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The Rise and Fall of Commercial
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in most cases readers will be able to determine the reasons for the mismatches by consulting the chapters on phonology and morphophonemics. Sometimes, however, the mismatches cannot be resolved so easily, and readers will occasionally be left to wonder whether they are due to general phonological processes, mis-transcription on the part of the researcher whose notes the example is drawn from, sporadic variation on the part of the speaker, or some other reason. Such cases are probably few enough that they will not cause too much difficulty, but readers should nonetheless be alert to this aspect of the grammar.

These minor blemishes, however, should not obscure the fact that Balodis has produced an excellent description of Yuki grammar. It will be an indispensable resource for future research on the language, both for revitalization efforts that have recently gotten underway and as a way to clarify the historical and areal relationships obtaining among Yuki, Wappo, and other languages of northern California. This volume is also important for California linguistics in a more general way by continuing the longstanding tradition of drawing on challenging archival data to produce high-quality descriptive grammars. Many of the interpretive methods needed for this kind of work are essentially philological in nature and far enough outside the mainstream of contemporary linguistics that they are mostly transmitted informally across scholarly generations, orally and with reference to similar studies produced in earlier decades. Balodis, and other younger researchers who are doing similar descriptive work based on archival materials (e.g., Jany 2009 for Chimariko, and Lawyer 2015 for Patwin), are helping ensure that this mode of scholarship will be carried forward into the future and that grammatical descriptions of other languages of California with good documentation may someday be produced. Although UCPL may no longer be the natural home for their publication, we can earnestly hope that alternative venues will emerge so that resources such as this grammar of Yuki will continue to be available for various audiences who will want to use them.

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Shellfish for the Celestial Empire: The Rise and Fall of Commercial Abalone Fishing in California

Todd J. Braje,
Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2016,
242 pp., 57 figures, 5 tables, references, index,
ISBN 97816078149629, $34.95 (paper).

Reviewed by Thad M. Van Bueren
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This is an interesting and well-illustrated book that tackles a subject with broad relevance. Archaeologist Todd Braje focuses on the abalone fishery of the Channel Islands, drawing on archaeological and historical evidence to offer a long-term view. At a time when many of the world's fisheries are collapsing, it is a timely contribution that will appeal to public and scientific audiences alike. The book persuasively makes the case that a long-term view should inform management of near-shore marine ecosystems and threatened species of abalone.

Although written for the public, this book also holds significant interest for scientists. As an archaeologist, I appreciated the synthesis of years of regional research. In a field preoccupied with detail, it is refreshing to encounter a book that strives to provide a broad perspective. The protracted exploitation of abalone also merits wider attention by biologists and ecologists as many species are nearing extinction. This volume contains enough data to spur the interest of fishery biologists and provide an alternative to skewed modern data documenting a heavily disrupted ecosystem.

The book also offers an opportunity to consider how scientists connect with lay audiences. Doing so is crucial to build awareness and public support for resource conservation. Yet outreach is challenging, as Braje readily admits. His efforts to reach beyond academic circles are admirable and instructive in equal measure. He offers a compelling story, something that is essential to attract a broader audience. He also explores several themes that are relevant to modern problems, including extinction, sustainability, and the way scientists employ evidence.

This book contains eight chapters broadly framed to explore how humans have altered the marine ecosystem of the Channel Islands over many thousands of years of abalone harvesting. Particular attention is devoted to the historic period, especially the commercialization of the abalone fishery by Chinese immigrants in the late nineteenth century. The first chapter introduces the historical collapse of fisheries in the broader context of the Channel Islands marine ecosystem. The three chapters that follow provide historical background.

While some stage setting is relevant, Braje sometimes wanders pretty far afield in Chapters 2–4. Those digressions may hold interest for some, but it is reasonable to wonder who will persevere through half the book before the main theme is addressed. Chapter 2 is devoted to debunking myths about when the Chinese arrived, focusing especially on Gavin Menzie's book *1421: The Year China Discovered the World* (2002). It illustrates the difference between real science and wild speculation, but seems like an unnecessary side show. Chapter 3 tackles Chinese history from its inception, instead of focusing more narrowly on the forces contributing to Gold Rush immigration to California. It is interesting, but only the latest part is truly relevant.

Chapter 4 capably summarizes Chinese immigration and treatment in the United States. This summary is pertinent to the main theme and offers a good summary for those unfamiliar with the topic. The final section of this chapter finally introduces Chinese entrepreneurial expansion into commercial enterprises that did not interest others, including the inception of commercial fishing. As a marginalized group, the Chinese were resourceful, and fishing was a good example of how they adapted. Abalone was initially taken to supply markets in China and the palates of Chinese immigrants in California. The rest of the population didn't know what a delicacy they were missing.

