Brief Notes on Recent Publications

ALBERT B. ELSASSER
824 Park Way
El Cerrito, CA 94530


Journal of New World Archaeology, Vol. II, No. 4. (Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology), 45 pp., 1978. This issue contains five titles on the subject of rock art, mostly in California: (1) Rock Art Dating Methods, by Richard L. Weisbrod (pp. 1-8); (2) A New Site with Tufa-Covered Petroglyphs near Travertine Point, Imperial County, California, by L. A. Wilke and P. J. Wilke (pp. 9-14); (3) Female Fertility Themes in Rock Art, by Charlotte McGowan (pp. 15-27); (4) Two Rock Art Sites in the San Fernando Valley: Ven-149 and LAn-357, by Delmer Sanburg, Jr., Dana Bleitz Sanburg,
Frank Bleitz, and Edith Bleitz (pp. 28-39); and (5) *Channel Islands Pictographs*, by Richard Quist (pp. 40-45).

*Rock Art of East Mexico and Central America: An Annotated Bibliography*, Matthias Strecker. Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology, Monograph X, 81 pp., 1979. Occasionally it is worthwhile for students of California and Great Basin rock art to consider art perhaps remotely related but in the same continuum in the New World. This bibliography provides titles pertaining to rock art produced by a variety of peoples at various points of technological achievement. Some titles and notes may offer ideas, on interpretation of astronomical phenomena for example, that may be useful for those working with the California or Great Basin data.

*Analysis of Prehistoric Coprolites from Utah.*
Gary F. Fry. University of Utah. *Anthropological Papers* No. 97, 1976, xii + 45 pp., illus., $8.00 (paper).

Reviewed by VAUGHN M. BRYANT, JR. Anthropology Research Laboratory Texas A & M Univ. College Station, TX 77843

Prior to the 1960's, a person could almost count on one hand the total number of published articles pertaining to prehistoric human coprolite (preserved feces) analysis. Since the 1960's that number has increased, and many new innovative methods of coprolite analysis have been developed and reported. Even today, however, the field of coprolite analysis is still a limited field within archaeology with few specialists who regularly pursue this type of research. Today, as before, the main limiting factor is not a scarcity of samples, but a scarcity of researchers who have the background and patience needed for completing this type of study.

Gary Fry is one of these researchers who during his graduate studies at the University of Utah undertook the study of prehistoric human coprolites. His dissertation centered on the analysis of coprolites from Danger and Hogup caves, and resulted in this monograph which is an abridged version of that dissertation.

Fry's report on the analysis of prehistoric coprolites from Utah is an important document that should be kept readily available to those archaeologists who might someday find coprolites during their excavations. The report is not lengthy, is broken into easy-to-find sections, and discusses the basic philosophy and methods of coprolite analyses. It is a valuable research resource for researchers interested both in the prehistoric record of Utah and the merits of coprolite analysis.

This monograph is divided into four major sections: (1) Introduction, (2) Methods and Procedures, (3) Analysis Results, and (4) Summary and Conclusions. The five-page introduction is short and to the point. It offers a brief history of coprolite analysis, a review of how coprolite analysis has changed during the past seventy years and a glimpse of the culture history and physical setting of the two caves (Danger and Hogup) which contained most of the prehistoric coprolites Fry examined. The three-page methods and procedures section is the most important for anyone interested in learning how and why coprolite studies are done. It contains a step-by-step examination of how to process coprolites and how to avoid the problems of "overextending" the results derived from coprolite studies. In other words, it tells the researcher what to do and what pitfalls to avoid. In the third major section, Fry discusses what he found in the 146 coprolite samples he examined, how that information can be used to reconstruct patterns of pre-