the United States were present and this international flavor is current in the articles published here. The Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia has been open, cooperative and influential in these international efforts. For this and other reasons, including a broadening of interest in the history and prehistory of the peninsula, there has been an upswing in research within the peninsula, both in the field and in the library.

While Baja California remains one of the least studied areas of North America in terms of archaeological research, peninsular scholastic contributions have less and less relied almost exclusively on studies regarding method, theory, technology, constructions of culture change and social process, etc. from neighboring areas and have begun to provide information that is, or should be, influential, perhaps seminal, for various archaeological inquiries in neighboring and more distant areas. Baja California’s general isolation and geographic setting and configuration offer research venues unique in North America and the world. Papers in this issue demonstrate some of the diversity of the human record in the southern half of the peninsula and offer important data and approaches to meaningful archaeological and bioarchaeological study.

Through the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly and the publication of this issue, there continues to be a focused, scholarly outlet for contributions to Baja California’s cultural past. The PCAS Board, publication committee and membership thus recognize not only the connectivity of the Californias but also the importance of scientific and humanistic contributions from peninsula researchers toward a greater understanding of western North American cultural developments.