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Susman: *The Round Valley Indians of California. An Unpublished Chapter in Acculturation in Seven (or eight) American Indian Tribes*

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Author

Baumhoff, M. A

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Other than the problem of continuity between articles written by so many authors, there is little with which to find fault in this fine volume. It represents a major definitive contribution to the historical archaeology of the state, and is a very favorable reflection on the administrative and organizational talents of the editor.

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The Round Valley Indians of California. An Unpublished Chapter in Acculturation in Seven (or eight) American Indian Tribes. Amelia Susman. Berkeley: University of California Archaeological Research Facility Contributions No. 31. 1976.

Reviewed by M.A. BAUMHOFF
University of California, Davis

In 1940, a book edited by Ralph Linton (then one of our most important anthropologists) was published with the title of *Acculturation in Seven American Indian Tribes*. Acculturation at that time was a quite fashionable subject; it was seen as an aspect of culture change, and it was hoped that from the study of it would come greater understanding of culture process. The scholars involved in the study were generally dissatisfied with the comparability of previous work, and they therefore projected a series of studies "prepared in accordance with a single plan" so that some general processes of cultural change might be revealed. These efforts have not produced the great theoretical advances that Linton presumably hoped for, but they resulted in a book which in retrospect seems a perfectly sound piece of ethnohistory. However, one of the pieces written for that volume was rejected, and it is not until almost forty years later that it is finally published by the Archaeological Research Facility.

The piece written by Susman is a straightforward account of the process and incidents of the domination of the Indians of Round Valley (these included both the native Yuki and other groups herded onto the reservation there), a domination and exploitation continuing through the time of her research. Her accounts of the the nineteenth century situation are taken from Government documents, newspaper accounts, and other standard ethnohistoric sources. Her description of the situation that existed in the 1920's and 1930's is based upon her own fieldwork; it is in itself an

extremely valuable primary document.

A most interesting question is raised by the fact that publication has had to wait until now. Susman says that she was informed of its original rejection by Ruth Benedict, "who told me that my chapter would not be included because some of the material might be challenged in court as libelous." Dr. Susman speculates further about this, and then says, "If, as is more likely, the compelling fact was that the publisher feared Collette, who was at that time representing many Indian tribes in Washington, D.C., and had started suit against Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, for libel, I could easily have deleted reference to him." She refers here to William G. Collette who led a group called Indian of California, Inc., and who had been instrumental in bringing several legal actions on behalf of various California Indian groups. Susman's references to Collette are more sympathetic than the reverse and would seem hardly to have been the basis of a libel suit.

My own view is that the key is to be found in a statement on p. 70 under the heading Editor's Summary and presumably written by Ralph Linton:

Although treatment of American Indians by the Whites has generally been bad, the Round Valley situation finds no close parallels among the other studies included in this volume. It is unique in the complete domination of the Indian by the White group, the speed with which this domination was achieved, and the frankness and thoroughness of White exploitation.

He might also have added ruthless and brutal to his descriptive terms.

The fact is that this account was simply the pure quill about White treatment of American Indians and such straight medicine was unacceptable somewhere along the line. Whether the manuscript stopped with the publisher or with Linton is hard to say; Linton was one of the most fearless anthropologists, so I would

be inclined to attribute the decision to the publisher. The entire anthropological profession must be blamed to some extent, however. Almost no one at that time wanted to rock the boat by pointing out (in detail anyway) the inhumanity of our conquest of this continent. While it would be a mistake to insist that everyone has the obligation to be a crusader, what appears to be the case here is that in order to avoid the appearance of being a crusader there was a compromise of scholarly integrity. Dr. Susman's account is not a piece of rabble-rousing rhetoric, it is an unbiased account of an abominable situation. It was Linton's obligation as a scholar to fight this through and if the pugnacious Ralph Linton failed in this obligation, what are we to conclude about his more timid brethren?



Ethnogeographic and Ethnosynonymic Data from Northern California Tribes. C. Hart Merriam (Assembled and edited by R.F. Heizer). Contributions to Native California Ethnology from the C. Hart Merriam Collection, No. 1. Berkeley: University of California Archaeological Research Facility. 1976.

Ethnogeographic and Ethnosynonymic Data from Central California Tribes. C. Hart Merriam (Assembled and edited by R.F. Heizer). Contributions to Native California Ethnology from the C. Hart Merriam Collection, No. 2. Berkeley: University of California Archaeological Research Facility. 1977.

Reviewed by M.A. BAUMHOFF
University of California, Davis

These two volumes (the second has *Northern* rather than *Central* California on the cover as a typographical error) are further results of R.F. Heizer's long range plan to publish the whole record of Merriam's re-