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J. P. Harrington and Al Hayes

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J. P. Harrington and Al Hayes

Margaret Langdon, UCSD

In May 1977, Mary Haas sent me copies of a number of letters by Harrington expressing his concern about the possibility that Al Hayes, the first fieldworker sponsored by the Survey of California Indian Languages, might be planning to work on Chumash. Mary's letter to me and Harrington's letters to Hayes are reproduced in the following pages. There is also a letter to Prof. Emeneau who was then in charge of the Survey. This is all self-explanatory.

Apparently, Hayes followed one of Harrington's suggestions that he work instead on Diegueño, and spent a field period in San Diego County collecting linguistic material from several speakers. He did not return to the field after that and did not continue in linguistics. He published only one article on Diegueño (Hayes 1954), in which he describes his elicitation techniques and his use of the tape recorder.

He did, however, deposit in the Survey archives some notes and tapes on the language, which Mary Haas allowed me to copy when, in 1963, I decided to record the language. Among the tapes Hayes had collected was a long traditional story told by Rebecca Alto, a very knowledgeable speaker who was a native of the Santa Ysabel Reservation but resided on the Viejas Indian Reservation near Alpine, California, where Hayes met her. He did not attempt any transcription of this tape. Mrs. Alto had died before I worked in Southern California but I was extremely fortunate to be able to transcribe and analyse this story with the assistance of Christina Hutcheson, one of my main Mesa Grande consultants, and two versions of the story are now in print in Langdon 1976 and Hinton and Langdon 1985.

I wish to acknowledge my debt to Harrington for indirectly making it possible for me to work on this text. Harrington's legacy lives on in wondrous ways.

References

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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

3-31-77

Dear Margaret:

you and Shirley may be interested in the enclosed set of letters written by J. P. Harrington. The copies are made by Verifax, an early type of copier. Most ~~are~~ ^{are} legible except the long letter to Emeneau which I copied off on the typewriter. I found the answers to a couple of illegible items in his letter to Al Hayes of Feb. 10, 1953 so I have made the proper corrections in ink.

I have another Verifax copy of ^{each of} these things but I do not have a copy of my typewritten copy so I would appreciate a Xerox of that.

Hayes was our first field worker after the survey was officially set up and Harrington wanted to run him out of town by any means!!

Love,

Mary

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25 D C

General Delivery,
Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 10, 1953.

Dear Al Hayes:

I have been here several weeks working with Mrs. Maria de Soto, mostly hearing over again words obtained from her mother. I worked for I do not remember how many weeks with Maria's grandmother when she used to live over on East Ortega St. and took Maria's mother back east for a period of better than six months. Then I worked with her two months here. The granddaughter is not what one would call a good informant, and I have contributed at least half of all the information. They had in the paper absolutely wrong: there are five that speak the language, and not one of them is a real good informant.

So that you won't have to go through all the tortures that I have had to go through on this difficult language, I beg of you to seek fairer fields and let me continue here in peace. There must be at least a hundred languages in California that are crying to be studied and that nobody is working on. Why don't you get one of them, pile up the interesting material, and all glory will be yours? I think of especially the Colusa language, the San Diego language, the Shasta language, the Achomawi language. I put Colusa first because you'll find at Colusa it is most easy to write up the dialect, get texts, etc.; they still have ceremonies. The Shasta language is a splendid field. Go to Yreka and find some rare informants, especially a man named Welles. The Achomawi language is peculiar in that it has the sound of Semitic h.

I naturally don't want you to work here, if you can possibly help it, but would go to a richer field, and there are many where there is absolutely no competition. Since your coming here may have entailed bus fares, I will be glad to pay these. I do hope that this letter reaches you and that you'll decide to choose some other field -- or maybe you already have one picked out. It is for your sake as well as mine that I am writing you this truly kind letter, in the hope that you'll find some other field and that I can help you there.

Most sincerely,

John H. Hanning
Senior Ethnologist,
Bureau of American Ethnology.

Copy made from poor Verifax copy.

125 West Carrillo St.,
Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 11, 1953.

Dear Etienneau:

I am writing this to beg you to have Mr. Al Hayes take up his linguistic studies in some other field than this, of which there are many in California in which no linguistic work is in progress, and in which one can still get good informants. I am giving him a hundred dollars to pay for any expense that he may have been put to in coming here. He is a man of my own flesh and blood, born in Maine, and I in Massachusetts, across from the watch factory. He talks excellent German, phonemics, and has a fine training in exotic languages. In spite of all this, owing to my long and uniquely successful work here, I would rather have him go to some other good field, even if I have to help him financially, and ask this for his welfare as well as my own. I was brought here when a small boy, went through the grade schools and the high school here, then went to the University of California and to Stanford University, then spent nearly ten years in Germany, where I took a year of Sanskrit under Windisch and got high marks. I worked with the grandmother of this Maria, who was a really good informant. I took the mother of Maria east, working with her a little more than six months, then worked with her here about two months. In her opinion the present Maria was not worth working with. Yet I have worked with Maria several weeks now, mostly rehearsing material that I got from her mother. In this recent work I have contributed half. The paper had it absolutely wrong that Maria is the last speaker. There are five that speak ~~Chumash~~ ^{Chumash}, ~~some~~ of them good informants. I sincerely believe that nothing will make me happy, or will make Mr. Hayes happy after he once gets started, unless he goes to some fairer field in California to make his linguistic studies.

