

Mortuary Remains Recovered in the 1932 Van Bergen Excavation at the Palmer-Redondo Site (CA-LAN-127), Redondo Beach, Los Angeles County

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Abstract

This article provides the first comprehensive review of artifacts recovered at CA-LAN-127 by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (LACMNH). These 1932 LACMNH investigations occurred in cemetery and “offertory” areas. Eight of the nine burials excavated contained grave furniture, and the “offertory” feature also yielded magico-religious objects.

Included in this largely descriptive essay is quick mention of symbolic communications that might have attached to certain ritual objects placed with the deceased and also found in the “offertory” feature. Variability in mortuary practice, wherein some interments at LAN-127 were richly appointed while other graves showed a poverty of offerings, prompts some consideration of whether such differential treatment reflects wealth and status distinctions or whether the character of final dispositions perhaps turned more on emotive states of bereaved family members. Another issue follows from William Wallace’s (2008) perception that the abundance of mortuary goods at the Palmer-Redondo site had no parallel in the regional archaeological record; apparently he was not privy to available documents relating to the nearby Malaga Cove site (CA-LAN-138) that would have indicated otherwise.

Introduction

In 1932 the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (LACMNH) conducted excavations at the Palmer-Redondo site (CA-LAN-127), located along the Pacific coast in Redondo Beach, some 3.8 km north of the Malaga Cove site (Figure 1). The site was investigated on at least four separate occasions, in 1903, 1932, 1937, and 1956 (Wallace 2008). The

1932 investigations were funded and overseen by the LACMNH Curator of Archaeology, Dr. Charles Van Bergen (Chris Coleman, personal communication 2010), but daily operations were directed by Richard Van Valkenburgh. The excavations were undertaken in the cemetery area first identified in 1903 (Wallace 2008:203). At least nine human burials were discovered during the 1932 excavations, eight of which contained grave offerings. Also found were a nearby “offertory area” that held additional ritual objects and an area of “miscellaneous fill” that was in proximity to but not directly associated with the skeletal remains and that yielded yet more ritual artifacts. The 1956 excavations (see Wallace 2008) revealed a modest domestic deposit located away from the cemetery.

No site report on any of the 1932 work at LAN-127 was ever completed, but photographs and illustrations of the more interesting artifacts have occasionally been published (e.g., Landberg 1965:73; Miller 1991:62; Cameron 2000:Figure 12.11; Koerper 2011:102–103, Figures 1–4; Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012:62, Figure 22). An unpublished manuscript (King 2005) illustrates many of the 1932 finds. We are aware of but one published photograph of one of the burials (Burial 2) found in 1932 that shows various grave goods in situ (Wallace 2008:204, Figure 2). The more richly appointed interments imply

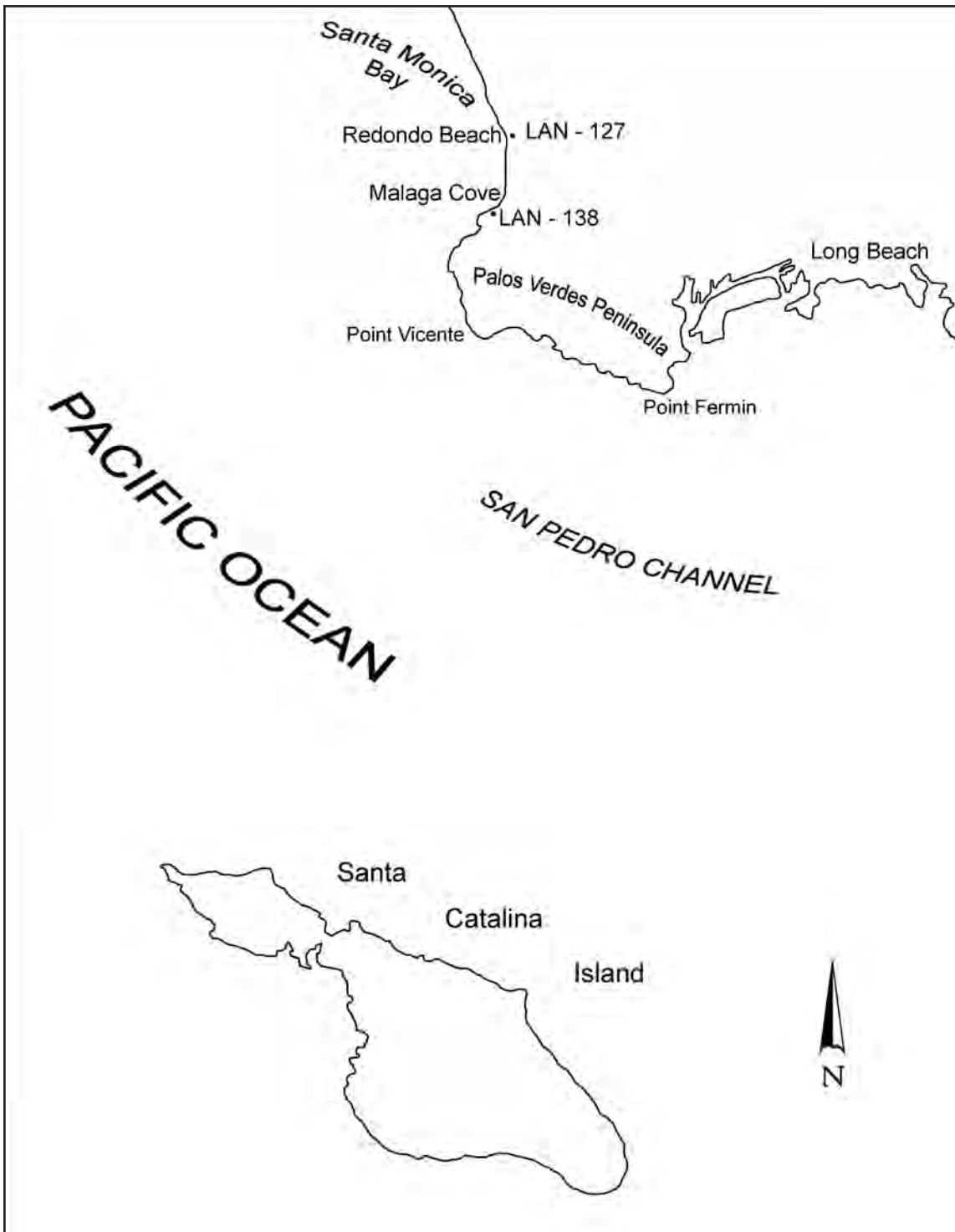


Figure 1. Locations of CA-LAN-127 and CA-LAN-138.

a level of wealth and status distinction uncommon in hunter-gatherer societies. Also, the number and variety of steatite items produced at and distributed from Catalina Island and recovered during the 1932 effort reflect sophisticated production/distribution considered singular for hunter-gatherers.

The approximately 100 artifacts from the 1932 work are stored at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and were inspected and analyzed by the senior author. The artifacts were examined (measured, photographed, etc.), the LACMNH excavation photographs were scrutinized, and the site catalog, field notes, and sketches were reviewed. Unfortunately, the museum would not permit us to include any photographs, drawings, maps, or any other such representations of the excavations or of the burials themselves. In addition, no radiocarbon dating or chemical analyses were permitted. Thus, the purpose of this paper is to provide descriptions and a visual inventory of mortuary-related artifacts discovered during the 1932 excavations at the site and to provide some discussion regarding their importance to the prehistory of the area.

This analysis resurrects points of interest raised in Wallace's (2008) brief overview of the artifact recoveries at LAN-127. Through his many years researching regional prehistory, Wallace understood that there were striking differences between the artifacts frequently obtained from the mortuary associated areas of a site and artifacts recovered from its general midden (living areas). In Wallace's experience, the best example of such involved the mortuary related areas of the Palmer-Redondo site with their "astounding display of carved stone artifacts" versus the site's midden that revealed only "a modest collection of workaday stone implements" (Wallace 2008:203). Such intrasite patterning remained an insoluble "enigma" for Wallace.

Wallace was also intrigued by the fact that LAN-127 death-related goods seemed to have no parallel in the

regional archaeological record, and he wondered why. He further wondered about the range of venues for such ritual objects, noting that there was documentation for their occurrence in caches and other circumstances lacking testimony to connections with death rites. He hoped for some enlightenment regarding the symbolic communications of such ritual objects and regarding the statuses of persons who controlled them in life and/or possessed them in death.

We submit our own points of interest on the LAN-127 materials. Many of the objects illustrated and described herein were fashioned of Catalina steatite, a few of serpentine material, and most or all were likely manufactured on Santa Catalina Island. Such inspires questions about interactions that occurred between island traders and Tongva villagers along the lower third of Santa Monica Bay during the latter part of the Del Rey Tradition (see Sutton 2010:Table 1, Figure 3).

Description of Burials and Inventory of Burial Goods

A total of nine burials were recovered from the site in 1932, all inhumations (see Table 1). The remains were poorly documented, and information on age, sex, position, orientation, and pathology is generally lacking. Some 64 described artifacts were found in direct association with the burials (Table 2), and an unknown number of *Olivella* beads were also found. Below, we provide descriptions of the burials and their accompaniments.

Burial Number 1

Burial No. 1 was the interment of a child. The skeleton was degraded such that no estimate of chronological age at death could be obtained, and no further information on position, orientation, or pathologies is available. Sixteen grave goods were placed with Burial 1: 10 spikes (all "Wallace spikes," those being the gen-

Table 1. Burial Data from the 1932 Excavations at the Palmer-Redondo Site (CA-LAN-127).

Burial	Age	Sex	Flexure	Position	Direction of Head	Grave Goods (n) ^a	Estimated Phase ^b
1	child	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	16	Angeles IV
2	young adult	unknown	semiflexed	right side	east	17	Angeles IV
3	adult	female (?)	extended	right side	east	4	undetermined
4	adult	unknown	extended	prone	north	8	Angeles IV-V
5	adult	unknown	extended	prone	unknown	4	Angeles IV
6	adult	male (?)	semiflexed	right side	west	6	undetermined
7	adult	unknown	too disturbed to determine			8	Angeles IV
8	no description available					–	undetermined
9	adult	male (?)	semiflexed	left side	unknown	1	Angeles I-II (?)

^a See Table 2.

^b Phases of the Angeles Pattern of the Del Rey Tradition (see Sutton 2010).

Table 2. Summary of Grave Goods Recovered from the Burials during the 1932 Excavations at the Palmer-Redondo Site (CA-LAN-127).

Burial/Grave Goods ^a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totals
Wallace Spike	10	3	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	17
Stone Effigy	3	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	6
Marine Mammal Effigy	–	4	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	5
Birdstone/Hookstone	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
<i>Haliotis</i> “Bowl”	2	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	5
Shaman’s Tube	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Red Ochre	–	1	–	–	–	yes ^b	–	–	–	2
Quartz Crystal	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	3
Stone Bowl	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	3
Waterworn Pebble	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	4
Spire-ground <i>Olivella</i> Beads ^b	–	–	–	yes ^b	–	yes ^b	–	–	–	2
Unidentified Stone Object	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Stone Pipe	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	2
Pismo Clam Shell Stack	–	–	–	–	–	1 ^b	–	–	–	1
<i>Haliotis</i> Disk Bead	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Siltstone Disk	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
“Cardium” Shell	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Giant Pacific cockle shell	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Contracting Stem Point	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Totals	16	17	4	8	4	6	8	–	1	64

^a Most specimens are fragmentary.

^b The numbers are not known and so are listed as “present.”

eral shape of a railroad spike; see Sutton [2010:22]); three stone effigies; and three large univalve shells. Each specimen (numbered 1 through 16) is described below, and their locations in the burial are noted where possible.

Item 1, a black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*) shell dish (Cat. No. A.3121-32-1), was found just behind the child's head. The shell's excurrent holes were plugged with asphaltum (Figure 2). The dish was set into the grave with its inner surface facing up. The dish is 216 mm long and weighs 301 g.



Figure 2. *Haliotis* shell dish (Item 1) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.