Chapter 5 extrapolates the condition of the abalone fishery in the Channel Islands at the time Chinese immigrants began harvesting there commercially in the 1850s. Braje assumes abalone populations were at an all-time high due to the recent extirpation of sea otters and the radical decline of Native American populations by the 1820s. The chapter goes on to summarize how and where the Chinese carried out their harvesting on the Channel Islands, a presentation of key interest for archaeologists. The black abalones that favored the intertidal zone were the primary target of early commercial exploitation.

Chapter 6 takes a closer look at the assemblages from two excavated sites occupied by Chinese fishermen. The sites offer meager insights into life in those camps because they were subject to brief use and taphonomic processes. Johnsons Lee (CA-SRI-471) on Santa Rosa Island produced distinctive Chinese ceramics and opium pipe parts, but the conditions at the site failed to preserve any features. In contrast, the Point Bennett site (CA-SMI-614/H) on San Miguel Island contained several features, including a hairpin oven, but interpretations there were complicated by its sequential occupation by Chinese, Japanese, and later Euro-American sea mammal hunters. Sorting out what was associated with each group was problematic, a common difficulty at many multicomponent sites.

Chapter 7 examines the twilight of the Chinese abalone fishery, as those fishermen were forced out by discriminatory legislation and other tactics. Braje makes the case using shell-size data that the Chinese were sustainably harvesting black abalone. The data do appear to support the idea that the Chinese were selectively leaving smaller specimens to ensure an ongoing harvest.

Limitations on Chinese immigration and fishing reduced their involvement by the end of the nineteenth century. The passage of a ban on exporting abalone in 1913 and drying abalone in 1915 effectively foreclosed Chinese participation in commercial abalone harvesting.

Chapter 8 considers the ongoing legacy of abalone harvesting. Around 1898, the commercial take was expanded to subtidal species by the Japanese, who pioneered diving as a way to harvest red abalone. As overharvesting exhausted the red and black abalone populations, the harvesting expanded to smaller subtidal species, including green and pink abalones. The pressure on all species has increased as more people have developed a taste for the meaty mollusk. Only recreational take of red abalone is still allowed north of San Francisco.

The concluding section of this important book examines the historical ecology of abalone along the California coast. Braje makes a strong case for the use of long-term harvest records to establish policies and catch limits. This is arguably the most important aspect of the book and holds considerable interest for public and scientific audiences alike. It shows how archaeology can and should play an important role in addressing modern problems. For those considering sharing research with a broad readership, Braje's ambitious book offers many useful ideas. Tackling a problem that has such obvious relevance is an excellent choice.

Giant Sloths and Sabertooth Cats: Extinct Mammals and the Archaeology of the Ice Age Great Basin

Donald K. Grayson
Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2016,
320 pp., ISBN 978-1607814696, $24.95 (paper).

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This volume is an easy-to-read guide to the extinct late Pleistocene mammals of the Americas, with a specific focus on the Great Basin. Grayson has compiled a wealth of information, from a wide variety of sources, on the archaeology, paleontology, and ecology of some 37 genera of mostly large mammals. The pages are packed full of an assortment of maps, drawings, photographs, and abundant witticisms. Across seven chapters, Grayson explores in detail what we know about these intriguing beasts and the science behind our knowledge, all the while imparting an infectious enthusiasm for both the animals themselves and the process of scientific discovery.

Chapter 1 starts off with a captivating tale of mysterious footprints that were discovered at the Nevada State Prison quarry in 1882. At first thought to be the "footprints of monster men," these footprints took the media and the scientific community by storm. A number of scientists visited the prison, and consequently a number of papers on the footprints were published. A bitter dispute arose, with some staunchly defending a human origin of the prints, and others arguing that the prints were those of a giant sloth. It was not until decades later that it became clear that the prints were indeed those of a giant sloth. With this provocative introductory narrative, Grayson illustrates how long megafauna have been causing controversy within the academic community and precisely how personal this type of research can get. The Nevada State Prison quarry footprints serve as a cautionary example about jumping to conclusions with limited evidence—a theme that is pervasive throughout the volume.

Chapter 2 presents an overview of the Great Basin, including its differing definitions (hydrographic and floristic), the current flora of the region, and a synopsis of the characteristics of surrounding areas. He compares this with details of the Great Basin during the last Ice Age: the many Pleistocene lakes, the effect of the Younger Dryas, and vegetational history. The information in this chapter is essential background for what is to follow.

Over a third of the book, presented in Chapter 3, consists of an engaging description of a "zoologically