

***WILLIAM C. MASSEY,
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***A BURIAL
CAVE IN BAJA
CALIFORNIA***

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A Burial Cave in Baja California

Enriched edition. The Palmer Collection, 1887

Introduction, Studies and Commentaries by Oliver Wilcox

EAN 8596547241904

Edited and published by DigiCat, 2022



Table of Contents

[A Burial Cave in Baja California](#)

[Memorable Quotes](#)

[Notes](#)

A BURIAL CAVE IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

Main Table of Contents

PREFACE

A BURIAL CAVE IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

THE PALMER COLLECTION, 1887

PLATES

PREFACE

[Table of Contents](#)

In 1888 an archaeological collection of material from Bahía de Los Angeles in Baja California was deposited in the United States National Museum by Dr. Edward Palmer[1]. Although the material was duly catalogued, together with Dr. Palmer's notes, it has gone undescribed until the present.

Dr. Robert F. Heizer called this collection to the attention of the senior author in 1948. At that time the archaeology of Baja California was receiving emphasis at the University of California because of the interest of the Associates in Tropical Biogeography, under the chairmanship of Dr. C. O. Sauer. The late Professor E. W. Gifford, then Curator of the Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, arranged with Dr. T. Dale Stewart of the United States National Museum for a temporary study loan of the collection.

From the beginning, the division of labor between the authors has been primarily in terms of "hard" and "soft" artifacts[1q]. Massey has handled the analyses of the imperishable artifacts, their ethnographic and archaeological distributions, and the distributions of all artifacts for Baja California. Mrs. Osborne has dealt with the netting, textiles, and cordage, and the distribution of their techniques outside Baja California. Dr. Lila M. O'Neale began the analysis of the textiles and netting and directed it until her untimely death. Professor E. W. Gifford advised on the initial description of the imperishable artifacts.