A steatite effigy (Item 2; Cat. No. A.3121-32-3) had been placed inside the abalone dish. The effigy was possibly a dimorphic sexual symbol, one side projecting labial and clitoral imagery (Figure 3), the opposite side communicating male imagery (Figure 4). The specimen is 124 mm long, has a maximum width of 58 mm, and weighs 196 g. The surfaces are ground smooth, and they have been polished. A small piece broken away from one end sits between the skull and dish. The breakage may have been purposeful. There may be a very small amount of asphaltum on the male side, and a minimal amount of gopher gnawing is



Figure 3. Steatite effigy (Item 2) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127. Possible dimorphic sexual symbol.



Figure 4. Opposite side of Item 2, Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 3).

detected on the other side (Figure 3) (see also McCawley 1996:135, Figure 54).

Item 3 (Cat. No. A.3123-32-11a, b) is a phallic spike (Figures 5a and 6) in two pieces that do not quite fit together. The knob end of the spike had been placed into the female component of the effigy (Item 2) discussed above. The smaller part of the spike (with the knob) (length = 165 mm) did not touch the skull, but the larger part (length = 192 mm) almost touched the skull and sat at a different angle. It seems clear that this artifact had been purposefully broken (“killed”). Maximum width of the larger piece is 43 mm, and maximum width of the smaller piece is 42 mm. Together the pieces weigh 818 g. The cross section is more or less circular. Curved spikes are much less frequent than straight spikes. The piece was shaped by grinding what is probably a fine sandstone material.

Another spike (Item 4; Cat. No. A.3121-32-8a, b) (Figures 5b and 7) was found partially over the skull in two pieces, undoubtedly purposefully broken. The two pieces sat at different angles to one another. They had been glued together by LACMNH laboratory personnel. This spike was made from a dense, heavy, very

fine siltstone into an artifact with exquisite symmetry. Its cross section is ovoid, and its surfaces are quite smooth. The overall length is 213 mm, the maximum width at the head is 56 mm, and the measurement transverse to that is 36 mm. The senior author neglected to weigh the piece.

A second effigy (Item 5; Cat. No. A.3121-32-4) (Figures 8 and 9) was found lying between the child’s skull and the black abalone dish (Item 1) and just touching the aforementioned siltstone spike (Item 4). It is slender and curved in shape, was made from a unique dark gray steatite, and may have been manufactured from a rim sherd of a steatite bowl. It weighs 82 g and is about 91 mm from its tip to the farthest point back. At its widest the piece measures just over 28 mm. The surfaces are generally smooth, and it appears lightly polished in places. The LACMNH archaeologists had called it a possible fish fetish but also noted its resemblance to a tadpole. The underside of the curved piece is not ground flat, but rather is slightly grooved. Thus, we suggest that it is possibly a mimic of a raptor talon. A photograph showing this specimen was previously published along with another effigy from Burial 1 (Miller 1991:62).

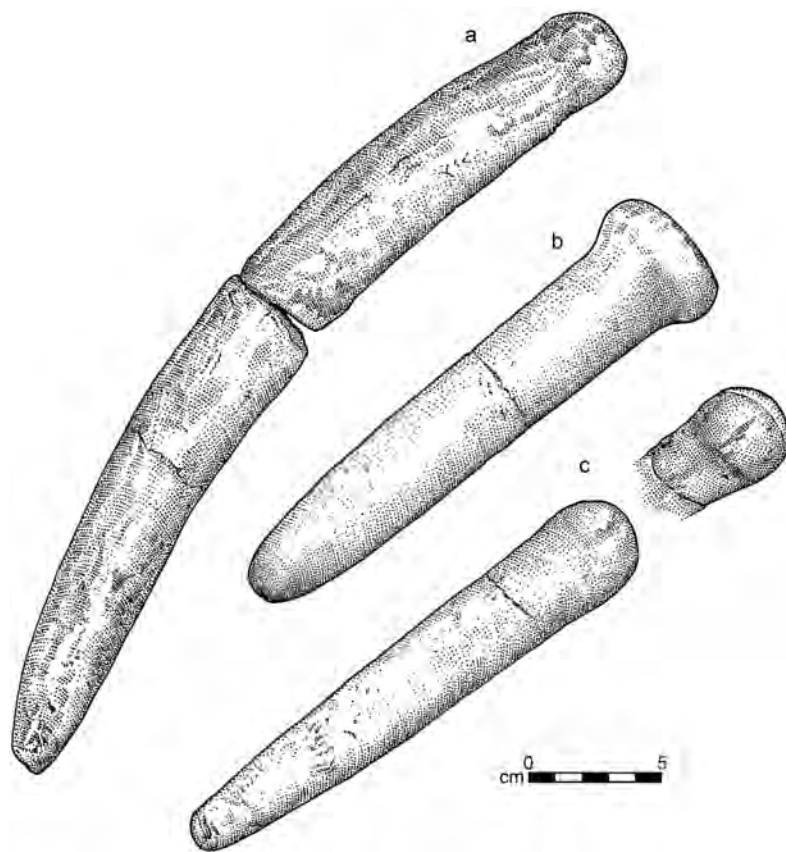


Figure 5. Three Wallace spikes from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127: a) Item 3; b) Item 4; c) Item 7.



Figure 6. Wallace spike (Item 3) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 5a).

A third effigy (Item 6; Cat. No. A.3121-32-5) (Figures 10 and 11) was believed by Van Valkenburgh to be a possible shark mimic due to its “cigar-shape” and “fish like protuberance.” A cetacean symbol also comes to mind. Van Valkenburgh’s Burial 1 feature map is incomplete and does not show the location of this effigy. Carved from a hard, mottled, tan colored stone, it measures 78 mm long, 27 mm in width, 39 mm in height, and weighs 76 g. A previous illustration of the specimen can be found in Koerper and Desautels-Wiley (2012:62, Figure 22b).

A spike (Item 7; Cat. No. A.3121-32-6) (Figures 5c and 12) cannot be located in the feature map. It appears to have been purposefully broken. This light tan siltstone specimen is somewhat oval in cross section and has a slightly bulbous head with unusual grooves (Figure 12) that enhance the phallic look.

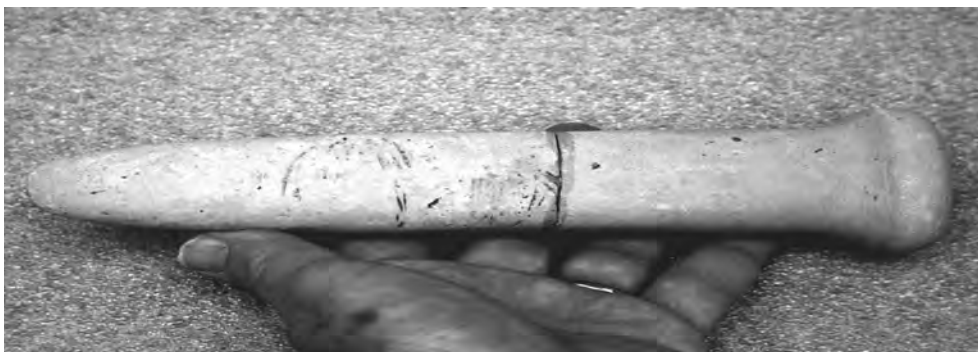


Figure 7. Wallace spike (Item 4) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 5b).



Figure 8. Steatite effigy (Item 5) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127. Possible mimic of a raptor talon.

Its length is 205 mm, its maximum width is 39 mm, its maximum thickness is 27 mm, and its weight is 293 g.

Another spike (Item 8; Cat. No. A.3121-32-9a) (Figures 13a, b) is not indicated in the feature drawing. It is made of tan, dense siltstone, and it is also in two pieces, which joined together reach 203 mm in length. At the bulbous head, width is 50 mm, and thickness is 32 mm. It weighs 357 g. It is ovoid in cross section. Its breakage may have been the result of a ritual “killing.”

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Still another spike (Item 9; Cat. No. A.3121-32-9b) (Figure 14) could not be located on the rough feature field map. It has a bulbous head similar to Item 8 described above, is ovoid in cross section, and was fashioned of dense siltstone. Its length is 219 mm, and it weighs 329 g. At the head, width is 45 mm, and thickness is 26 mm. It also is a candidate for having been purposefully broken, or “killed.”

Crafted of a friable sandstone, the somewhat curved spike (Item 10; Cat. No. A.3121-32-10) seen in Figures 15 and 16 is in three pieces. It too was not shown on the

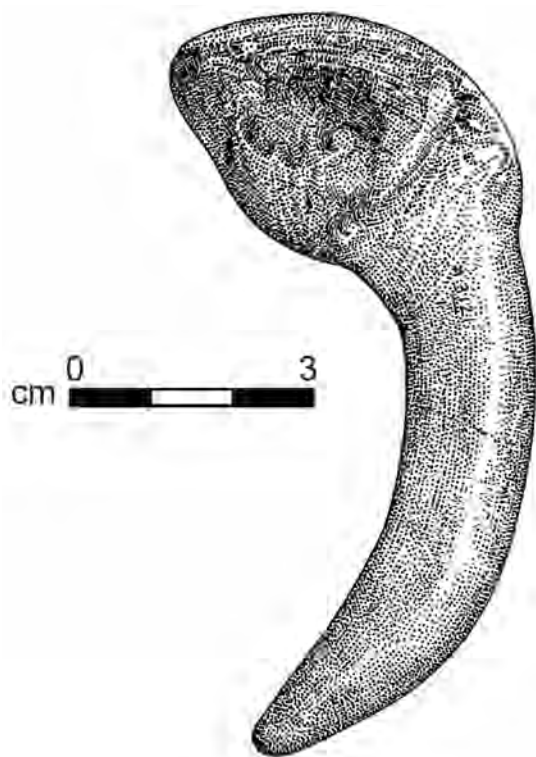


Figure 9. Steatite effigy (Item 5) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 8).

field map, and so its location in the feature is unknown. This spike is somewhat distinctive for its double ringed (Figure 16), phallic-like head. It ranges between ovoid and round in cross section. The piece is 259 mm long, has a maximum thickness of 50 mm, and weighs 568 g. It appears that the specimen was purposefully broken.

With breaks in three places, the dense siltstone spike shown in Figure 17 (Item 11; Cat. No. A.3121-32-12) seems yet another victim of a ritual “killing.” It is ovoid in cross section, is 245 mm long, and weighs 410 g. The knob is 43 x 31 mm. It is not identified on the Burial 1 feature map.

The 8 mm end of another “spike type” fetish (Item 12; Cat. No. A.3121-32-13) was unavailable for analysis. Its position in the burial feature is unknown.

Two other spikes, both complete, were associated with Burial 1, but their exact positions in the grave are unknown. The first specimen (Item 13; Cat. No. A.3121-32-8b) was shaped out of heavy, dense siltstone



Figure 10. Effigy (Item 6) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127. Possible representation of a fish or cetacean.



Figure 11. Effigy (Item 6) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127, representing a fish or cetacean.



Figure 12. Wallace spike (Item 7) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 5c).

(Figure 18). Its catalog number suggests that it may have been paired with specimen Item 4 (see Figures 5b and 7). The specimen is 159 mm long and weighs 177 g; the dimensions of the head are 44 x 26 mm. The second specimen (Item 14; Cat. No. A.3121-32-7) is a tan siltstone spike. It is 138 mm long and weighs 140 g. As seen in Figure 19, it has a groove encircling the tip of the large end, which measures 27 x 25 mm. It is ovoid in cross section.

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A large unmodified giant Pacific cockle (*Trachycardium quadragenarium*) shell (Item 15; Cat. No. A.3121-32-2) lay partially under the black abalone shell (Item 1). The sculpted surface of the cockle shell faced upward. It is 116 mm long and weighs 141 g (Figure 20). The shape of giant Pacific cockle shells (along with *Laevicardium elatum* [giant egg cockle] shells) may have carried *mons veneris* symbolism.



Figure 13. Wallace spike (Item 8) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127: a) proximal end with bulbous head; b) distal end.



