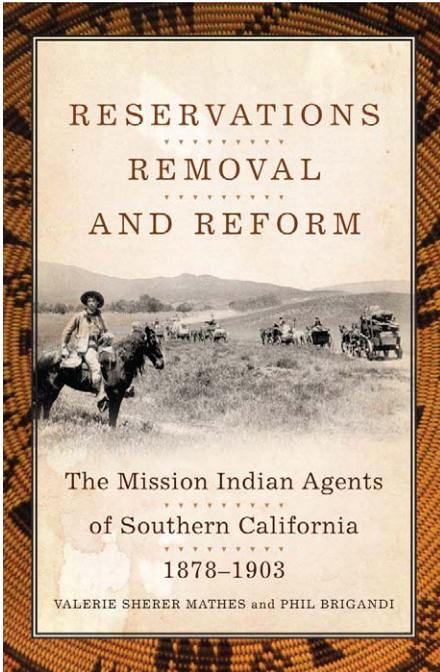


BOOK REVIEWS

RESERVATIONS, REMOVAL, AND REFORM: *The Mission Indian Agents of Southern California, 1878–1903.* By Valerie Sherer Mathes and Phil Brigandi: (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018, \$36.95, hardcover). Reviewed by Clifford E. Trafzer.

For many years, Valerie Sherer Mathes and Phil Brigandi have researched and published on the transitional era of Native American history, offering books and



articles that have changed the historiography of the region. In the past, they primarily focused on the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when Native people faced forced assimilation, reservations, reforms, allotments, and oversight by non-Native Indian agents who interrupted the authority of indigenous leaders and asserted national power over Indian people. The new volume will enhance their reputations as innovative scholars of the period.

Reservations, Removal, and Reform examines the history of the Mission Indian Agency through the lens of seven Indian agents from 1878 to 1903. At times, the Indian Office referred to the agency as the Mission-Tule Agency, which at times included the Santa Ynez, Fort Yuma, Hupa, and Klamath Reser-

vations, an unimaginably huge agency spanning the length of California from north to south and east to west. Through the professional experiences of superintendents primarily of Southern California, the authors deal with numerous topics significant to American Indian people of the Mission Indian Agency.

Mathes and Brigandi provide a unique book, the first of its kind, which allows readers to learn details about many issues faced by Indians, settlers, Indian agents, and missionaries. The authors investigate issues and events surrounding settler

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land encroachment, theft of Indian livestock, water use, reservation boundary disputes, establishment of reservations, and Indian irrigation projects. Every agent had to deal with the Native American use of alcohol and the sale of alcohol by unscrupulous non-Indians, who sometimes sowed discontent between Indians and non-Indians. The authors present new and informative details about large-scale gambling that occurred on reservations during *fiestas*. These events, held on many different reservations in Southern California, attracted hundreds of Indians of all ages. Native Americans placed bets (money, horses, cattle, saddles, silver conchos, blankets, jewelry, alcohol, and other valuables) on peon games (hand games), horse races, footraces, and chicken pulls.

Mathes and Brigandi provide an insightful narrative about the small schoolhouse on the Pechanga Indian Reservation and the tragic rape and murder of schoolteacher Mary Platt on September 20, 1894. Like so many of the topics addressed in their book, the authors concisely examine the burning of the Pechanga School as well as Platt's abduction, rape, and killing. While presenting many details, the authors write the narratives in colorful, moving prose. Like most entries in the book, the authors primarily provide perspectives of government agents and newspaper editors. In this case, however, they also use indigenous voices found in the testimonies of Indians. The voices of Indians and non-Indians reveal the complexities of arresting and trying the murderers of this gruesome crime. Some people accused Luisefio leader of Pechanga, Captain Mateo Pa, of Pratt's murder, but several non-Natives came to his defense. Finally, a jury of non-Indians took only twenty minutes to acquit Pa. At later dates, the government charged Francisco Guavish, Ventura Molido, Francisco Rodriguez, and Anthony Trujillo with killing Platt, piling wood on her body, dousing her with kerosene, and setting her and the school on fire. A jury convicted Molido and gave him a life sentence. Ultimately, Rodriguez and Trujillo went free, but the Superior Court of Riverside County convicted Guavish of other crimes, sentencing him to twenty years in prison. Analysis of Platt's murder is but one of several compelling stories shared in this volume. The authors also offer many details on Indian education and schools on and off reservations.

Mathes and Brigandi provided details about two off-reservation American Indian boarding schools and several reservation schools in the region. They present agency information on government supported Perris Indian School and the Catholic institution, St. Boniface Indian Boarding School. They examine Indian education over time, including Catholic day schools on the Pala and Soboba Reservations. The data they provide adds new details about Indian education and the desire of many agents, especially John McClallum, Horatio Nelson Rush, Francisco Estudillo, and Lucius A. Wright to bring "civilization" to Indian children on and off reservations. Other segments of the book demonstrate the government's eagerness to support Christian missionary efforts on or near reservations as well as near the boarding schools. In fact, the government of the United States ignored the separation of church and state, and provided federal contracts to support mission schools for Indian children. This included the on-reservation boarding school for Quechan children on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. The authors provide

limited information on the Fort Yuma Reservation headquartered in California on the west side of the Colorado River, except to highlight former boarding school student and tribal leader Patrick Miguel.

Through the writings of Indian agents, Mathes and Brigandi detail the introduction of Western medicine to Native Americans of the Mission Indian Agency. Spanish missionaries, army doctors, and other medical professionals migrating into California provided limited Western medicine to tribal people. The federal government provided minimal health care to Indian people during the late nineteenth century, often offered by missionary doctors working within the agency before the Indian Service became more involved in improving Indian health. The authors expose the ill health, historical trauma, and anomie resulting from the removal of Indians from their homelands to reservations where the government forced them to live with former enemies. One of the most moving segments of this book focused on the theft of Indian lands through legal means. During the late nineteenth century, private non-Native land owners pressed several Indians living in villages located on large tracks of privately-owned land to leave their homelands and move to a reservation. This included Kumeyaay, Cupeño, and Luiseño people. Members of these tribes faced forced removal to the Pala Indian Reservation located in northern San Diego County along Río San Luis Rey.

In order to construct this important volume, Mathes and Brigandi conducted extensive research in primary documents found in many repositories, including the National Archives and the Bancroft, Huntington, and A. K. Smiley Libraries as well as manuscripts in museums, historical societies, and private collections. They made excellent use of House and Senate documents as well as government reports and investigations. In addition to providing a well-researched volume, they have framed the narrative in an accessible manner, offering descriptive subtitles that will guide scholars to specific topics found within each chapter. The prior research of Mathes and Brigandi prepared them to write this significant and handsome book, which scholars, students, and interested readers will enjoy and use for years to come.

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DISCRIMINATING SEX: *White Leisure and the Making of the American 'Oriental.'* By Amy Sueyoshi (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2018, 228 pp. \$26.00 paper). Reviewed by Mari Yoshihara.

Discriminating Sex is many things. It is a history of San Francisco. It is a study of whiteness. It is Asian American history. It is a study of gender and sexuality and the centrality of race in their making. Through meticulous archival research and careful argumentation, Amy Sueyoshi delivers a rich narrative and a bold argument