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Powers: *Tribes of California*

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interest because of the critical historic significance of this period in California studies. The expulsion of the Jesuits from the peninsula in 1767 occurred just prior to Velásquez' arrival on the scene. Moreover, the missionization of Alta California began in 1769, during Velásquez' stay. Therefore, this book holds forth the promise of information about these events and about the day-to-day existence of Spanish and Indian inhabitants of the peninsula in the late eighteenth century.

Engstrand's work is composed largely of translated letters from and about Velásquez to various correspondents, often of uncertain identity. In these letters, Velásquez provides an extensive description of Baja California, after overstating its virtues and potential use to the Spanish. In other writings, he addresses himself to the Alta California expedition, which he apparently favored before its departure, and toward which he became even more favorably inclined as reports from the north reached him.

A part of Velásquez' duties while serving in Baja California was to participate as a member of a scientific expedition sent to observe the transit of Venus across the face of the sun; this effort was part of a worldwide program to develop more accurate measurements of the distance between the sun and earth. As a result, a number of letters translated in this text deal with these scientific observations and are of interest to scholars concerned with the history of science.

In its present form, this book would probably have been better received if it had appeared as one or two journal articles. Otherwise, a book of greater breadth and depth might have been more reasonably published. As it stands, the author-editor has attempted too little. The reader's initial impression is that the material has been put into book length form despite a lack of substance to justify such treatment—and this initial bad impression remains when one finishes the work. Some of the means used to expand the substance of the volume are reminiscent of techniques used by grade school

students to pad homework assignments. For example, the first page of the text is designated as page 15, indicating that even the blank page preceding the half-title has been given page value. Moreover, some, but oddly not all, plates and maps are paginated.

Once a decision was made to publish this material in book form, it seems unfortunate that the author gave no attention to producing a more substantial work. There are many directions in which the work might have been legitimately expanded—and many questions are raised by the material which go unanswered. In particular, the claims, observations, and other matters discussed in the translated text could have been treated by an evaluation relating this material to other available data.

The organization of the work appears somewhat fragmented, lacking in a continuity that would have bridged gaps in the various correspondences. No attempt will be made here to evaluate the quality of the translations, which make up the bulk of the work. However, it should be noted that nowhere in the text or footnotes is the reader provided with even portions of the original Spanish text which might readily be compared with the translated version. An index and bibliography have been included.



Tribes of California. Stephen Powers (Introduction and annotations by Robert F. Heizer). University of California Press, 1977. 482 pp., 44 figures. \$20.00 (cloth); \$5.95 (paperback).

Reviewed by ALBERT B. ELSASSER
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The reprinting this year of A.L. Kroeber's *Handbook of the Indians of California* by

Dover was indeed a worthy event, but, at least for students of California Indians, was not so significant as the reappearance of the Powers volume. After all, Kroeber's 1925 book has gone through two reprintings in the past 25 years, while Powers' work, first published in 1877, has been practically unavailable and has assumed the status of a rare classic. While it is not of the same high caliber as Kroeber's book, it certainly has its merits, especially since it was the first comprehensive work produced on native California. Moreover, Powers had a critical 30 years' advantage over Kroeber in his synthetic treatment.

In retrospect, Powers' illustrations, all engravings taken from original drawings or photographs, now massed at the front of the present book and somewhat reduced from the 1877 size, are still most attractive, and Power's journalistic prose still delightful. His sometimes excessive statements are now made more understandable or are tempered by Heizer's introduction and notes, which serve also as corrections of certain misapprehensions of Powers or as needed sources of supplementary information.

At the beginning is a list of Powers' writings on California—most of these were published in the *Overland Monthly* and have also been reprinted by the University of California Archaeological Research Facility (Contributions No. 28, 1975). It is from these various articles that most of the materials for the book were drawn, evidently with some restraining hand at work, either Powers' or some government publications editor's, or both: the writing in *Overland Monthly* assuredly is saltier and more florid than the book's, and the opinions more strongly phrased.

It is remarkable that a volume definitive as this one could have been produced after so relatively little field work. Powers was undoubtedly a sharp observer, good listener, and a zealous reporter, and this reprinting of his book 100 years after first publication is a

tribute to his skills. Even though he reflected to some extent the common biases of Anglo-Americans toward Indians, it is clear that he was in general a sympathetic man, and this quality makes reading of his book a most worthwhile experience—it is for all, as Alfred Kroeber wrote, "the best introduction to the subject."



Archeological Investigations in Northern California. Donald L. Hardesty and Steven Fox (with an appendix by Thomas Burke). Reno: University of Nevada, Nevada Archeological Survey *Research Paper* No. 4. 1974. i-v + 77 pp., 4 maps, 3 figs., 1 pl., 1 table, bibliography, 1 appendix. \$4.00. (paper).

Reviewed by RICHARD E. HUGHES
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Despite the state-wide acceleration in archaeological research within the last 25 years, northeast California remains today one of the poorest known regions. For the most part, reports on archaeological investigations remain in manuscript form, and fewer than 20 published papers have appeared on this ecologically diverse region. The present paper is, therefore, a welcomed addition to the meager corpus of data on this region of California.

The monograph under review grew out of an archaeological survey conducted in 1971 for the U.S. Forest Service by the University of Nevada, Reno, in the Lava Beds National Monument and Medicine Lake Highlands areas of Modoc and Siskiyou counties, northeast California. One purpose of this work was to investigate the differential use of resources in these two areas by past human groups.

An introductory chapter includes a succinct summary of the archaeology and ethnography of the area under consideration in