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Message from the Editor

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Message from the Editor

With this issue, I begin my term as Editor of the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*. My predecessor, Philip J. Wilke, who has retired after 17 years of service to the *Journal*, is responsible for the high level of quality and scholarship attained. Phil served both *The Journal of California Anthropology* and the *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* in a variety of formal capacities including Editor, Co-Editor, Managing Editor, Associate Editor, and Assistant Editor. Even when not formally involved, Phil always provided guidance, advice, and assistance. We all owe him a great debt and appreciate his dedication to the field. He worked on many of the papers that will appear in the next few issues and should receive that recognition. I learned a great deal about producing the *Journal* from Phil, and without his teaching and patience over the years I would not be able to assume his duties.

For a variety of reasons beyond Phil's control, the *Journal* finds itself several issues behind in its publication schedule. This delay has, among other things, discouraged submissions, reduced the number of personal and library subscriptions, and created the impression that the *Journal* was no longer being published. Each of these factors feeds back on, and amplifies, the others. A new computer program that produces camera-ready copy will help correct this situation.

We also have reorganized the Editorial Board and Editorial Staff to include working Associate Editors who will actively participate in the review and decision-making processes. Persons on the *Journal* staff who submit materials for consideration will do so to one of the Associate Editors who will keep those files

confidential, thus retaining the anonymity of the reviewers. We also plan to be far less patient regarding the length of time that we will wait for reviewer comments to be returned. Quick turnaround is critical to the timely production of any journal.

There are a few minor editorial changes that I wish to make. In the references, please include the first names of the authors (if originally published that way) rather than just their initials. Second, I want to include issue numbers in journal references rather than just the volume number. I think having the issue number makes it easier to locate the reference. Please also put page numbers in the citations whenever possible.

We are sensitive to the perception that the *Journal* contains too much archaeology and too little ethnology. This is not really true but even so, we cannot control what is submitted. Several years ago, Phil received a letter from a well-known ethnographer who was so upset about the lack of ethnographic material in the *Journal* in the preceding 10 years that he canceled his subscription. However, that person had no basis for complaint: he had never even submitted a paper to the *Journal* for consideration. It is our goal to be as broad as possible, but it also is the responsibility of researchers to submit their work.

I look forward to working on the *Journal*; I consider it more fun than work. The *Journal* is an important professional outlet, and its health is of concern to us all. I appreciate the support and confidence of the anthropological community in California and the Great Basin, and I will try to maintain the standard of quality established and maintained by Phil.

Mark Q. Sutton