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The Social Organization of the Western Apache, Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

The Social Organization of the Western Apache, by Grenville Goodwin;
University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1942, \$4.50.

This volume is an important contribution to southwestern ethnology. 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 territorial 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 reservation 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.

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