

## INTRODUCTION

The Plenary Session of the Fall, 1980 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory was dedicated to the recognition of "The Contribution of Robert F. Heizer to California Ethnohistory." William Clewlow chaired the session, William Sturtevant, Martin Baumhoff, Lowell John Bean, Ed Castillo, Albert Elsasser, and Polly Bickel read papers which they had prepared, and Calvin Martin, Dorothea Theodoratus, and Elizabeth Colson served as discussants. William Simmons organized the session and invited the participants. These five papers originated in this symposium, which took place on the afternoon of Friday, October 24, in the San Franciscan Hotel, San Francisco. The paper by Castillo, "The Impact of R. F. Heizer's Ethnohistorical Publications on the Native Americans and California Ethnohistory" would have been included had not the author been too involved in other areas to complete the manuscript in time for publication. This collection only samples the full range of Heizer's contributions to California ethnohistory and does not exhaust the numbers of friends and former students who could have given valuable perspectives on his many and important research contributions. We might add that the discussion following these papers also provided many spontaneous insights and illuminating anecdotes regarding Heizer's career that were not recorded. All who attended the symposium appreciated the immense and enduring impact that Bob Heizer had on historical and ethnographic studies in California and the generous extent to which he used his knowledge in behalf of the Indian people. In recognition of these achievements the governing board of the American Society for Ethnohistory voted to establish an annual Robert F. Heizer Award for distinguished research in ethnohistory.

William S. Simmons  
Polly McW. Bickel

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