The Social Organization of the Western Apache, Book Review

Charles Lange Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_anthropologist
Part of the Anthropology Commons

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Anthropologist by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.
BOOK REVIEW


This volume is an important contribution to southwestern ethno-
logy. The contents far exceed its modest title. The scope of the
material, the richness of detail, and Goodwin’s “feeling” for the life of
the Western Apache place this paper among the foremost in the field
of ethnography. Goodwin lived with the White Mountain, Cibecue,
San Carlos, and Northern and Southern Tonto Apache, spoke their
language and in other ways participated in their culture. This
intimacy has been so vividly portrayed that large portions of the
book possess popular appeal as well as professional value.

In addition to material on social organization, Goodwin included
valuable clarification of previously confused designations and terri-
torial boundaries of the numerous Apache bands. Rarely mentioned
data on trading journeys and trading equivalents between the various
Apache groups as well as with the Navaho and Zuñi are also presented.

While Goodwin interpreted his material carefully, he also included
without modification many of the informants’ versions. This allows
readers to check his interpretations, and in the future it may supply
source material along as yet unrealized lines.

In several instances, e. g., children’s games, Goodwin presented
comparative material for several chronological periods, old period
(pre-reservation life, 1840-1865); middle period (crystallized reserva-
tion life, 1893-1903; and modern reservation life, (1932-1938)

The book is remarkably well edited, and much credit is due Dr.
Fred Eggan and others who completed the manuscript. Ethnologists
can only regret the untimely death of Grenville Goodwin; it is hoped
that this work will stimulate the appearance of ethnographies of
equally high standards.

CHARLES H. LANGE, JR.

University of New Mexico,