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The Journal of California Anthropology

Title

Chewlow, ed.: *Four Rock Art Studies*

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/30h141gk>

Journal

The Journal of California Anthropology, 5(1)

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Publication Date

1978-07-01

Peer reviewed

discussion touches on some important points but is uneven in quality, being needlessly detailed in some places and needlessly simplified in others. I am in strong disagreement with their attempt to subdivide the Basin into resource regions with the implication that these are also adaptive regions (p. 88-89), on the grounds that this is premature and that upon close inspection their regions individually display dramatic adaptive differences internally, at least insofar as we can tell from ethnographic accounts and limited archaeological evidence.

The paper by Peter J. Mehringer, Jr., "Great Basin Late Quaternary Environments and Chronology," is clearly the high point of the volume. Originally prepared in 1973 for the *Handbook of North American Indians*, and presented here with only minor editorial changes to furnish proper references for cited materials unpublished at the time of its writing, this contribution summarizes the vast geological, palynological, dendrochronological, zoological, and botanical literature pertaining to paleoenvironments in the Great Basin from 12,000 B.P. to the present and outlines a simple model for the broad sequence and nature of Holocene climatic changes. Mehringer's approach is workmanlike, his comments to the point, and his conclusions appropriately cautious.

The paper by Sheilagh Brooks, Melodye Galliher, and Richard Brooks, "A Proposed Model for Paleodemography and Archaeology in the Great Basin" is not really a model but rather a technical paper describing the use of *discrete morphological traits* to assess the genetic relationship between skeletal populations from three Nevada localities.

In "A Mid-Archaic Subsistence and Settlement Shift in the Northeastern Great Basin," Steven Simms offers an explanation for the apparent transition in occupation from lacustrine to upland environments around 5500 B.P. in the northeastern Great Basin. The

ideas here are interesting but can be questioned on the grounds that, owing to limitations in the extant evidence, supporting data are drawn from cave sites entirely and undoubtedly represent a biased picture of eastern Great Basin adaptation.

Finally, in his discussion of the symposium papers, C. Melvin Aikens suggests that Great Basin archaeology could profit by a renewal of "normative" stylistic distribution studies to complement the environment and subsistence studies that have dominated in recent years—a point well taken.

In closing I would make three observations: (1) that the volume is, despite its title and with a few exceptions (e.g., the paper by Goss), conspicuously devoid of models; (2) that while Don Fowler and the Desert Research Institute *Publications in the Social Sciences* continue to provide a valuable forum for the presentation of data and ideas relevant to Great Basin anthropology, some of the contributors to this volume did not see fit to take advantage of this opportunity with their best efforts; and (3) that despite these detractions there is much in this collection that demands the attention of Great Basin specialists; indeed, Mehringer's article makes the volume a virtual necessity.



Four Rock Art Studies. C. W. Clewlow, Jr. (ed.) Socorro, New Mexico: Ballena Press *Publications on North American Rock Art* No. 1. 1977. 108 pp., \$5.95 (paper).

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Of the four papers comprising this first volume of a new series initiated by Ballena Press, two are reprinted from volumes which are now out of print. The papers are titled: (1)

"Two Petroglyph Sites in Lincoln County, Nevada," by R.F. Heizer and T.R. Hester (Repro.); (2) "Ven-195: Treasure House of Prehistoric Cave Art," by R. Gibson and C. Singer (Repro.); (3) "Shaman and Rock Art Symbols," by G. Garvin; and (4) "The Manufacture of Petroglyphs: Additional Replicative Experiments from the Western Great Basin," by C. Busby, R. Fleming, R. Hayes, and K. Nissen.

The study by Gloria Garvin (No. 3) is particularly interesting because it presents a notable contrast to the monograph by Gibson and Singer (No. 2) in interpretation of the significance of the pictographs at a site in the Santa Monica mountains.

Altogether the papers represent cogent additions to or refinements of information already existing on rock art and should be in the library of anyone concerned with petroglyphs in Western North America.



An Archaeological Overview of the Northern Channel Islands, California, Including Santa Barbara Island. Michael A. Glassow. Tucson: Western Archeological Center, U. S. National Park Service, 1977. vi + 249 pp.

Reviewed by ROBERT L. HOOVER
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One is overwhelmed today by the proliferation of environmental impact reports and cultural resource management papers necessary to satisfy legal requirements at various levels of government. Few of these consist of serious contributions to the science of archaeology. In fact, CRM has become a convenient means of pacifying the profession and the concerned public while providing some employment but little addition to human

knowledge. There are notable exceptions to this unfortunate trend. I was delighted to find Glassow's report on the archaeology of the Northern Channel Islands to be one of the better examples of the latter. Prepared for the National Park Service's Western Archeological Center, this volume summarizes in detail and evaluates previous archaeological research on the northern islands of the Santa Barbara Channel region—Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, the Anacapas, and Santa Barbara Islands.

Glassow begins with a general section which includes a summary of ethnographic knowledge, describing settlement patterns, subsistence, and social and economic organization of the Chumash. He also deals with chronologies for the general area of southern California and specifically for the Channel Islands. The relatively few and anomalous radiocarbon dates from this region and the poorly developed Chumash shell bead chronologies being worked out can be remedied by an extensive program of radiocarbon dating now begun by Spaulding and Glassow (1972). Careful stratigraphic excavation has replaced the search for museum specimens in burials over the last forty years.

One of the most thought-provoking sections of the volume discusses regional research problems, not simply from an insular perspective but as part of the entire Chumash *oikumene*. Orr's (1968) belief in the presence of early man by 40,000 B.P. on the northern Channel Islands, while not as astounding as the proposed 50,000 years B.P. date for the Calico site, is a fascinating and plausible complement to Louis Leakey's theory that the Continental Shelf formed a major migration route for Pleistocene man into North America. If one considers ease of travel and availability of resources, the coastal route would seem more favorable than the traditional routes in the Great Basin and Great Plains. Firm evidence must be collected by underwater