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Remarks on Mary Haas

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Introduction

The following papers were presented in a special memorial session of the Hokan, Penutian and J. P. Harrington Conference to remember Mary Rosamund Haas, a renowned linguist who, with Murray Emeneau, founded our Department of Linguistics.

This was a remembrance of her intellectual life, by those who knew her in her prime. In keeping with Prof. Haas's own approach to life during her professional years, we felt it appropriate to have this remembrance take place as a session within a conference. This was the afternoon session of the Conference on Hokan and Penutian Languages, a long ongoing annual conference where most of the scholars attending are Mary Haas's own students or the students of her students (or even a generation or two down the line from there).

Mary Haas bequeathed her estate to the three institutions of higher learning where she spent her adult years: first, Earlham College, her undergraduate school; second, Yale University where she received her Ph.D; and third, the University of California at Berkeley, for scholarships for linguistics graduate students. Berkeley has used her inheritance to set up a graduate scholarship gift fund in honor of Professor Haas -- her last gift to the graduate students that she always said were her family.

--Leanne Hinton

Remarks on Mary Haas

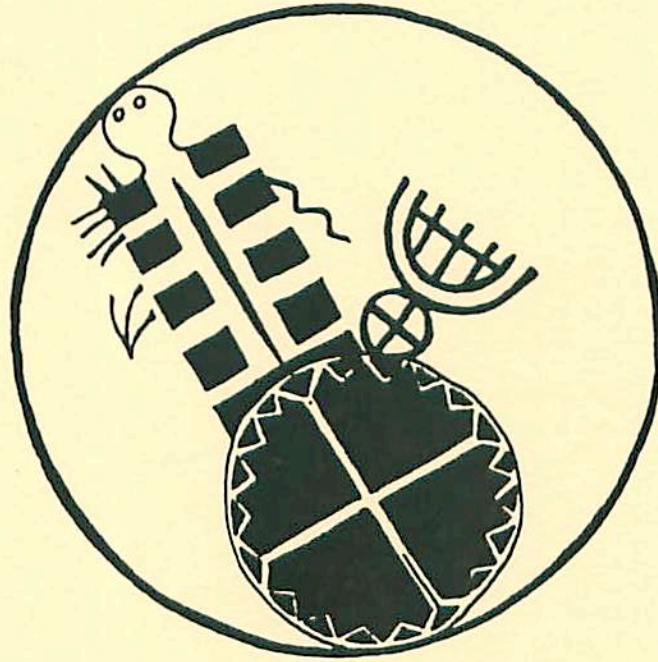
Wallace Chafe
University of California at Santa Barbara

Mary Haas was the right person in the right place at the right time. Without her presence in Berkeley in the 1950s and 60s, what we would know now about the languages of California and other parts of North America would be limited to earlier materials which, for all their value, did not come close in comprehensiveness and accuracy to what we now have because of the training and inspiration Mary gave to Haruo Aoki, Richard Applegate, Phil Barker, Jean-Pierre Belan, Bill Bright, Sylvia Broadbent, Cathy Callaghan, Tom Collord, Jim Crawford, Jon Dayley, Brent Galloway, Geoff Gamble, Victor Golla, Bob Hollow, Bill Jacobsen, Kathy Klar, Syd Lamb, Margaret Langdon, Sally McLendon, Wick Miller, Larry Morgan, Julius Moshinski, Bob Oswalt, Cathy O'Connor, Doug Parks, Bruce Pearson, Harvey Pitkin, David Rood, Jesse Sawyer, Alice Schlichter, Alan Shaterian, Bill Shipley, Shirley Silver, Len Talmy, Allan Taylor, Karl Teeter, Kathy Turner, Russ Ultan, Ken Whistler, and Tony Woodbury. (My sincerest apologies to anyone I may have inadvertently omitted.)

Mary's effort began at a time when linguists found their greatest thrills in discovering how different different languages can be. Mary kept that attitude, and was apt to scoff at the very notion of linguistic universals. Perhaps she was a little too unyielding in that respect, but in the present climate it is refreshing to think back on a time and a person for whom linguistic diversity was what really mattered, and who encouraged others to discover as much of that diversity as they could. The subsequent shift to an over-emphasis on how all languages are the same, eclipsing her fascination with diversity, along with a sneering at "mere descriptive" work, gradually put a damper on what she was striving for. But a great deal had been accomplished by that time, and all those grammars, texts, and dictionaries are going to stand forever as monuments to a remarkable person.

REPORT 10

**SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA AND
OTHER INDIAN LANGUAGES**



**THE HOKAN, PENUTIAN &
J.P. HARRINGTON CONFERENCES
And
THE MARY R. HAAS
MEMORIAL**

**June 28-29, 1996
University of California at Berkeley**

Leanne Hinton, Editor

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cover design by Leanne Hinton (Santa Barbara Chumash rock painting)

This volume is dedicated to the memory of

MARY R. HAAS

Professor emeritus of Linguistics

at the University of California at Berkeley

INTRODUCTION

This volume of the Survey Reports is the Proceedings of the Hokan, Penutian and J.P. Harrington Conferences, held at the University of California at Berkeley on June 28-29, 1996. Part I includes five of the papers that were presented at that conference, and also a paper by George V. Grekoff, who was unable to attend the conference but arranged in advance to submit an article for inclusion in the Proceedings. During the conference, a memorial session was also held for Mary R. Haas, who died a month before the conference. Part II of this volume consists of the presentations that were made about her life and research.

We gratefully acknowledge grants from Joseph Cerny, Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate Division, and William Simmons, Dean of Social Sciences, that helped make this conference possible.

Leanne Hinton
Volume and Series Editor

THE HOKAN, PENUTIAN AND J.P. HARRINGTON CONFERENCES

and the

MARY R. HAAS MEMORIAL SESSION

June 28-29, 1996
University of California at Berkeley, Alumni House

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PART II

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