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Burrill: *Ishi: America's Last Stoneage Indian*

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beads) to a smaller, weaker, and vulnerable island population. Certainly, varied explanations might be conscripted, but the author makes no attempt to document any such detail.

From a more narrow perspective, Arnold has expended considerable effort to demonstrate the existence of craft specialization in prehistory, and while one might take issue with certain minor points, her polythetic assault on these data secures the conclusion that such economic structures were present. Her effort is especially significant because detecting specialized behaviors among hunter-gatherer economies is particularly difficult. Most research examining these economic forms has been oriented toward higher-level stratified and state societies, where spatial segregation of economic tasks is better defined (although this is not always a guarantee, either). Arnold has configured an argument with more universal applicability and with more to offer the forager research domain.

The principal difficulty with this study, and that which induces its vulnerability, is its scope. Craft specialization on its own is a seemingly simple, straightforward focus, but once necessary corollary data are incorporated, the bounds begin to grow at an ever-increasing rate. Context is very important to the study of economic evolution, and if one is interested in monitoring a transition over that threshold to stratified complexity, context itself introduces whole new complexities. Even given these obstacles, Arnold has successfully accomplished her basic goal. Her study is an important advancement in western prehistory and sets the stage for subsequent work of equal stature. Any person interested in the evolution of California native societies, regardless of their provincial leanings, should examine this volume and appreciate its implications. The Anthropology Series at Berkeley has chosen well with this mono-

graph, and if the editors continue to publish such work (not to mention if scholars continue to write such pieces), California will once again have an important outlet for anthropological and archaeological investigations.

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Ishi: America's Last Stoneage Indian. Richard Burrill. Sacramento: The Anthro Company, 1990, vi + 50 pp., 36 figs., \$8.95 (paper).

Reviewed by:

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The tale of Ishi, last of the Yahi, who maintained a traditional lifestyle in the wilds of northern California into the 20th century, has reached its third generation of storytelling with this monograph. There was considerable hoopla with scientific and popular, often sensationalized, accounts regarding Ishi shortly after his transcendence into Euro-American culture beginning in 1911 and continuing for a period after his death in 1916. His dramatic story was revived with the immensely popular, sometimes romantic works of Theodora Kroeber (1961, 1964), an outgrowth of her marriage to A. L. Kroeber, one of Ishi's most trusted friends, and the

documentary history edited by herself and Robert F. Heizer (1979). Now, in *Ishi: America's Last Stoneage Indian*, we have another account.

Aside from the above works, at least one new film on Ishi is under production (1990-1991) and archaeological attention is being focused on his homeland with ongoing problems of looting, visitor use, and recent (1990) wildfires. At the time of this review (1991), an exhibition on Ishi emphasizing his obsidian flaked lithic technology was presented at The Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley. Two anonymous short brochures were printed as part of this exhibition, one of which discussed the difficulty in separating Ishi the person from Ishi the symbol. This symbolizing and romanticizing is evident in Burrill's work and in its title.

Burrill's presentation is mostly a brief recounting of Kroeber's 1961 classic book. However, there is a small amount of new material brought forth. This documentation includes accounts from a tape from one of the butchers present at the time Ishi appeared in the Oroville slaughterhouse describing those first few days; reference to material in Apperson's (1971) account not used by Kroeber; and a story and drawing by Konkow artist Frank Day regarding an apparent encounter with Ishi and a wounded comrade shortly before the emergence of Ishi from hiding. Burrill's work also includes 35 other black and white figures, mostly photographs and drawings of Ishi, his last known hidden camp, or various shots of the Yahi canyon country.

Ishi's story is timeless, a tale that invokes a concern for the environment, for human understanding and compassion, for some a yearning for more simplicity in life and natural accord. Burrill's essay only captures a part of this essence in comparison to previous works. But his work is not without

value. A meaningful facet of Burrill's study includes the written reaction in prose and poem by grade school children to Ishi and his people's tragic plight. We learn about the annual California State Indian Museum's Ishi Day and its art and essay contest. This epitomizes the greater value of this publication, a story directed primarily at young students and the lay reader who want a relatively brief photo-essay of Ishi's life.

