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80. TWO EARLY REPRESENTATIONS OF CALIFORNIA INDIANS

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ABSTRACT

Portrayals of California Indians of the Costanoan and Wintun groups dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are reproduced. Details of dress are shown.

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The earliest published illustration purporting to show California Indians appeared in the year 1599 in the twenty-five part compilation entitled Collectiones Peregrinationum in Indiam Occidentalem, by Theodore and John De Bry. This picture, which is intended to show Francis Drake's welcome by the Indians of California in June, 1579 almost certainly does not represent an engraving after an original sketch made on the spot, but is the artist's conception of what California Indians looked like according to the description by Francis Fletcher, who was Drake's chaplain. A book of sketches which is known to have been made during the voyage by Francis Drake's cousin, John, has never come to light, and if it should ever be discovered it may contain sketches of the Indians encountered by Drake in California nearly four hundred years ago. The De Bry engraving has been reprinted many times and is perhaps most easily accessible in The California Indians (R. F. Heizer and M. A. Whipple, eds., University of California Press, 1951).

California was visited by many expeditions between 1542 and 1850 and many of the accounts (a number of which are unpublished or only partially so) contain pictures of Indians. It would be an interesting and useful project for some student of California history or anthropology to compile and publish a list of all such pictorial records.

The two drawings shown here in Plate 2 present women in native dress. The first (Pl. 2a) is a woman of Monterey and of the Costanoan tribe. It was drawn at Carmel Mission in 1791 by Cardero, and a more finished (and slightly altered) version is published by J. G. T. (1932, Pl. XI and p. 111) and Chinard (1937, pl. opp. p. 98). The drawing reproduced here was secured by Dr. D. C. Cutter from the archives of the Museo Naval in Madrid.

The second picture (Pl. 2b) portrays a group of Indians from the "Upper Sacramento Valley" and was drawn by H. D. Brown in 1852. The group represented is pretty certainly Wintu. Notable items shown are the cradle, conical burden basket, hide and rush skirt, and deerskin cape.

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