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The Archaeology of Oak Park, Ventura County, California. Volume 3. C. William Clewlow, Jr., and David S. Whitley, eds. Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology, Monograph XI, 1979, 186 pp., $7.00 (paper).

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The archaeology of Oak Park is a regional research program in the Inland Chumash area. The project represents a multidisciplinary effort including zooarchaeological and palynological investigations. The first volume is concerned with presenting the general project overview and contains the following articles:

“Archaeological Investigations at Oak Park: An Introduction” by C. William Clewlow, Jr. discusses the research design of the Oak Park Project and its three major problems which are, “the establishment of a local chronology, the description of local settlement-subistence patterns and their development through time, and the definition of relationships with coastal and other inland peoples.”

“Preliminary Archaeological Investigations at Ven-294, Ven-375, Ven-125 and Ven-123” by Allen Pastron, Helen Wells, and C. William Clewlow, Jr. formulates the program for additional research at Oak Park. Four sites are investigated to determine each site's horizontal and vertical boundaries as well as their chronological and functional differences and similarities.

“Millingstone Sites at Oak Park: Ven-123, Ven-44 and Ven-124” by Brian Dillon is a descriptive site report with a focus on functional analyses of ground stone artifacts.

“Archaeological Investigations at Ven-125, A Late Prehistoric Hunting Camp” by Helen Wells is a descriptive site report of a seasonal camp, associated with a larger site complex and characterized by little horizontal and vertical mixing.

The second volume of the Oak Park series is concerned primarily with subsistence orientations and contains the following articles:

“Archaeological Investigations at Ven-294, An Inland Chumash Village Site” by Martin Rosen is a descriptive site report of Ven-294, which was occupied during two distinct time periods characterized by two different subsistence orientations. The first occupation was oriented towards plant processing while the second period of occupation was centered around the total regional exploitation of the environment. “Appendix I—Fish Remains from Ven-294” by Mark Roeder indicates that twelve kinds of fish were identified and all represent edible species. No specific maritime implements such as fishhooks were recovered. “Appendix II—Analysis of Shell Remains from Ven-294” by Susan Hector reveals that the dominant mollusk exploited was Mytilus, followed by Haliotis; however, shellfish exploitation was extremely limited at the site.

“The Zooarchaeology of Two Prehistoric Chumash Sites in Ventura County, California (Ven-294 and Ven-125)” by Paul Langenwalter indicates that a number of distinct butchering, cooking, and manufacturing processes were observed in the faunal collection. The areal distribution of faunal remains suggests probable activity areas.

“Preliminary Pollen Studies at Three Ventura County Sites: Ven-294, Ven-125 and Ven-375” by Anne Woosley is an extremely interesting article since it demonstrates the
applicability of palynology to California sites in reconstructing paleoenvironmental data as well as cultural inferences derived from the floral component.

The third volume of the Oak Park series deals with a number of related site complexes and contains the following articles:

“A Historical Perspective on the Research at Oak Park” by David Whitley presents an overview of the chronological and functional specialization of the sites contained within Oak Park and the surrounding area.

“Surface Archaeology at Oak Park” by David Whitley, M. Schneider, and M. Drews focuses on some methodological problems involved in the application of “spatial statistics to archaeological data.” The article outlines the location, fieldwork, methodology, and analysis of the two site-complexes contained within the Oak Park parcel.

“Preliminary Excavations at CA-Ven-122” by David Whitley, M. Schneider, J. Simon, and M. Drews is a descriptive site report of a Late Period site characterized by a wide range of generalized maintenance and processing activities.

“The Excavation of the Oak Park Rockshelters, CA-Ven-68 and CA-Ven-373, Two Sacred Places in the Simi Hills” by C. William Clewlow, Jr., D. Whitley, M. Drews, and J. Simon is a brief descriptive report. The artifactual analysis contains limited artifact types which appear to represent specific caches; the apparent differences between caches suggest that they are indicative of sacred or ceremonial activities.

“The Organizational Structure of the Lulapin and Humaliwo; and Conclusions for Oak Park” by David Whitley and C. W. Clewlow, Jr. presents an analytical framework for examining and interpreting an organizational system (i.e., political units) as related to the “structural representatives of the settlement system.” Analysis indicates that archaeological data are less productive than the ethno-

graphic record in developing inferences about the aboriginal organizational structure.

The significance of Archaeology of Oak Park, Ventura County, California (Volumes 1-3) is that it has resulted in the dissemination of this information to the archaeological community instead of just limiting its distribution among the local agencies, institutions, and individuals that are directly involved with contract archaeology. This is definitely a positive direction in which archaeological assessments/mitigations must be directed in order to enable this material to be widely circulated to all interested researchers. Consequently, this report is an invaluable data base for researchers working in the local and regional area. Unfortunately, the majority of the articles are not theoretically oriented and occasionally some papers lack internal continuity within a given volume.


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The publication of a retrospective bibliography of materials on any one of those aboriginal groups generally designated as Mission Indians is an event to be greeted with anticipation by both the casual student and the serious scholar of California ethnology and history. This is especially so in the case of the Gabrielino whose lands so quickly were absorbed by mission, rancho and pueblo and whose numbers