

Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly

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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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Preface

Matthew A. Bost

A generation ago, Baja California was viewed by most archaeologists for its presumed limited research potential. The term “Mesoamerican Siberia,” used to describe the region until the 1980s, reflected the impression held by many scholars that Baja California couldn’t possibly reveal the kinds of data gleaned from mainland Mexico, the American southwest or Andean South America. Thankfully, this intellectual bias has been reversed, with Baja California attracting analysts of international renown. We have learned that the succession of human cultures in Baja California is among the longest and one of the most varied known in North America.

In 2007, archaeological inquiry in Baja California continues apace, covering the length of the peninsula and its offshore islands. Baja California is clearly marked in 14-point bold font on the archaeological map of the Americas. We are confident that steady progress will continue to be made towards evaluating the range of economic practices, technologies, mortuary customs, political systems, and ideological landscapes that were developed by human populations in the context of Baja California’s available resources, geographical boundaries, and rich history. It is hoped that these seven papers, which focus on the peninsula’s southernmost Cape Region, demonstrate that the archaeological and historical data bases for Baja California are not fully realized.

From all over Mexico, the United States, and Canada I have received generous and willing cooperation from friends and colleagues in assembling the material for this volume. Special thanks are due to members of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS), who continue to affirm the Society’s long-standing dedication to publishing reports on Baja California. We are reminded that the *PCAS Quarterly* published a paper on Baja California in its inaugural issue of 1965. Since then, every individual working in this region has recognized the outstanding efforts of the PCAS to disseminate information about new discoveries, or advance novel insights, historical syntheses, and re-interpretations of traditionally held views. The PCAS’s 41-year commitment to Baja California scholarship is greatly appreciated by the 14 authors that comprise this volume.

This editor also extends his sincere gratitude to the authors for allowing their articles to be included in this double issue. Perhaps the greatest responsibility of the professional archaeologist is accountability, publishing the results of his/her research. And the editor sincerely appreciates PCAS for helping us to achieve this goal.