There are many good fields in California. I think at once of San Diego, which is a much larger and more prominent city than this, and where Hayes can get the San Diego language just rattled off, in all its pristine glory. Colusa is a splendid field; the Indians still hold ceremonies there and one can get texts. There is one Ethel Ortega there who talks the language like all set out. Or how about Shasta? The place to get that is at Yreka, California. There is a man named ~~Welles~~ ^{Welles} there, who is said to have talent in teaching the language. The Achomawi language on the Pit River is also aching to be worked with. For that one would go to Cassel, California.

Please try hard and see what you can do for me, and for the good of Mr. Hayes.

Most sincerely and appreciatingly,

Senior Ethnologist,
Smithsonian Institution

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25, D C

Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 12, 1953.

Dear Al Hayes:

I am sending you some of the sinews of war to help pay expenses of your renting a house, etc., which you have incurred through no fault of yours. We have of course not yet heard from Emeneau. Am enclosing a copy of my letter to him.

I have thought the matter over carefully, and still believe that it will be better for both of us that you take some other good field, and you can easily find one that is better than this. Even if I have to subsidize you there, I would rather have it that way. That is what I would do if I were you, would go to Colusa, San Diego, Yreka, or some really enticing place.

Most sincerely,

John P. Harrington.

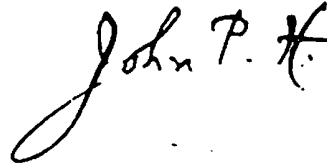
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 14, 1953.

Dear Al Hayes:

I saw the mail man coming and rushed in thinking I was going to get a letter from Emeneau -- and nothing! This beats the band. He evidently hasn't answered us promptly. I want you to go elsewhere for my sake and your sake, too. The informants are too poor and too few to make it easy for you to do here what you propose doing, and I only wish that you could find some better, easier field.

Most sincerely,



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 14, 1953.

Dear Al:

Evidently no letter from Emeneau yesterday. I stayed home all the forenoon expecting you might come around. I sincerely hope that Emeneau will decide to send you to a better, fairer land, one in which you can still get good informants and in which no one is working. I sent you a royal present yesterday, so that you'll be under no loss if you go elsewhere, and would rather finance you materially than have you come here, which would almost surely prove unsatisfactory to both of us in the long run.

Most sincerely,

John P. Harrington.

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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 16, 1953.

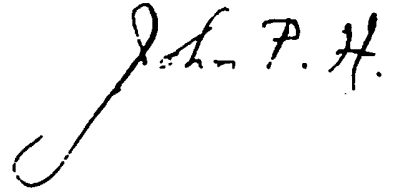
Mr. Al Hayes,
2203 Park Way Drive,
Santa Barbara, California.

Dear Al Hayes:

Your special delivery letter came last night, and I am only too glad to send you a check for \$200.00 more. Not only that, but can help you materially. And will. I confidently hope that you can choose some other field, where the informants are good and many, one that has all the advantages of this and more too. We have not yet heard from Dr. Eneaneau, but I am sure he will see the matter as I do.

Wishing you the cream of everything,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. L. P. H.", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 17, 1953.

Dear Al:

Your letter is here in which you are returning the hundred dollar check. This is entirely unnecessary. Let us hope that we hear from Emeneau today, but it is very possible we may not. At least I am going over to the street for a while, so if you do get any news you would better call up. Phone here is Santa Barbara 2-8640.

I like to call myself a Santa Barbara boy who has turned linguist. I sure know the country and people around here to a finish. Talk Spanish. I used to doubt whether Maria was worth working with, but maybe she is. Certainly not without a guiding knowledge of the background.

Most sincerely,

John P. Harrington.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BUREAU OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Santa Barbara, California,
Feb. 18, 1933.

Dear Al Hayes:

Your letter of course overjoys me. I hope that you thank Dr. Emeneau personally in my behalf when you see him. The San Diego field is truly a rich and enticing one, and absolutely no one is working in it. You can not make a mistake in going to Mesa Grande and in starting your work at Mesa Grande, beautiful resort in the mountains back of San Diego. You will find at Mesa Grande dozens of people speaking fluently the San Diego language.

What you say about my not publishing is good advice and well taken. ~~Let's~~ hope I can do better in the future.

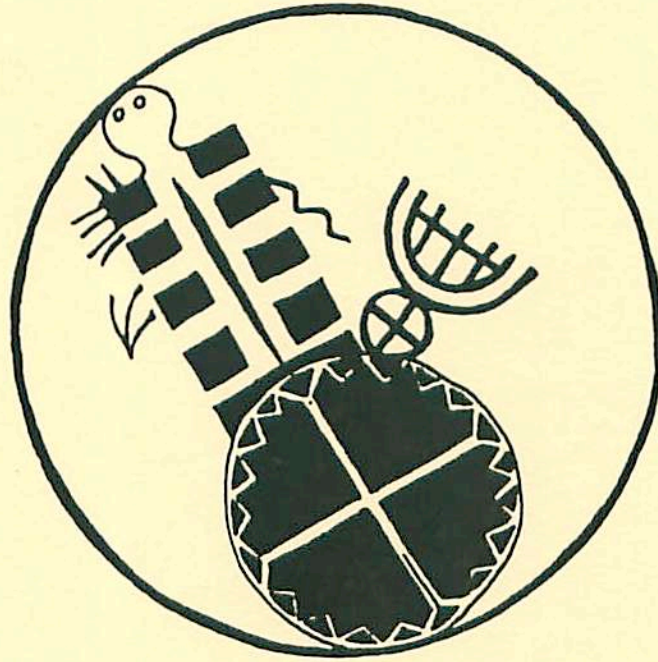
Wishing you the cream of everything and standing ready to help you financially and in other ways, and I mean it,

Most sincerely,

John P. Harrington.

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 I

**The Hokan, Penutian
and J.P. Harrington Conference**