Figure 14. Wallace spike (Item 9) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 15. Wallace spike (Item 10) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 16. Wallace spike (Item 10) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 15). Proximal end has two encircling grooves at the head.



Figure 17. Wallace spike (Item 11) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 18. Wallace spike (Item 13) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 19. Wallace spike (Item 14) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 20. Giant Pacific cockle shell (Item 15) from Burial No. 1, CA-LAN-127.

About 60 cm from the skull was another *Haliotis* shell (Item 16), but it received no catalog number. There was nothing in this shell. As this specimen was not available for examination, it is not further described.

Burial 1 contained a large number and diversity of grave goods, including ten Wallace spikes, three kinds of stone effigies, and three large univalve shells. Clearly, this is an extensive offering for a child. The presence of a large number of Wallace spikes suggests that this burial was associated with the Angeles IV phase of the Del Rey tradition, dating perhaps to between 1250 and 800 BP (Sutton 2010:Table 2).

Burial Number 2

As Burial No. 1 draws special notice for its disproportionate share of Wallace spikes (10) over effigies (3), Burial No. 2, containing 17 artifacts (numbered Item 17 through Item 33) commands special attention for its relatively large number of effigies (11) over Wallace spikes (3). Burial 2 was a young adult interred in a semi-flexed manner on its right side with the unbent legs forming a near 45 degree angle with the axis of the spine. No information on health or pathologies is available.

The great majority of mortuary offerings were deposited along the back and atop the upper left side of the deceased after the body had been placed into the grave (see Wallace 2008:204:Figure 2). The majority of items were concentrated within the upper back area—five of the six “birdstone/hookstones,” three of the four sea mammal effigies, all three spikes, and one possible shaman tube. Along the lower back, there were three more items—a seal effigy, the sixth birdstone/hookstone, and a unique effigy possibly standing as a dimorphic sexual symbol.

Of the five birdstone/hookstones located along the upper back, three were at one time decorated with shell

insets. The first specimen (Item 17; Cat. No. A.3121-32-24a) (Figure 21) was found directly adjacent to and nearly touching the mandible. The piece was made from a very hard, reddish sandstone and has a streak of asphaltum at the top of its “head” and “bill,” or what some would refer to as the “hook” part of the “hookstone.” Also immediately noticeable are the smooth surfaces and appealing symmetry of this piece, which shows some wash of red ochre. The artifact stands 71 mm tall, is 53 mm long, has a maximum width of 43 mm, and weighs 171 g.

The second birdstone/hookstone specimen (Item 18; Cat. No. A.3121-32-24b) (Figures 22 and 23) was discovered juxtaposed against the largest spike (Item 28, see below) and one of the two whale effigies (Item 25, see below). It was made of steatite and similarly shows asphaltum, and three impressions of bead insets can clearly be seen (Figure 23). The piece is 59 mm high, close to 40 mm long, about 24 mm wide, and it weighs 55 g.

The third birdstone/hookstone with asphaltum atop its head/hook (Item 19; Cat. No. A.3121-32-25b) was discovered lying near the deceased’s mandible. It appears to be made of sandstone, and it probably was coated, at least in part, with reddish ochre. This piece was not available for examination, but LACMNH personnel reported the piece to be about 2 in (50 mm) in height and about 1 in (25 mm) wide. Weight could not be recorded for Item 19.

The fourth birdstone/hookstone specimen along the back of Burial 2 (Item 20; Cat. No. A.3121-32-26a) (Figure 24) was made from steatite and retains a light wash of red ochre over much of its surfaces. Symmetry is exquisite. It stands 75 mm high, has a maximum length at the base of 47 mm, has a maximum width at the base of 33 mm, and weighs 96 g. When discovered, it sat just back of the occipital bone, part of a tight cluster of six effigies.



Figure 21. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 17) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 22. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 18) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 23. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 18) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127, has disk-shaped bead inserts cemented with asphaltum atop its "beak" (see also Figure 22).



Figure 24. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 20) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.

The fifth birdstone/hookstone object found along the back of Burial 2 (Item 21; Cat. No. A.3121-32-26b) (Figure 25) was made from a relatively hard, very high quality steatite or serpentine. The distal “beak” of the object had broken away; presumably the missing part was not recovered by the LACMNH crew. Many striations from manufacture are visible, and in places red ochre is quite evident. Its height is just under 83 mm, its length is 54 mm, its maximum thickness at the base is 32 mm, and it weighs 131 g. When excavated, the base lay up against the deceased’s foramen magnum.

A sixth birdstone/hookstone (Item 22; Cat. No. A.3121-32-25a) (Figures 26 and 27) was discovered not far from the right ilium of the innominate bone and was found paired (they laid side-by-side) with the seal effigy (Item 23, see below). The birdstone/hookstone was made of serpentine or high quality steatite, and the rear of the base is deeply grooved.

The LACMNH catalog noted “indications of tar inlay on top of the hook,” but this was an error. The stone carving stands 62 mm tall, its base measures 35 mm, and it weighs 72 g.

Two of the birdstone/hookstone objects from Burial 2 (Items 18 and 22) are pictured in McCawley (1996:128, Figure 46). Cameron (2000:38, Table 12) provided a general description of the six birdstone/hookstones from Burial 2, but three of the specimens shown in her Figure 12.11 (the left and center specimens in the upper row and the left specimen in the lower row) are not from Burial 2.

A seal effigy (Item 23; Cat. No. A.3121-32-23) (Figures 28 and 29) was discovered not far from the right ilium of the innominate bone and was found paired with a birdstone/hookstone (Item 22, see above). The seal effigy was made from soft yellowish gray stone (not steatite) and was carved to indicate a mouth, fore



Figure 25. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 21) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 26. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 22) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 27. Birdstone/hookstone (Item 22) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 26).



Figure 28. Seal effigy (Item 23) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 29. Seal effigy (Item 23) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 28).

flippers, hind flippers, and a tail. Positioning of the flippers and a distinct tail suggests this artifact was intended to represent a California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*), an otariid, rather than a harbor (common) seal (*Phoca vitulina*), a phocid (see Kasper 1980). There is some red ochre on the specimen. It is 93 mm long, has a maximum width at the front flippers of 38 mm, and weighs 134 g. Landberg (1965:73) published two photographs of this particular seal effigy, but unfortunately he erroneously attributed the effigy to the Chumash rather than the Tongva.

An effigy of a sea otter (Item 24; Cat. No. A.3121-32-22) (Figures 30–32) was found near the lower

back. The piece was made from a grayish steatite and appears to have been once covered with red ochre. A head, mouth, legs, and tail are indicated, and the animal seems to strike a familiar pose, swimming or lounging in water with belly up. Its length is 61 mm, its maximum width is only 27 mm, and its weight is 32 g.

Two whale effigies were discovered side-by-side at the upper back. Neither was available for our study, but both are listed in the LACMNH catalog. Item 25 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-21a) was described as being made of gray stone, 5 in (12.7 mm) long and 1.1 in (28 mm) wide (flippers not included). A mouth, nose,



Figure 30. Underside of sea otter effigy (Item 24) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 31. Head and foreparts of sea otter effigy (Item 24) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figures 30 and 32).



Figure 32. Backside of sea otter effigy (Item 24) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figures 30 and 31).

and tail were also indicated. Item 25 has about the same design as Item 26 (see Figure 33). Item 26 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-21b) (Figure 33) was described as being made of gray stone, 5 in (12.7 mm) long and 1.2 in (30 mm) wide (flippers not included). This latter piece was pictured in Landberg (1965:73) but incorrectly attributed to the Chumash. It was that image that served as the model for the drawing shown in Figure 33.

The steatite artifact (Item 27; Cat. No. A.3121-32-20) seen in Figures 34 and 35 was referred to by Van Valkenburgh's team as a "spade-shaped fetish." This possible dimorphic sexual symbol is 117 mm long, has a maximum width of 81 mm, a maximum width at the head of 53 mm, a maximum thickness of a mere 7.0 mm, and weighs 115 g. Deep incisions can be seen in Figure 34; on the opposite side there are no incisions, but the surface is heavily coated with red ochre. Although Item 27 is very flat, the reader may recognize some small similarity to an artifact in Burial 1 (Item 2; see Figures 3 and 4). It also bears some general resemblance to an effigy found in Burial 4 (Item 38; see below) and also to an artifact (Item 94, see below) that was part of the LAN-127 "miscellaneous fill" material (see below). The head of the largest Wallace spike in the burial (Item 28, see below) lay adjacent to the base of this very thin specimen.

The large Wallace spike (Item 28; Cat. No. A.3121-32-15) (Figures 36 and 37) found adjacent to Item 27 (see above) was made from what appears to be a very dense, hard steatite. The pointed end is a dark color and is smooth, actually looking polished. The head is elaborate with its rim and two rings all drenched in red ochre. Few who look upon this end could miss its phallic communication. The piece is 209 mm long, has a maximum thickness at the head of 57 mm, and weighs 536 g.

There are two additional Wallace spikes, both found along the upper back and both close to Item 28. The first (Item 29; Cat. No. A.3121-32-14) (Figure 38) was made from siltstone. It is ovoid in cross section, and its head is bulbous. It is 171 mm long, has a maximum width of 47 mm, has a maximum thickness of 34 mm, and weighs 261 g. The second (Item 30; Cat. No. A.3121-32-16) (Figure 39) was made from schist and is flat on one side but curved on the opposite side. Its length is 200 mm, its maximum width is 41 mm, its maximum thickness is a mere 11 mm, and it weighs 165 g.

Among the jumble of grave furniture positioned along the backside and atop the upper left side of the body, mourners had placed a steatite cigar-shaped object (Item 31; Cat. No. A.3121-32-17) (Figures 40 and 41). This instrument is slightly ovoid in cross section, is

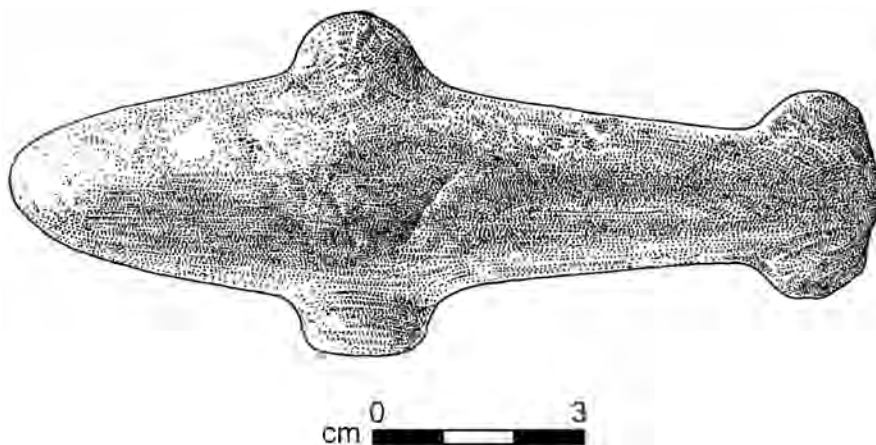


Figure 33. Whale effigy (Item 26) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.

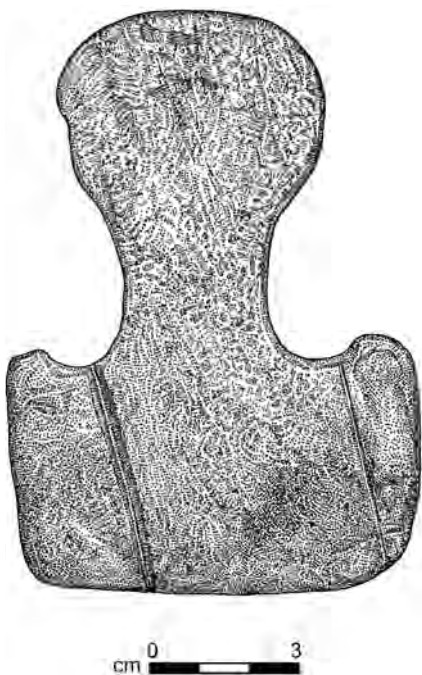


Figure 34. Steatite effigy (Item 27) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127. Possibly a dimorphic sexual symbol.



