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First Coastal Californians. Edited by Lynn H. Gamble. Santa Fe: School for Advanced Research Press, 2015. 132 pages. \$24.95 paper.

Most professional archaeologists spend the majority of their time talking to one another, with our scholarship often geared towards publication in academic journal articles, technical volumes, and university press books. It is a shame that interpreting our findings for the public happens most often in the form of invited lectures and popular magazine and newspaper stories since public funding supports much of our research. Lynn Gamble's new edited volume, *First Coastal Californians*, breaks this mold, offering seventeen beautifully illustrated chapters on the deep history of California's indigenous coastal communities.

Twenty-eight different authors contributed to *First Coastal Californians*, which is divided thematically into four sections: four chapters covering initial human colonization and environmental change; five chapters detailing regional technologies, lifeways, and/or subsistence practices; three chapters on sociopolitical systems, social stratification, and ritual; and four chapters on Spanish contact and postcolonial California. The first four chapters offer interesting narratives of the peopling of California and the dramatically changing landscapes encountered by these pioneering migrants. Particularly exciting is the potential of California to contribute to questions about the initial colonization of the New World and the diverse ways indigenous Californians survived and thrived in a dramatically changing environment, even taking steps to manage these changes through human actions such as landscape burning. The next five chapters, generally, offer regional summaries of coastal California, covering the San Francisco Bay, the central coast, the Northern Channel Islands, and the Los Angeles Basin. Readers from southern California will be particularly interested in Chapter 9, "People of the Ballona." The dramatic environmental and cultural transformation of the region from a coastal lagoon and a hunting and gathering mecca to a concrete jungle in a modern metropolis is eye-opening.

Chapters 10 through 13 highlight the social and political lives of indigenous Californian cultures, often by merging the archaeological and ethnohistorical records. These chapters emphasize that, far from misconceptions of hunter-gatherers as "simple" cultural systems, indigenous Californians lived complex lives that, through deep time, were economically, socially, and politically interconnected over extremely large geographic regions and across geophysical, ethnic, and linguistic barriers. The final four chapters add to the work of other archaeologists and historians to further dispel the "Ramona myth" and paint the interval of Spanish incursion in California as the tumultuous and transformative time it was for Native communities.

Missing are chapters dedicated to far northern California, the San Diego region, and the southern islands, although these regions are embedded in other chapters throughout the volume. I expect Gamble's goal was never to offer a comprehensive coverage of coastal California's deep history, but rather to present readable and exciting highlights from the state. This wise choice has resulted in an approachable text for a general audience. Chapter 16, on the discovery of two redwood boxes on San Nicolas Island, seems a little out of step with the other chapters. However, the story

of this remarkable discovery and its possible connection to Juana Maria, the “Lone Woman of San Nicolas,” makes for a compelling story. The volume ends with a chapter by Linda Yamane and her more than twenty-year effort to revive traditional ritual basket weaving, part of a larger movement of cultural revitalization in Californian indigenous communities.

I initially believed Gamble missed an opportunity to include a summary chapter and strike home the overall messages of her volume. After further thought, however, leaving the reader with a message from a Native American descendant of the first Californians is a fitting conclusion. In a poignant message of how past is present, the final chapter ends the volume with the words, “They walked the same earth and the same ocean beaches, and I am honored to follow in their footsteps, keeping their traditions and their memory alive” (119). California’s long history of cultural traditions is alive and well, and continues into the future. I applaud Gamble and her colleagues for making this message and the deep, rich history of coastal California accessible to the public reader.

Those looking for comprehensive coverage of coastal Californian ancient history or a text for the college classroom should look elsewhere. This volume was never intended to be an academic treatise and is focused on the telling of interesting stories for public consumption. Its heavy emphasis on the Santa Barbara Channel—not surprising given the profiles of many of the contributing authors—is a good example. What *First Coastal Californians* does offer is a wonderful primer on California deep history for academics, students, and the public, filled with stunning illustrations and twenty-four full-color plates of landscapes, technology, art, and people. The volume is beautifully laid out, affordable, and easy to read, and will be the centerpiece of my coffee table for a very long time.

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Indians Illustrated: The Image of Native Americans in the Pictorial Press. By John M. Coward. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2016. 228 pages. \$95.00 cloth; \$29.95 paper; \$26.96 electronic.

In the early days of film the Western established itself as the preeminent Hollywood genre, a position it would not relinquish until the 1970s. And while today overall numbers are low by historical standards, the genre still endures in such award-winning movies as *Dances with Wolves* (1990) or *Avatar* (2009). The Western’s resonance, scholars agree, stems from the fact that it may fairly be considered to exemplify American settler society’s sense of itself: cowboy heroes fighting and defeating Indian savages. In a carefully argued new book, John M. Coward explores and assesses the content from which the early Westerns drew, that is, the illustrated press of the latter nineteenth century. Plumbing imagery familiar to the millions who devoured paper-back Westerns in the late nineteenth century, the author draws an important, direct