There are several discrepancies in Burrill's work from that of Theodora Kroeber. For instance, in the chronicles of the days of concealment by the last Yahi, no mention is made by Burrill of the various raids and sightings of the 1880s. There are differences in the account of the horrid massacre at Kingsley Cave. However, the encounter of a white survey party and the last few Yahi in 1908 is accurately presented reflecting the author's personal knowledge of the location.

This short monograph is put together well, nicely printed with an artistic flair and large print for the young and those whose eyes are not quite what they used to be. There are few typographic errors and the text generally flows well. It would have been a better work with an introduction to Yahi culture.

There is obviously still much to be written about the Yahi from various unpublished accounts resulting from Ishi's contributions, a fact not presented by Burrill. As an example, the notes of A. L. Kroeber and T. T. Waterman from the 1914 trip with Ishi to his previous haunts in Deer and Mill Creek canyons no doubt would bring forth valuable anthropological and historical data. Further archaeological studies in the area would also add relevant information to the stories of Ishi and the Yahi. Burrill's work, despite its shortcomings, serves a largely educational purpose for the young and casual reader. It continues the Ishi saga reaching towards an understanding, an appreciation of both human diversity and oneness.

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Archaeology of the Three Springs Valley, California: A Study in Functional Cultural History. Brian D. Dillon and Matthew A. Buxt, eds. Los Angeles: University of California Institute of Archaeology *Mono-graph* 30, 1989, 191 pp., 58 figs., 57 tables, \$17.50 (paper).

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Three Springs Valley is located in the Santa Monica Mountains west of Los Angeles, some eight miles from the Pacific Ocean. Three sites (CA-LAN-807, -808, and -1031) were excavated in the valley between 1979 and 1981. The work was conducted primarily by field classes from the University of California, Los Angeles, under the direction of Brian D. Dillon, but considerable volunteer time also was logged. The analytical part of the project was conducted by UCLA laboratory classes under Dillon until 1983. Dillon and Buxt then obviously spent a great deal of time assembling, completing, and editing the various papers. As someone who has worked with students on similar projects, I can attest that it takes a considerable effort on the part of the editors to complete such a project.

The report is divided into 12 chapters, each dealing with one aspect of the project. Chapter 1 (by Brian D. Dillon) provides the introduction to the study, including natural and cultural background, history of research, and research design.

A very brief overview of the geology of the region (by Stephen L. Williams) is included as Chapter 2. Stratigraphy, soils, water, and lithic sources are discussed. Such information is quite important to the overall interpretations, and this chapter seems too brief.

Chapters 3 through 6 deal with CA-LAN-807, a small open site. Chapter 3 (by Matthew A. Buxt) discusses the site, the field strategy, and features, and provides a detailed description, replete with illustrations, of the artifacts recovered. The human remains found at the site are discussed in Chapter 4 (by Mercedes Duque). These remains consisted of assorted small fragments of bone from an apparent burial. Each of the identifiable elements is described in detail, including observations on pathologies. A radiocarbon assay of $3,780 \pm 275$ years B.P. was obtained on some of the human bone and is reported in Chapter 5 (by David McJunkin and Rainer Berger). The fish remains (marine species) from the site are reported (by Mark A. Roeder) in Chapter 6.

The archaeology of CA-LAN-808, a small open site like CA-LAN-807, is discussed in Chapter 7 (by Rita S. Shepard). The history of fieldwork, detailed artifact descriptions, and conclusions are included.

The details of the work and results from CA-LAN-1031, the Canasta Rockshelter, are presented in Chapters 8 and 9. Chapter 8 (by Brian D. Dillon and Barbara Beroza) includes the site description, discussion of fieldwork, detailed artifact descriptions, and conclusions. Of great interest are the perishables from the site, including basketry, cordage, netting, feathers, leather, and coprolites. These specimens are described in detail. Dillon and