Figure 35. Red ochre covered surface of steatite effigy (Item 27) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 34).

177 mm long, has a maximum diameter of 30 mm, and weighs 223 g. Its hole is 14 mm in diameter and is 80 mm deep. This piece immediately offers an interpretive challenge. Van Valkenburgh supposed the piece to be an unusual spike, but the general morphology suggests a smoking pipe of the Tapered Conical type (see Bonner 1985:153, 158, Figure 16A). However, it is drilled only at one end, and given that the tapered end was shaped to a very symmetrical, smoothed point, it is likely that there had been no intention of drilling the piece end-to-end. Add to that the fact of pleasing symmetry and all surfaces carefully crafted, nearly polished, and one must suppose the specimen was a completed object. One might further wonder about the propriety of committing an incomplete item to burial ritual. Since sucking tubes are drilled all the way through, we suggest the object may have been a shaman's tube/counterirritant device, its open end serving to receive ignited punk. In other words it may have been a kind of applicator of smoldering material that would have caused a blister to arise on a patient's skin (see Snyder and Koerper 2014).

A 145 g chunk of grainy, dark red ochre (Item 32; Cat. No. A.3121-32-18) accompanied Burial 2. It had been placed just to the front of the mandible. The specimen is shown in Figure 42.

A clear quartz crystal (Item 33, Cat. No. A.3121-32-19) (Figure 43) is possibly the tiny object mapped as lying close to the whale effigies and the cluster of birdstone/hookstones near the deceased's neck. Broken at both its ends, the 19 mm long crystal weighs just less than 1 g. The LACMNH catalog incorrectly listed the specimen as a tourmaline crystal.

The presence of a large number of birdstone/hookstone effigies suggests that this burial was associated with the Angeles IV phase of the Del Rey tradition (Sutton 2010:Table 2). Birdstone/hookstones are thought to date to the later portion of Angeles IV (e.g., see Wallace and Wallace 1974:59; Meighan 1976:27;



Figure 36. Wallace spike (Item 28) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 37. Head of Wallace spike (Item 28) covered with red ochre from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 36).

Cameron 1983, 1988; Koerper and Labbé 1987; Wallace 1987; Sutton 2010), and so this burial may date to sometime between 1000 and 800 BP.

Burial Number 3

The LACMNH field photograph of Burial Number 3 shows the remains of an adult. Some of the bones were poorly preserved, and others were possibly removed before the burial photograph was taken. Certain skeletal elements hint of a female more so than a male. For instance, the greater sciatic notch of the right innominate bone is broad, and the heads of the femora seem proportionally small. The body appears to have been placed fully extended into the grave to rest on its right side with the head pointing generally east. No information regarding health or pathologies is available.

The field photograph shows a very symmetrical-crafted, round sandstone bowl (Item 34; Cat.



Figure 38. Wallace spike (Item 29) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 39. Wallace spike (Item 30) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 40. Tubular object (Item 31) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127. Hole drilled at larger end does not penetrate to the opposite tapered end.



Figure 41. Tubular object (Item 31) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 40), holed end.



Figure 42. Dark red pigment stone (Item 32) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.

No. A.3121-32-28) set against or nearly against the head. Its height was given as 8 in (ca. 20 cm), and it measured 11.5 in (ca. 29 cm) in diameter. The walls averaged about 1.5 in (ca. 38 mm) in thickness. The rim was flat and without insets. According to the field notes, the artifact was largely intact, although its bottom had been purposefully knocked out (“killed”). It was not available for the current study.

The second artifact, a complete, small, light gray micaceous steatite bowl (Item 35; Cat. No. A.3121-32-27) (Figures 44–46) lay beneath the crushed skull. It has less than perfect symmetry, and there is an incised line that runs just below its rim. The height of this 880 g specimen is 104 mm. Maximum diameter is 97 mm, and a measurement transverse to that is 89 mm. Rim thickness is variable, averaging ca. 7.5 mm. This



Figure 43. Quartz crystal (Item 33) from Burial No. 2, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 44. Small steatite bowl (Item 35) from Burial No. 3, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 45. Small steatite bowl (Item 35) from Burial No. 3, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figures 44 and 46).



Figure 46. Small steatite bowl (Item 35) from Burial No. 3, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figures 44 and 45).

steatite receptacle held two oblong, waterworn stones (Items 36 and 37) according to the field notes. These two beach pebbles were missing from the collection, and neither was ever cataloged.

There were no marker artifacts found with Burial 3. Thus, its age and cultural affiliation are unknown.

Burial Number 4

The remains of Burial No. 4 consisted of the skeleton of an adult of unknown sex lying extended on its back with arms parallel to the body and its head generally to the north. No specific information regarding age or pathologies is available.

Seven individual items were found adjacent to the lower legs, and a “mass” (an unknown number) of spire-ground *Olivella* beads was apparently spread on top of the body. One artifact was a steatite effigy (Item 38; Cat. No. A.3121-32-32) (Figures 47 and 48) crafted to represent a dimorphic sexual symbol. The surfaces of this light gray to medium gray piece are very finely smoothed, and in places it displays a polish. Its length is 176 mm, its maximum width is 104 mm, its maximum thickness is 32 mm, and its weight is 672 g.

A small bowl (Item 39) was shown in a field drawing of the Burial 4 artifact cache and was depicted as directly adjacent to Item 38. This bowl was almost

certainly broken (as depicted in the field map), but was not further described, was not cataloged, and was not present in the museum collections made available for the current study.

Item 40 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-31) (Figure 49) is a piece of shaped vesicular basalt. It has a groove at its mid-section, and there is asphaltum in two places to suggest that a cord had wound around the object. It is 48 mm long, weighs 25 g, and reminds us of a fishing line weight. It lay adjacent to the small bowl (Item 39).

A fragment of a “beach stone” (Item 41), possibly a waterworn pebble, was also depicted as lying near the



Figure 47. Steatite effigy (Item 38), a dimorphic sexual symbol probably derived from the birdstone/hookstone genre. Discovered with Burial No. 4, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 48. One side of the narrow end of steatite effigy (Item 38) from Burial No. 4, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 47).

bowl (Item 39). It had not been cataloged and was not present in the museum collection. A second “beach stone,” or waterworn pebble (Item 42), was shown on the field map as lying under the steatite effigy (Item 38) but was not cataloged and was not present in the museum collection. Another missing object (Item 43), one also appearing next to the bowl in the very rough sketch of the goods cache and lower leg bones, was described merely as the fragment of a “fetish.”

A complete shell dish made from black abalone (*Haliotis cracherodii*) (Item 44; Cat. No. A.3121-32-30) (Figure 50) had been placed over the head of the body. The excurrent holes had apparently been plugged with

asphaltum, but those plugs are now missing. The dish is 96 mm long and weighs 210 g.

Finally, a “mass” of spire ground *Olivella* beads (“Item” 45; Cat. No. A.3121-32-29) reportedly covered the body. The number of beads is unknown, and they were not within the collection.

Spire-ground *Olivella* beads are not identified as useful phase markers, but the presence of a steatite effigy suggests that this burial was associated with the latter portion of the Angeles Pattern. Thus, it may be related to either the Angeles IV or V phases, dating between 1250 and 450 BP (Sutton 2010).



Figure 49. Grooved piece of vesicular basalt (Item 40) from Burial No. 4, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 50. *Haliotis* shell dish with asphaltum plugged excurrent holes (Item 44) that was placed over the head of Burial No. 4, CA-LAN-127.

Burial Number 5

The skeletal remains of Burial No. 5 were poorly preserved. This adult had possibly been placed in the grave on his or her back and in an extended position. No further information regarding age, sex, position, health, or pathologies is available.

Four artifacts were recovered from this interment. The first was a red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) shell dish (Figure 51), found near the right parietal bone. This large specimen (Item 46; Cat. No. A.3121-32-33) re-

tains its asphaltum plugs, has a diameter of about 216 mm, and it weighs 698 g.

Second, a large fragment of a steatite/serpentine elbow smoking pipe (Item 47; A.3121-32-34) (Figure 52) was found along the side of the abalone dish (Item 46), but away from the skull. The fragment is 119 mm in length, running from the end where a mouthpiece might have been inserted to a position close to where the bend (elbow) had occurred. The maximum diameter (29 mm) is near the break, and it weighs 126 g. The surfaces were worked to a polish. The mouth end was



Figure 51. Asphaltum plugged *Haliotis* shell dish (Item 46) from Burial No. 5, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 52. Fragment of an elbow smoking pipe (Item 47) from Burial No. 5, CA-LAN-127. Rectangular bean clam shell insets are glued at one end of the pipe, where a small tubular mouthpiece had probably been inserted.

inlaid with rectangular pieces of shell using asphaltum as mastic. The LACMNH catalogers presumed the shell was *Olivella*, but this is incorrect. The field notes identify the insets as crafted out of abalone shell, but this is also incorrect. They were all shaped from bean clam (*Donax gouldii*) shells. The distinctive, low radial sculpture of the bean clam is quite obvious on one of the insets. This may be the first documentation of bean clams used as decorative insets.

Third, a fragment of a marine animal effigy (Figure 53) crafted from steatite/serpentine (Item 48; Cat. No. A.3121-32-35) also rested near the head. At 86 mm in length, this 49 g specimen is estimated at about half the length of the original carving. Maximum width is 23 mm, and it is somewhat ovoid in cross section. The museum catalogers supposed it represented a shark for the configuration of its carved mouth. We think the mouth offers a much better mimic to a gray whale and less so to certain other kinds of whales. The mouth rides much higher than what is observed on a shark. The curve to the mouth seen in Figure 53 is quite distinctive, and it reminds us, again, especially of the gray whale but also rorqual whales (see Carwardine 2002:55–79). The look of the mouth on the opposite side is a bit different (see Koerper and Desautels-Wiley 2012:62, Figure 22c).

The final artifact found with Burial 5, a Wallace spike of serpentine (Item 49; Cat. No. A.3121-32-36) (Figure 54), was found lying along the right side of the skull. Part of the knob end of the piece had been broken off, and while that knob fragment was not in the museum collection and could not be located for this study, the field sketch shows it directly adjacent to the long body fragment of the spike. The extant spike body is ovoid in cross section, is 216 mm long, has a maximum width of 41 mm, has a transverse measurement of 29 mm, and weighs 388 g. We estimate (based on a field drawing) that the complete spike would have been between 280 and 290 mm long.

The presence of a Wallace spike and a sea mammal effigy suggests that this burial was associated with the Angeles IV phase of the Del Rey tradition, dating perhaps to between 1250 and 800 BP (Sutton 2010:Table 2).

Burial Number 6

Burial No. 6 was an adult (more likely male than female for the narrow angle of the sciatic notch) whose lower extremities were in a flexed position. Specifically, the tibiae and fibulae were drawn close to the femora, however the upper legs were only minimally bent up toward



Figure 53. Front half of a marine animal effigy (Item 48) from Burial No. 5, CA-LAN-127.

the long axis of the upper body. The body had been placed on its right side generally facing west. Much of the skeleton was poorly preserved. No further information regarding health or pathologies is available.

A distal (bowl end) fragment of a smoking pipe (Item 50; Cat. No. A.3121-32-37) (Figures 55–57) had been placed in the lap of the deceased. Created of dark gray steatite/serpentine, the pipe had been smoothed over all its outer surfaces, but it shows subsequent scraping that does not appear as an effort at decoration. The piece is 53 mm long and weighs 37 g. The rim of

the bowl is slightly flared (Figure 56), the maximum diameter being 26 mm. The diameter of the opening of the bowl is 19 mm. The diameter of the hole at the broken end (Figure 57) is just under 8 mm.

