

VOL. VI, FRONTISPIECE

HODGE PUBLICATION FUND



THE GREAT CALIFORNIA MOURNING CEREMONY
From a Painting by Howard Arden Edwards in the Southwest Museum

PUBLICATIONS OF THE FREDERICK WEBB HODGE
ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION FUND

VOLUME VI

FIVE PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL
SITES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
CALIFORNIA

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1952

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FIVE PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

THE FIRST white man to sail into Santa Monica Bay was Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in 1542. Observing along the shore the great number of Indian villages with smoke rising from their fires, he named it *La Bahía de los Fumos* ("The Bay of the Smokes").

At that time the Indian population hereabouts is believed to have been larger than that of any similar area of the present United States. Villages were situated all along the Pacific shore wherever fresh water was available from flowing springs or cañon streams. In this semi-arid land established villages were almost inevitable wherever there was a stretch of level land along the banks of Los Angeles River and the few other streams within the county area. In the mountains, the cañons usually were too narrow to afford sites for villages; but settlement sites are to be found where the cañons open out and the land levels off, as below Fern Dell in Hollywood (at the end of Western Avenue where modern residences have been built), and at the mouth of Chevy Chase Cañon in Glendale (where Glendale Sanitarium is situated).

As all such sites are private property and usually are built upon, it is only rarely that archeologists are permitted to excavate; but the five sites reported herein were discovered by the owners of the properties who generously granted permission for archeological research thereon. The appreciation of the Southwest Museum is expressed to these public-spirited citizens for their interest in aiding its efforts toward scientific and educational studies.