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***Cahuilla Grammar.*** Hansjakob Sieler. Morongo Indian Reservation, Banning: Malki Museum Press, 1977, x + 361 pp., \$12.00 (paper).

Reviewed by WICK R. MILLER  
*University of Utah*

Cahuilla is a language that belongs to the Takic branch of Uto-Aztecan, and is spoken by an ever-decreasing number of speakers in the inland desert and mountain regions of southern California. It is a language that received scant scientific attention until the latter half of this century, first beginning with Sieler, who began field work with this language in 1955. A number of linguists have since worked with Cahuilla, but Sieler remains its chief chronicler. Sieler and his coworkers at the University of Cologne have provided us with a number of works on the language, the most important being a volume of texts. With the publication of this work, we now have a grammar, and we are promised (in collaboration with Hioki) a dictionary in the near future.

It is a good grammar, though it does have its flaws, the most serious one being its style. It is written in a highly technical and ponderous style that makes it difficult to follow for even the most eager student of American Indian languages. Examples are cited in such a way that they are often difficult to follow. There is a great deal of theoretical, logical, and philosophic discussion that properly belongs in a separate monograph, or in a series of articles. If it had been more concisely written, the same information could have been presented in fewer pages, and it would have been easier to read. In spite of the claim on the back cover that "at least some parts of the grammar will be accessible to the interested non-linguist," almost the entire work will be inaccessible to the non-specialist, a fact that is unfortunate now that a great many Indian groups are becoming interested in their own history and culture.

The Malki Museum Press, located on the

Morongo Indian Reservation near Banning, California, has been responsible for publishing a number of works related to the Indians of southern California, and it can be justly proud of the fact that it has been making available a great deal of information, of high quality, for both the professional and Indian reader. This book will add to that reputation. I only wish, however, that the editor had used his editorial prerogative to help make this a more readable grammar.



***Handbook of North American Indians***, Vol. 8, ***California.*** Robert F. Heizer, vol. ed. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution, 1978, 800 pp. many illus., \$13.50 (hardbound).

Reviewed by MARY JEAN AERNI  
*Menlo Park, California*

The Smithsonian Institution, Washington D. C., has just issued the first of a proposed 20-volume *Handbook of North American Indians*. Volume 8, *California*, is a completely rewritten description of the culture and history of Native Americans of California, the first inclusive volume since publication of the *Handbook of the Indians of California* (Bureau of American Ethnology *Bulletin* 78), by Alfred L. Kroeber in 1925. In the fifty years since that monumental publication, considerable new material has become available which has been incorporated in the new *Handbook*.

The goal of this volume is to present a summary of available knowledge on the aboriginal culture forms and practices of some 60 tribes in California, with each summary covering the topics of environment, prehistoric and historical archaeology, culture, language classification, and the history of the tribe following European contact. Forty-four chapters prepared by 33 authors form the core of the volume, each chapter being a self-contain-