Two items were noted in the field notes but were not in either the LACMNH catalog or collection. First, a large, complete *Halotis* shell (Item 51) was found about 0.5 m from the skull. Next, a small stack of Pismo clam (*Tivela stultorum*) shells (“Item” 52) lay at the proximal end of the left femur. An indeterminate number of spire ground *Olivella* beads (“Item” 53;



Figure 54. Wallace spike (Item 49) from Burial No. 5, CA-LAN-127, missing part of the knob end.



Figure 55. Side view of smoking pipe fragment (Item 50) from Burial No. 6, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 56. View of smoking pipe fragment (Item 50) from Burial No. 6, CA-LAN-127, showing flared end of pipe bowl (see also Figures 55 and 57).

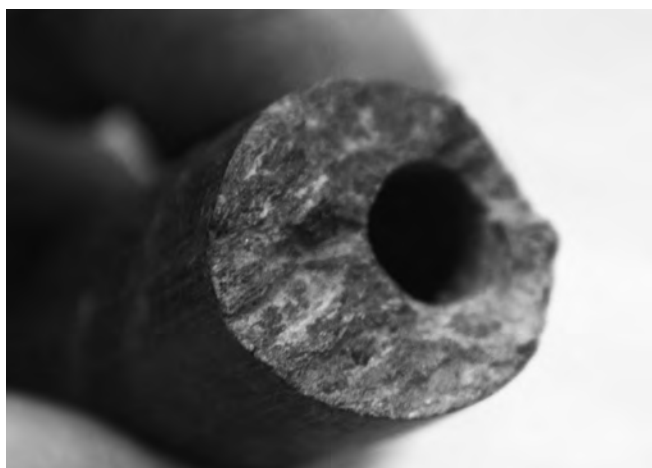


Figure 57. View of smoking pipe fragment (Item 50) from Burial No. 6, CA-LAN-127, showing broken end with drilled hole (see also Figures 55 and 56).

Cat. No. A.3121-32-38) occurred throughout the burial, and a small (ca. 8 mm) diameter *Haliotis* disk bead (Item 54; Cat. No. A.3121-32-39) was also found. Finally, it was noted that red ochre may have been sprinkled over the burial.

No artifacts that are useful as phase markers were found with this burial. Thus, its age and cultural affiliation are not known.

Burial Number 7

Burial No. 7 was an adult skeleton of undetermined sex found in a disturbed (possibly from the digging of

another burial pit) condition. No further information regarding health or pathologies is available.

Burial 7 was only 1 m removed from the “offertory area” (see below) which was rich in mortuary related goods. Van Valkenburgh (1932) thought it probable that this interment was associated with the “offertory” feature. Burial 7 contained three Wallace spikes, two siltstone disks, two crystals, and a “Cardium” shell, but all these may have been in a secondary context.

The first spike (Item 55; Cat. No. A.3121-32-42) (Figure 58) was a fragment shaped from a very fine-

grained sandstone or siltstone. It is curved along its length and ovoid in cross section, and two parallel grooved encirclements were incised at its head end. It weighs 175 g, has a maximum width of 34 mm, and has a length of 120 mm, but we suppose it had once been much longer. At what is surely a break, a fine grained abrasive had been used to smooth the broken edges.

The second spike (Item 56; Cat. No. A.3121-32-40) (Figure 59) is a complete, relatively flat specimen

made from a dense siltstone. It has short incised lines along one edge. It weighs 225 g, measures 182 mm in length, and at the bulbous head maximum width and maximum thickness are 51 mm and 18 mm respectively.

The third spike (Item 57; Cat. No. A.3121-32-41) (Figure 60) was also made of siltstone. The head end, being very slightly grooved, lends to the look of a fossilized cigar. The artifact weighs 161 g and is 203 mm long. The cross section is generally ovoid.

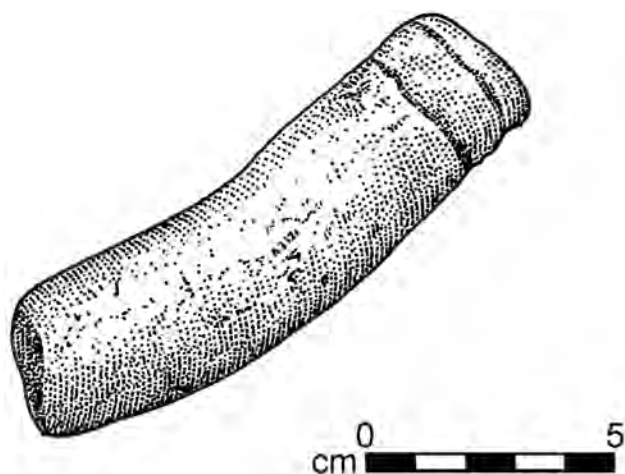


Figure 58. Wallace spike (Item 55) from Burial No. 7, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 59. Wallace spike (Item 56) from Burial No. 7, CA-LAN-127.

Maximum width is 34 mm, and maximum thickness is 24 mm.

Two small, biconically drilled siltstone disks, probably ornaments, were found with Burial 7. The first (Item 58, Cat. No. A.3121-32-43a) (Figure 61, left) weighs 7.0 g, has a maximum diameter of 29.5 mm, and a maximum thickness of 4.7 mm. The piece was biconically drilled and has a perforation diameter of

2.1 mm on the side shown in the figure, while the perforation diameter of the other side is 5.4 mm. The surfaces feel a bit gritty. The second (Item 59; Cat. No. A.3121-32-43b) (Figure 61, right) weighs 5 g, has a maximum diameter of 28.7 mm, and a maximum thickness of 3.8 mm. It too was biconically drilled, with the perforation shown in the figure being 3.6 mm, while the other side is 1.3 mm. The surface is rather smooth.



Figure 60. Wallace spike (Item 57) from Burial No. 7, CA-LAN-127.

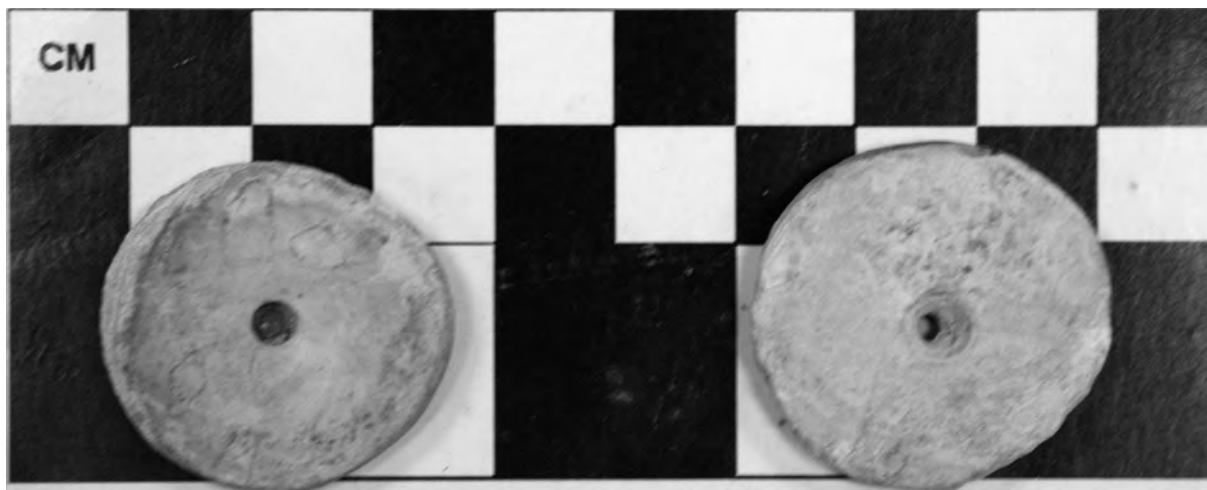


Figure 61. Two biconically drilled siltstone disks (ornaments?) (Items 58 and 59) from Burial No. 7, CA-LAN-127.

Two crystals were found in association with Burial 7, each reportedly with asphaltum (as mastic?) at the broken ends. The first (Item 60; Cat. No. A.3121-322-44a) was about 44 mm long, while the other (Item 61; Cat. No. A.3121-322-44b) was about 29 mm long. The catalog lists them as tourmaline, but more likely they were clear quartz crystals. They were unavailable for observation.

The field notes indicate that a large “Cardium” (cf. cockle) shell (Item 62) accompanied the deceased. This item was never cataloged and was not with the collection.

The presence of the Wallace spikes suggests that this burial was associated with the Angeles IV phase of the Del Rey tradition, dating between 1250 and 800 BP (Sutton 2010:Table 2).

Burial Number 8

For Burial 8, we found no description of the physical remains, and no further information regarding sex, age, position, health or pathologies is available. There were no grave goods recorded with Burial No. 8, and so its chronological placement is unknown.

Burial Number 9

Van Valkenburgh’s field notes (1932) do not mention Burial No. 9, but there is a photograph that shows the skull and some of the arm bones. The individual appears to be a young adult who was placed in a grave with the arms tightly flexed and drawn up to the chest. The body lay on its left side. A large mastoid process and what appears to be somewhat strong development of the mental protuberance suggest a male. No further information regarding health or pathologies is available.

A single artifact was found with Burial 9: a contracting stem projectile point made from good quality Franciscan chert (Item 63; Cat. No. A.3121-32-45) (Figure 62). The point was found along the right ulna, the tip pointed toward the skull, with its tang being less than 10 cm from the elbow. The piece itself was incorrectly labeled with a catalog number ending in “-48,” which actually belongs to a killed steatite bowl discovered in the “offertory area” at LAN-127, but the correct catalog number for the specimen is A.3121-32-45. The point is 82 mm long, has a maximum thickness of 8.4 mm, and weighs 17 g. A small amount of asphaltum indicates the artifact was once



Figure 62. Contracting stem projectile point (Item 63) from Burial No. 9, CA-LAN-127.

hafted. The tip of one barb is missing, otherwise its condition is excellent.

A variety of contracting stem points are known from coastal southern California and have been identified at the Landing Hill sites (Cleland et al. 2007:193), LAN-61 (Lambert 1983:Figure 2; Van Horn and Murray 1985:95–96), LAN-63 (Lambert 1983:Figure 5; Van Horn 1987:96–97, Figure 31), and LAN-64 in the Ballona (Lambert 1983:Figure 6; Van Horn 1987:247, Figure 92). Contracting stem points have often been classified within the Gypsum series (following Heizer and Hester 1978:13; but see Thomas 1981:35) as Elko contracting stem or as Vandenberg contracting stem (also see Justice 2002:241–275), and they generally date between 4000 and 1800 BP (e.g., Sutton et al. 2007:241). Along the coast, large contracting stem points are considered by some (e.g., Harrison 1964; Moratto 1984:137–138) as markers of the Hunting Culture, or Campbell Tradition.

The presence of what appears to be a Vandenberg contracting stem point suggests one of three possibilities. First, the burial may be associated with the Angeles I or II phases of the Angeles Pattern, dating between 3500 and 2600 BP (Sutton 2010). It is also possible that point was an heirloom piece buried with the deceased. Lastly, it is possible that the burial pit was excavated into an earlier component and that the point incidentally ended up in the soil around the burial. At this time, we do not favor one of these possibilities over the others.

The “Offertory Area” Inventory

Introduction

“Wonderful worked materials” concentrated within a small area were excavated and cataloged by the LACMNH team in 1932. This area was called the “offertory area” by Van Valkenburgh (1932), who erroneously estimated it to cover “about four square feet

(approx.)” Wallace (2008:204) must have assumed that Van Valkenburgh meant four feet square, but the field map showing the scatter of “offertory” artifacts puts the area at about 2 m x 1 m (ca. 20 ft²). We believe that this feature may have been a manifestation of a Mourning Ceremony, judging by the number of receptacles, spikes, and other ritual objects deliberately broken, or “killed.” This is discussed below.

A total of 31 items (Table 3), mostly fragmentary artifacts, were found in the feature, including 10 receptacles, eight spikes, three ornaments, three waterworn rocks, three quartz crystals, a possible “plummet-like” charmstone, and three other items. Each is described below.

