Message from the Editors

With this issue we begin publication of manuscripts that were, with few exceptions, received for publication since we assumed editorship of the JCGBA a year and a half ago. We thank authors and subscribers for their patience and faith while we have struggled to bring the Journal back onto publication schedule. The continued submission of strong manuscripts will permit the timely publication of a journal of scholarly excellence. We invite submission of high-quality manuscripts on ethnography, ethnohistory, prehistory, technology, ethnobiology, and the like. Most of the anthropological research currently being reported from California and the Great Basin is in the fields of archaeology and prehistory, with little original work being submitted on ethnography and ethnohistory. We especially encourage submission of papers in these less-represented research areas.

This is a critical time in anthropological studies of western Indians. Recent papers published in these pages indicate clearly that much information can still be gleaned on native technology and ethnobiology. Examples include the paper by Fowler and Walter on the collection of pandora moth larvae by the Owens Valley Paiute (Vol. 7, pp. 155-165); that by Couture and others on contemporary foraging behavior of the Harney Valley Paiute and their neighbors (Vol. 8, pp. 150-160); and that by Bretting and Nabhan on the ethnobotany of devil’s claw in the Greater Southwest (Vol. 8, pp. 226-237). The timely appearance of a paper by Weaver and Basgal on the archaeological record of pandora moth collecting (Vol. 8, pp. 161-179) clearly shows the value of contemporary ethnographic studies in providing a behavioral framework for interpreting the archaeological record. These are examples of the kinds of studies we hope to see more often in the coming years while these behavioral links can still be demonstrated.

It has become necessary to provide a new statement of the editorial policy of the Journal. This appears in the “Editorial Policy and Style Guide,” at the back of this issue. It clarifies our position on certain matters and provides guidelines for prospective authors. Copies of the guide are available from the editorial office.

We are indebted to our volunteer office staff, and especially thank Associate Editor and Typesetter Adella Schroth, Circulation Manager Meg McDonald, and Associate Editors Elizabeth Lawlor and Karen Swope for their untiring efforts.

Editors