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### **Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology**

#### **Title**

Brief Notes on Recent Publications

#### **Permalink**

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9113h8m1>

#### **Journal**

Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology, 2(2)

#### **ISSN**

0191-3557

#### **Publication Date**

1980-12-01

Peer reviewed

## Brief Notes on Recent Publications

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*Handbook of North American Indians*, Vol. 9, *Southwest*. Alfonso Ortiz, Vol. ed. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1979, xvi + 701 pp., figs., bibliog., index, \$17.00 (cloth). The scope of this 59-chapter volume places it well beyond reach of meaningful review. Volume 9 encompasses the archaeology (13 chapters), and ethnohistory/history (11 chapters) of the Southwest generally, and the remaining chapters treat the ethnology and linguistics of the Puebloan peoples. Volume 10, *Southwest* to follow will treat the non-Puebloan peoples of the area. The format is the same as Volume 8, *California*. Without question, this publication provides California and Great Basin scholars with a valuable reference and research tool.

*Alfred Kroeber: A Personal Configuration*. Theodora Kroeber. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979, xi + 296 pp., photos, \$4.95 (paper). Theodora Kroeber's sensitive biography of her husband, first published in hardcover in 1970, is now available in paperback.

*December's Child: A Book of Chumash Oral Narratives*. Thomas C. Blackburn, ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1980, xxii + 359 pp., \$5.95 (paper). This is the first

paperback edition of the 111 Chumash myths and tales originally collected by J. P. Harrington and analyzed by Blackburn, which appeared in hardcover in 1975.

*Plants Used in Basketry by the California Indians*. Ruth E. Merrill. Ramona: Acoma Books, 1980, 30 pp., 6 maps, tables, appendix, bibliog., \$2.95 (paper). This re-issue is a valuable discussion of plants and their use by California Indians in the production of baskets. It was first published in 1923 in the UCFAAE series and reprinted by Acoma in 1970.



*The Shoshoni Indians of Inyo County, California: The Kerr Manuscript*. Edited, Annotated, and with Introductory Preface by Charles N. Irwin. Ballena Press Publications in Archaeology, Ethnology, and History No. 15. 92 pp., 23 figures, 2 frontis., \$6.95 (paper).

Reviewed by ROBERT L. BETTINGER

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In comparison to other parts of North America, particularly the East and Midwest, California and the Far West are blessed with an immensely rich body of published ethnographies of aboriginal cultures at a time when