Receptacles

Ten receptacles were recovered from the “offertory” feature, all but one were bowls. The lone exception was a rhyolite mortar (Item 64; Cat. No. A.3121-32-54)

Table 3. Summary of Artifacts Associated with the “Offertory Area” at CA-LAN-127.

Artifact Type	N	Estimated Phase ^a
Bowls	9	Angeles V
Mortar	1	undetermined
Wallace Spikes	6	Angeles IV
Unidentified Spikes	2	undetermined
<i>Haliotis</i> Ornament	1	undetermined
Clam Shell Ornament	1	undetermined
Schist Ornament	1	undetermined
Quartz Crystals	3	undetermined
Plummet Charmstone	1	Topanga I or II (?)
Waterworn Rocks	3	undetermined
Unmodified Stones	2	undetermined
Polished Bone	1	undetermined
Total	31	

^a See Sutton and Gardner (2010) and Sutton (2010).

with one side missing and a “much battered” rim. Van Valkenburgh noted that its flattened bottom had received much battering as “though an attempt had been made to knock a hole through the bottom.” Its height is about 13.5 cm, and diameter measures close to 16.5 cm. The artifact was not available for our study.

All but one of the nine bowls had been crafted of steatite. The exception was a “lopsided,” “crude rimmed” specimen of reddish sandstone that was also unavailable for study (Item 65; Cat. No. A.3121-32-50). It was cataloged as being not quite 11 cm in height with a diameter of ca. 13.5 cm.

Of the eight steatite bowls, two (Items 66 and 67) were nearly intact, each with small nicks. Neither was available for the current study, and their descriptions are taken from the catalog. Specimen A.3121-32-46 (Item 66) is “scoop-shaped,” its material gray with dark speckles. Its length is ca. 19.5 cm, its width is ca. 13 cm, and it is ca. 7.5 cm high. Item 67 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-47) is a shallow, lopsided, oval bowl whose material is greenish, mottled steatite. There is a ca. 6 mm groove that encircles the opening just below the rim. Its length is ca. 13.5 cm, its width is ca. 11.7 cm, and it is ca. 7 cm high.

The remaining six steatite bowls are damaged; perhaps all had suffered ritual “killing.” Item 68 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-48) (Figure 63) had its bottom purposefully punched out. Its rim rounds inward. Its original height was about 66 mm, and it has a maximum diameter of 149 mm and a minimum diameter of 131 mm. It weighs 852 g.

Item 69 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-49) (Figure 64) is a flat-rimmed, micaceous steatite bowl/cup broken into several pieces with the bottom broken out. Its estimated height, when complete, was ca. 85 mm. Maximum diameter for this symmetrically round specimen is 95 mm. Rim thickness is fairly uniform, in the 11 mm range. It weighs 516 g.

The three large sherds seen in Figure 65, when glued together by museum personnel, revealed that Item 70 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-51) was “boat-shaped.” Its steatite is the micaceous variety, and the pieces together weigh 717 g. Maximum dimension of the partially reconstructed specimen is 147 mm, and maximum bowl thickness is ca. 20.5 mm. (The catalog tag attached to the artifact had been mislabeled, -52 instead of -51.)

The two large sherds of a micaceous steatite bowl (Item 71; Cat. No. A.3121-32-52), shown in Figure 66, together weigh 966 g. The complete bowl was ovoid-shaped. LACMNH staff estimated that when complete it was ca. 24 cm long, ca. 18 cm wide, and ca. 10 cm high. The maximum length of two joined sherds is 184 mm. Maximum thickness at the rim measures 18 mm.

Item 72 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-53) is a large rim sherd to which adheres some red ochre (Figure 67). There is a distinct lip along the squared rim. The fragment is out of a micaceous steatite bowl that might have been cup-shaped. The sherd’s maximum dimension is 72 mm, and it weighs 52 g.

Two large fragments (Item 73; Cat. No. A-3121-32-55) shown in Figure 68 are all that were recovered from a large shallow, steatite bowl/dish that had a deeply and widely incised, smooth groove riding below a rounded rim. Some small amount of ochre is detectable on the inside surface. The larger micaceous piece weighs 1,197 g; the other weighs 407 g. Van Valkenburgh believed that this artifact, when complete, was ca. 23 cm long, ca. 19 cm wide, and ca. 7.5 cm high.

Spikes

Eight spikes (or possible spikes) were found in the feature. The first, a most unusual siltstone Wallace spike, was recovered in two pieces (Item 74; Cat. No. A-3121-32-56) (Figure 69). What immediately catches

the eye are deep, parallel incisions that encircle the bulbous head. Total length is about 199 mm, and it weighs 196 g. The maximum width of the head is 50 mm, and maximum thickness of the head is 28 mm. Maximum thickness of the shaft is about 23 mm.

Another Wallace spike (Item 75; Cat. No. A.3121-32-57b) is likewise eye-catching, and not just for its uniquely shaped end, but also for its material—

greenish serpentine (Figure 70). The artifact has a collar that projects out laterally beyond the head and shaft. A groove ringing the piece further sets the collar apart from the head. If the piece is phallic, as we suspect, the collar seems designed to communicate a foreskin mimic. The specimen is of two fragments that have been glued together, reaching a length of 121 mm. Maximum width at the collar is 44 mm, and it weighs 162 g.



Figure 63. Small steatite bowl (Item 68) with bottom purposefully broken out; found in the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.



Figure 64. Steatite bowl/cup (Item 69) recovered from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

The third Wallace spike (Item 76; Cat. No. A.3121-32-58) (Figure 71) was quite large, made of siltstone, and found in three pieces. The head is about 100 mm long with a diameter of 61 mm. The main section of the “body” is 111 mm long, and there is a smaller section that is 44 mm long. The three parts together do not complete the artifact. Its three extant sections weigh 635 g.

Two other probable Wallace spikes, or at least spike-like artifacts, are even more fragmentary than the spike

just noted. Each is missing its head, assuming that such existed for either one. The first (Item 77; Cat. No. A-3121-32-60a, b, c, d) (Figure 72) is in four pieces (all midsections together weighing 520 g) and was made of siltstone. The sections’ lengthwise measurements are 98 mm, 96 mm, 88 mm, and 72 mm. The greatest diameter among these is 36 mm. The second (Item 78; Cat. No. A.3121-32-57a) (Figure 73) is a 250 mm long, gradually curved gray schist object weighing 422 g. It is ovoid in cross section. Its greatest diameter is about 37 mm.



Figure 65. “Boat-shaped” steatite receptacle recovered in three pieces (Item 70), but subsequently glued together by museum conservators; excavated from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.



Figure 66. Two sherds of a steatite bowl glued together (Item 71) by museum conservators; associated with the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

Finally, Item 79 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-57c) (Figure 74) is a 77 mm long, 120 g section of what had likely been part of a long Wallace spike. It was made from steatite and is ovoid in cross section.

Two unrelated lithic specimens, one weighing 134 g and the other 151 g, were cataloged together (Items 80 and 81; Cat. No. A.3121-32-62), presumably because the “shale-like rock” fragments were each perhaps ground at one end to resemble the pointed ends of

spikes. One fragment is clearly ground, but the other could be merely natural.

Possible Plummet Charmstone Fragment

A 116 g bullet-shaped fragment of a siltstone artifact (Item 82; Cat. No. A-3121-32-61) (Figure 75) was retrieved from the “offertory area.” Its length is 80 mm, and maximum diameter is about 33 mm. It is round in cross section. Van Valkenburgh labeled the



Figure 67. Large rim sherd (Item 72) from a steatite bowl recovered in the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

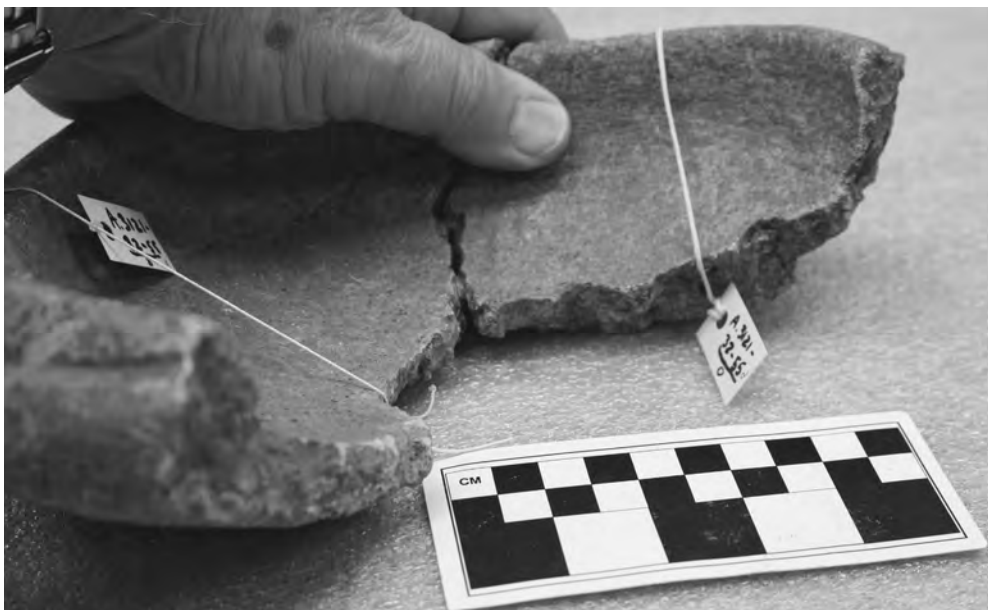


Figure 68. Two large fragments of a shallow steatite bowl/dish (Item 73) discovered in the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

specimen a “plummet-shaped fetish.” It likely was a plummet charmstone, and if so, we suspect it had been scavenged from a much older site.

Ornaments

Three ornaments were found in the feature. The first, (Item 83; Cat. No. A.3121-32-68) (Figures 76 and 77) is an abalone (*Haliotis* sp.) shell pendant with two

drilled holes and one natural excurrent hole. The inner concave surface has many parallel lines that run across the weathered surface from one side to the other. Time and the elements have replaced the once lustrous nacre surface with a dull white patina, but one can imagine how the ornament had long ago displayed pearly iridescence in the sunlight. The convex side is similarly weathered. Length measures 85 mm, its width is 50 mm, and it weighs 27 g. Thickness averages about



Figure 69. Wallace spike (Item 74) from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.



Figure 70. Piece of a serpentine Wallace spike with knob end attached (Item 75) from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

4 mm. The catalog erroneously identified the material as clam shell.

The catalog lists two ornamental disks, both center perforated, one supposedly of clam shell and the other of gray schist, under the designation A.3132-32-69. The shell artifact (Item 84) was recorded as 1 in (25 mm) in diameter and 1/8 in thick. The schist specimen (Item 85) was stated as 2.25 in (31 mm) in diameter and 3/16 in thick. Both were missing from the collection.

Small Waterworn Rocks

Three waterworn rocks accompany the “offertory” collection. Two are of hard siliceous stone and are subsumed under catalog number A.3121-32-65. Both are very smoothly worn and shiny. The larger “pocket rock” (-65a, Item 86) (Figure 78), weighing 36 g, shows colors ranging from whitish gray to very dark gray. It is nearly 49 mm long. The 21 g “pocket rock” (-65b, Item 87) seen in Figure 79 is banded, showing yellow tan, to white, to light reddish hues. It is 37 mm long.

A 49 g waterworn piece of siltstone (Item 88; Cat. No.A.3121-66) (Figure 80) offers an atypical material for “pocket rocks,” or “keepers.” Perhaps its owner

was attracted to the reddish area on one side. Perhaps it was collected to be ground into pigment. Its length is 69 mm.

Quartz Crystals

Three quartz crystals (Cat. Nos. A.3121-32-67a, b, c) were dedicated to the “offertory area.” Specimen -67c (Item 89) was described as a “double crystal,” 1.5 in (38 mm) long, but it was absent from the collection. It was said to be 7/8 in wide and to have seven facets. We wonder whether the referent was to a double-terminated crystal rather than a “double crystal.”

The other two crystals both have asphaltum on their broken ends; presumably they had been hafted, perhaps onto a sacred wand or onto a hairpin (see Koerper et al. 2006:62-64, Figure 2). The 21 g specimen (-67a) (Item 90) seen in Figure 81 is 38 mm long, and the other crystal (-67b) (Item 91) weighs but 9 g and is 36 mm long (Figure 82).

Other Items

Three other items were cataloged with the “offertory” materials. First was a piece of tan siltstone (Item 92; Cat. No. A.3121-32-63). It is 80 mm long and



Figure 71. The knob end of a Wallace spike (Item 76) from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.



Figure 72. Four midsection pieces of a spike (Item 77) recovered from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.



Figure 73. Long section of a steatite Wallace spike (Item 78) from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

weighs 248 g. It is relatively nondescript; perhaps it was a pigment stone. Second is a dark quartzite rock fragment, 70 mm long and weighing 87 g (Item 93; Cat. No. A.3121-32-64). Lastly, a polished midsection of a mammal long bone (Item 94) weighing 3 g and measuring ca. 10 mm long was also recovered. It was labeled as a “bodkin” in the catalog.

The “Miscellaneous Fill” Inventory

For reasons not clearly understood, Van Valkenburgh and his colleagues grouped a number of finds into a “miscellaneous fill” category. Since no picture of patterned organization emerges out of data acquired from the “offertory area,” we suppose that none of the



Figure 74. Section probably out of a spike (Item 79) from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.

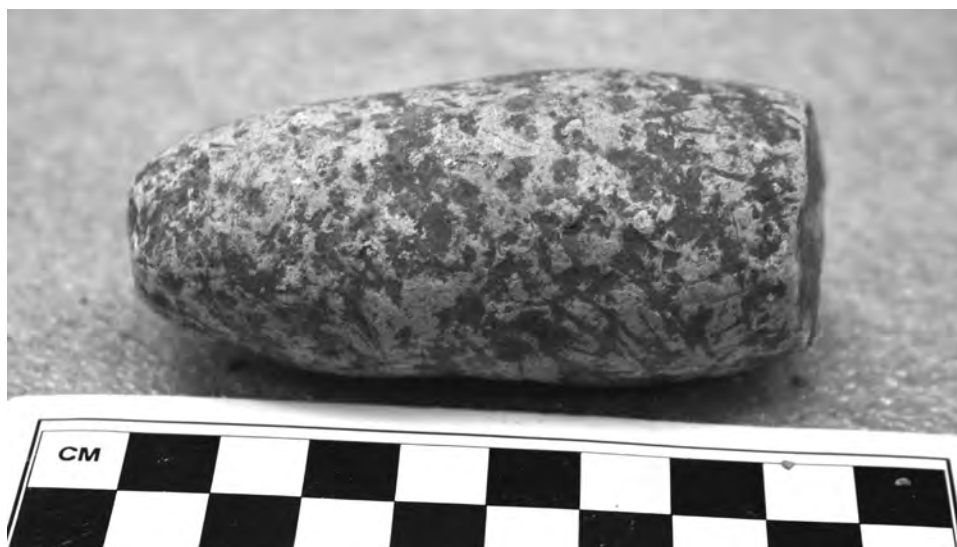


Figure 75. Probable plummet-like charmstone (Item 82); fragment associated with the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127.



Figure 76. Concave side of an *Haliotis* pendant (Item 83) found in the “offertory” feature, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 77).



Figure 77. Convex side of *Haliotis* ornament (Item 83) found in the “offertory” feature, CA-LAN-127 (see also Figure 76).

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so-called “miscellaneous” artifacts had been retrieved there, because they would have been indistinguishable individually or as a category and thus would not have been set apart. However, had certain artifacts been found in the cemetery area, in proximity of burials but without definitive association with any interment, then they might have been identified as “miscellaneous.” The first two “miscellaneous” specimens described below reportedly came from fill above Burial No. 1. The catalog is silent, however, regarding near association of any other “miscellaneous” artifact with a feature. Based on the nature of most of the “miscellaneous” finds, they had likely served as mortuary furniture.

A Unusual Specimen

The unusual effigy (Item 95; Cat. No. A.3121-32-71) seen in Figure 83 was recovered in “fill,” 24 in (61 cm) below ground surface and at some undisclosed elevation above Burial No. 1. It was made from a dark gray stone that looks like slate, but the LACMNH team deemed it steatite or serpentine. Its surfaces are fairly smooth, and it may once have had a coating of red ochre. It is 96 mm long, 66 mm wide, around 10 mm thick in most places, and weighs 88 g. In other words, it is a proportionally thin artifact. Van Valkenburgh used the term “spade type” to characterize its shape; McCawley (1996:135) preferred “paddle shaped.” It may be a permutation out of the birdstone/hookstone genre.

Birdstone/Hookstone Objects

Figure 84 shows a “decapitated” birdstone/hookstone specimen (Item 96; Cat. No. A.3121-32-72) made from steatite. Its surfaces are smooth, and it had received a wash of red ochre. It stands 74 mm high, the lower body is 45 mm wide, and it weighs 185 g. The catalog did not indicate depth below ground surface.

A second “headless” steatite birdstone/hookstone specimen (Item 97; Cat. No. A.3121-32-75) (Figure 85) is smaller, weighing 58 g. The surfaces are



Figure 78. Waterworn pebble ("pocket rock" or "charm"?) (Item 86) from the "offertory area," CA-LAN-127.



Figure 79. Waterworn pebble (Item 87) from the "offertory area," CA-LAN-127.

smooth, and no ochre is observed. Its height is 37 mm, and width at the base is 47 mm. Depth below ground surface was not indicated.

Spike

The top of a very fine sandstone Wallace spike (Item 98; Cat. No. A.3121-32-74) (Figure 86) was found

in the "miscellaneous fill" at 22 in (56 cm) below ground surface. The specimen is ovoid in cross section with a design of incised, unevenly parallel, short vertical elements that arise from an incised line that dramatically sets off the shaft element from the knob, which is generally flat-topped. It is 61 mm long with a maximum width of 57 mm. It weighs 138 g.



Figure 80. Waterworn piece of siltstone (Item 88) from the "offertory area," CA-LAN-127.



Figure 81. Quartz crystal (Item 90) from the "offertory area," CA-LAN-127. Asphaltum is present on the broken end.

Fragment of a Cylindrical Object

Item 99 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-70a) (Figure 87) is the midsection of a dark gray cylindrical object. It is very slightly ovoid in cross section, and the surface is ground very smooth. There is no bore hole. The catalog recorded the material as steatite, but we are skeptical, favoring instead basalt. It is 61 mm long, has a maximum thickness of 29.5 mm and a minimum thickness of 26.5 mm, and weighs 85 g. The piece was recovered 18 in (46 cm) below ground surface.

Pipe/Sucking Tube

Item 100 (Cat. No. A.3121-32-70b) is a bored, cylindrical section of what was either a smoking pipe or sucking tube (Figure 88). The steatite surfaces are smooth, and it is round in cross section. It is 72 mm long, has a maximum diameter of 26 mm, and weighs 26 g. It was located 18 in (46 cm) below ground surface. Drilling was biconical, and rotational drilling striations are clearly visible at the larger opening which measures 17 mm. The smaller aperture measures 9 mm.

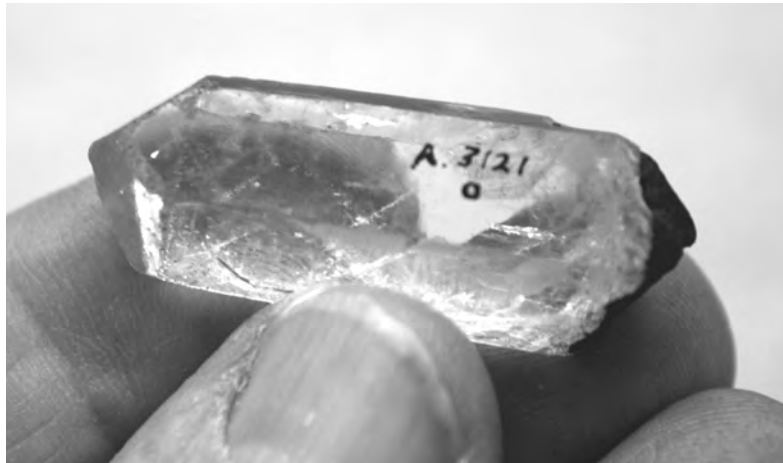


Figure 82. Quartz crystal (Item 91) from the “offertory area,” CA-LAN-127. Asphaltum adheres to the broken end.

Charmstone Fragment

A broken magnetite charmstone (Item 101; Cat. No. A.3121-32-77) came out of the “fill” (Figure 89). This plummet-like object shows some asphaltum at the break; clearly it was mended at one time. Given its hardness, it most likely was not biconically drilled at the now missing end. Its length is 54 mm, its maximum diameter is 28 mm, and it weighs 77 g. We can be fairly certain that this artifact was scavenged from another site since the Palmer-Redondo village dates to the latter part of the Del Rey Tradition (see Sutton 2010) and plummet charmstones were manufactured during the Topanga I and Topanga II phases of the Topanga Pattern of the Encinitas Tradition (Sutton and Gardner 2010).

Mano

A mano made from a dense sandstone (Item 102; Cat. No. A.3121-32-73) was discovered at about 1 m below ground surface. It is 162 mm long, 103 mm wide, 42 mm thick, and weighs 1,054 g. One face was “nicely beveled.”

Crystal

The site catalog listed a crystal (Item 103; no catalog number given), recorded as being some 7/16 in

(11 mm) long and 3/16 in (5 mm) wide. It was not available for mineral identification. The catalog indicated tourmaline, but we are skeptical.

Unprovenienced Items

Six unprovenienced items all bearing catalog numbers, but none actually listed on the site catalog sheets, were with the LACMNH Palmer-Redondo Collection. The first, Item 104 (Cat. No. A-3121-32-78), is a bag of at least 75 spire-ground *Olivella* beads, which makes us wonder whether they might be the missing *Olivella* beads from Burials 4 and 6, bundled together. The second, Item 105 (Cat. No. A-3121-32-79), is a piece of ground steatite, its maximum dimension 45 mm with a weight of 17 g. Item 106 (Cat. No. A-3121-32-80) is a small piece of ground stone. Item 107 (Cat. No. A-3121-32-81) is a tiny piece of steatite. Small fragments of sandstone constitute Item 108 (Cat. No. A-3121-32-82), and Item 109 (Cat. No. A-3121-32-83) is a 22 g piece of ground schist.

Discussions

The Burial Population

Nine individuals were discovered in the cemetery. The extent of the 1932 excavation is not fully known, but



Figure 83. Unusual effigy (Item 95) from the “miscellaneous fill” inventory, CA-LAN-127. The shape hints at the birdstone/hookstone genre.

we believe the cemetery was not completely excavated and that other burials remained. Of the nine that were recovered, one was a child, one a young adult, six were adults, and one is unknown; no other age data are available. One is thought to be a male and another a female, and the remaining six are of unknown gender. No information on health is available. Thus, little can be said about the cemetery population other than that there is a preponderance of adults. It is uncertain whether or not family units had occupied the midden area when any of the nine deceased were buried or at any time coinciding with the apparent mourning activities (see below).

Dating and Cultural Affiliation

Of the nine burials, six contain materials useful for assignment to phases of the Angeles Pattern of the Del Rey Tradition. All but one (Burial 9) of those six with burial goods are associated with Angeles IV or V phases, generally dating to between 1250 and 450 BP. Burial 9 contained a contracting stem point,



Figure 84. A “decapitated” birdstone/hookstone (Item 96) from the “miscellaneous fill” inventory, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 85. A second birdstone/hookstone (Item 97) from the "miscellaneous fill" inventory, CA-LAN-127, missing its "head."



Figure 86. Knob end of a Wallace spike (Item 98) recorded in the "miscellaneous fill" inventory, CA-LAN-127.

suggesting that the burial was older, perhaps related to the Angeles I or II phases (ca. 3500 to 1600 BP) (Sutton 2010); however, the projectile could have been an heirloom. The other three burials could not be dated or affiliated to phase. Burials 3 and 6 belong to some phase of the Angeles Pattern. The bulk of the cemetery can be assigned to the later phases of the Angeles

Pattern, but probably prior to contact since there are no historical artifacts present. There is little doubt that the people of the Angeles Pattern were the ancestors of the historic Gabrielino/Tongva.

It is not entirely clear what habitation locality (village) was associated with the cemetery at LAN-127. To be



Figure 87. Midsection of a cylindrical object (Item 99) recorded in the "miscellaneous fill" inventory, CA-LAN-127.



Figure 88. Section of a tubular object with a large bore hole (Item 100) recorded in the "miscellaneous fill" inventory, CA-LAN-127. Possibly a smoking pipe or a shaman's sucking tube.

sure, a modest midden is located at the site (Wallace 2008), and it is most reasonable to assume the midden locus and cemetery were directly associated. The population profile offers a suggestion that habitation was only seasonal.

A Mourning Feature?

An area of about 20 ft² containing 31 mostly broken or "killed" artifacts was found directly adjacent to

the cemetery and was called an "offertory area" by Van Valkenburgh (1932). Among the items recovered (Table 3) were nine bowls, six Wallace spikes, three ornaments, three quartz crystals, and several other items. It is interpreted as a mourning feature (Wallace 2008:204).

A number of mourning features have been identified in sites along south central coastal California and are part of what Sutton (2010) called the Angeles Funerary



Figure 89. Broken magnetite charmstone (Item 101) recorded in the “miscellaneous fill” inventory, CA-LAN-127.

Complex (AFC) (also see Hull 2011, 2012; Hull et al. 2006, 2013). The primary manifestation of the AFC is large rock features containing many broken tools (manos, metates, bowls, mortars, pestles, points, and a variety of other artifacts and materials), many of which are burned and appear to have been purposefully “killed.” Also contained within these features are highly fragmented cremated human bones and a variety of faunal remains. Other AFC features include small pits containing groups of “killed” tools and the burials of raptors (e.g., eagles). Human inhumations are sometimes found in association with the cremation features, but it is unclear whether these are actually part of the complex or are there merely by coincidence, such as subsequent inhumations being placed within older mortuary features. Interestingly, there is little to suggest that any of the burning was done in situ, meaning the burning had taken place elsewhere, after which the materials were moved and placed in a facility of some sort, perhaps an open pit or within a structure of some kind (e.g., a charnel house). Sutton (2010) suggested that the AFC (as described above) was largely a manifestation of the Angeles II phase, possibly representing the precursor of the

Mourning Ceremony in southern California (cf., Lowie 1923:149; Johnson 1962:47–49; Bean and Smith 1978:545–546; McCawley 1996:161–165), a ceremony that found its “greatest development” among the Gabrielino and Luiseño (Kroeber 1925:860).

While the mourning feature at LAN-127 did contain “killed” objects, no burned rock, no pits with artifact caches, no animal burials, and no cremated human bones were recorded. Only one milling tool (the mortar) was present. The presence of Wallace spikes, affiliated with Angeles IV, suggests that the feature dates from the same time as the cemetery, sometime between 1250 and 450 BP. The presence of plummet charmstones, which are associated with the Topanga I and Topanga II phases of the Topanga Pattern of the Encinitas Tradition (Sutton and Gardner 2010), offers the remote possibility of some use in earlier times, but Items 82 and 101 were more likely curated artifacts. The LAN-127 feature does not appear to be one of the “classic” AFC mourning features, but it may represent a later variation of an evolving mourning ceremony that eventually became the ethnographic Mourning Ceremony in southern California (cf. Hull 2011).

Food for Thought

Wallace (2008:205) thought about the range of functions for spikes, “pelican stones,” animal effigies, and other kinds of special artifacts that were sometimes committed to graves, but he side-stepped the subject of their deeper symbolic communications, a missed opportunity since symbologies and functions can be intimately intertwined. He was extremely doubtful that the Palmer-Redondo spikes, etc. were destined only for placement with the deceased, noting that such items had been discovered hidden away in caches and under other circumstances. His understanding of different venues could be first-hand, since, for instance, he and his wife reported on an isolated Palos Verdes find (Wallace and Wallace 1974), one well away from any camp, village, or burial ground, that consisted of seven small marine mammal effigies sharing space with a biconically drilled plummet charmstone and a large steatite bead, all within a black abalone shell. Wallace (1987) later reported an even more remarkable discovery, this one from Pacific Palisades near the mouth of the Santa Monica Canyon, also away from any camp, village, or known burial ground. Those artifacts occurred in two lots, close by one another, and included 29 Wallace spikes (Sutton 2010:22) and 22 birdstone/hookstone specimens.

Wallace (2008:205) further noted that certain ethnographic references attested to stone effigies’ applications to ritual purposes outside the purview of death rites. In this, he referenced Hudson and Blackburn (1986:72), who reported that canoe charms brought luck to Chumash fishermen. Also, a canoe maker would have one or more such effigies, which he might employ as personal dream charms. When a canoe charm dreamer passed away, the small boat mimic was laid to rest with the deceased, because its magic was no longer available to any living person (Hudson et al. 1978:126). Wallace also cited Yates (1889:305), who described the employment of birdstones/hookstones by Santa Barbara Indian medicine men in a ceremony

that might cause rain, death to enemies, and other outcomes.

Wallace (2008:205) supposed that stone carvings unearthed in Palmer-Redondo graves may have been owned and used by distinguished personages (e.g., religious leaders) with whom the artifacts were buried upon the owners’ deaths. It is reasonable to hypothesize that post-mortem expressions of deceased persons’ former wealth and/or status occurred through placement of valued objects with interments. However, we are not persuaded that the “astonishing display of carved stone artifacts” at Palmer-Redondo was necessarily owed primarily to considerations of a dead person’s vaunted status or material wealth held in life. Easily the most “astonishing” displays of grave goods occurred with Burials 1 and 2. Burial 1 contained 10 Wallace spikes (see Figures 5–7, 12–19), three different kinds of non-spike stone effigies (see Figures 3, 4, 8–11), and other items, yet the interment was that of a mere child, not someone likely to have amassed personal wealth or to have achieved special status. Do these additions to the grave reflect a parent’s rank or ownership of material resources, or might the offerings reflect the intensity of grief attending the loss of a beloved young daughter or son? Was the emotional fallout so strongly felt that comforting life-force symbols were selected, a psychological means to deny the finality of mortality or to dramatize the idea of life resurrected following earthly departure. World-wide, the most common life-force symbols are phallic, and unequivocally, Wallace spikes were crafted to represent the male organ. The Burial 1 grave offering seen in Figures 3 and 4 is of the birdstone/hookstone genre, the province of a variety of stylistic forms purported to project dimorphic sexual symbolism, that is, having both phallic and vulvar elements (see Koerper and Labbé 1987, 1988; Desautels et al. 2005). One of the Palmer-Redondo child’s grave offerings was a giant cockle (*Trachycardium quadragenarium*) shell (Figure 20), which like the giant egg cockle (*Laevicardium elatum*) shell, turns up occasionally in Tongva burials

for, we believe, its morphological similarity to the *mons veneris*, thus another life-force symbol.

Burial 2 contained, among other things, three Wallace spikes (Figures 36–39), six birdstone/hookstone objects (see Figures 21–27), several marine mammal effigies (see Figures 28–33), and an unusual “spade-shaped fetish” (Figures 34 and 35) that may be a dimorphic sexual symbol. It is an open question whether the seal, sea otter, and whale representations had projected increase symbology. Perhaps they were embedded into resource procurement magic. The burial’s clear quartz crystal (Figure 43) possibly connected with fertility/increase owing to attributes shared by crystals and water (see Koerper 2012a, 2012b; see also Koerper et al. 2006). It was a young adult who possessed, at least in death, all these items and more, and once again we question whether the many fancy grave offerings were intended to call out wealth and special status. Were these grave goods instead a means to commingle life-force and death-force thematics? In this we recall philosopher Susanne K. Langer’s (1959:132) words: “Life and life-giving, death and the dead, are the great themes of primitive religion.”

For Wallace (2008:205) the Palmer-Redondo site seemed particularly distinctive for its wealth-laden graves. Standing well apart from LAN-127, he believed, were the many other Tongva settlements in the south coastal district of Los Angeles County whose interments held but few “relatively simple” items. While Wallace (2008:205) saw no local parallel to the Palmer-Redondo abundance of grave goods, he nonetheless expressed reservations about accepting this richness of mortuary offerings as “a special local development initiated by the Palmer-Redondo villagers themselves.”

Wallace (2008) made reference to the Malaga Cove site (CA-LAN-138) in calling out the discrepancy regarding burial appointments, a clear indication that he neither availed himself of relic collector Thomas

Tower’s (1940–1941) correspondence to Edwin Walker and Mark Harrington nor Tower’s (1942) typed manuscript detailing his digging at Malaga Cove (see Koerper et al. 2014; Koerper and Peterson 2014). Several of the burials described by Tower were well stocked with unusual offerings. While certain Malaga Cove graves and their artifact contents were impressive, none was quite as richly endowed as Burials 1 and 2 at Palmer-Redondo. However, Tower’s “Find No. 3” probably represented a Mourning Ceremony cache, and this feature was far more generously provisioned than the LAN-127 “offertory area.”

Another of Wallace’s perceptions was that Palmer-Redondo was a site apart from other settlements for the striking differences between its midden artifact inventory and recoveries from mortuary associated areas. The new data from the Thomas Tower documents (1941–1942, 1942) is admittedly short of important detail, but the richness of Tower’s finds at LAN-138 from areas with burials stands in general contrast to what Edwin Walker (1937, 1951) recovered overall, thus hinting that Tower had concentrated his efforts in a special area, one reserved specifically for the dead. Tower’s uneven reporting and Walker’s sparse descriptions preclude definitive assessments.

Summary and Final Comments

This article fulfills a longstanding need in south central coastal California archaeology—publication of a comprehensive inventory of finds from the 1932 LACMNH expedition to the Palmer-Redondo site. One hundred eight items were herein identified and described, of which 70 are shown in figures (81 figures are photographic images, and eight are pen-and-ink illustrations).

Little information was available to characterize the biological anthropology of the burial population encountered in 1932. The LACMNH database identifies

no skeletal remains from LAN-127; the several Van Bergen-Los Angeles Museum Expeditions gathered no formal physical anthropological documentation regarding skeletons recovered and often did not remove human remains (Chris Coleman, personal communication 2010).

Most, if not all, of the mortuary activities at the Redondo Beach site could have occurred during the Angeles IV or V phases of the Del Rey Tradition, between 1250 and 450 BP. Of the two or three artifact types that are not fits to this temporal range, all could have been curated/heirloomed items. The “offertory area,” which probably dates to 1250–450 BP, was most likely a mourning ceremony feature. Many of the “offertory” and burial items (e.g., birdstones/hookstones, Wallace spikes, large cockle shells) are objects purported to communicate life-force symbolism.

A cautionary note proposed that differential provisioning of burials with special artifacts may not necessarily signal wealth and status distinctions. Another note offered that habitation sites other than Palmer-Redondo possibly had death-related areas set apart from living areas. Also, the Palmer-Redondo site and the Malaga Cove site seem more alike than Wallace recognized. Both had burials that contained generous additions of special artifacts, and LAN-138 also yielded evidence of interments and mourning features standing apart from workaday areas.

On a parting note, the 1932 finds contribute to a larger database attesting to a remarkable level of commerce between Gabrielino residing on Santa Catalina Island and those settled along Santa Monica Bay, through the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and further south, a level of trade considered unusual for people whose basic subsistence was earned using hunter-gatherer technology. One might wonder whether the Palmer-Redondo site or the Malaga Cove site were close to where island goods were off-loaded. Did commercial interactions promote

island-mainland marriage alliances, perhaps to the degree that a coastal trade center stood in a colony-like relationship to an island village?

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