



Smithsonian Institution

National Anthropological Archives

Observations on the Indians of the Colorado River, California, by George Gibbs; Accompanying vocabularies of the Yuma and Mohave tribes 1856

Extracted on Apr-20-2024 09:46:09

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Anthropological Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Anthropological Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Anthropological Archives or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Anthropological Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

according to their own computation about two thousand souls. They live in holes dug in the ground, covered with brush and dirt, or in the open air. Sleeping always in the sand. Their dress is exceedingly simple, for the man, a narrow band of bark or manta to cover the privates, for the women, two aprons of bark. One in front called al-tah-dick, falling nearly to the knees. One in rear called ab-bah-haik falling to the hollows behind the knee. These aprons meet at the hips, and are held up by a band fastened tightly round the waist.

Beads are their great circulating medium which they obtain from tribes near civilization.

They have no canoes, but men women and children swim like South Sea Islanders - playing in the water for hours. Their only means of water transportation is a simple raft made of flags, (tules) or a Cotton wood log.

They have no computation of time by weeks or months or years. They worship no God, and fear ~~no~~ good or evil spirit. They have no worship. The only ideas of the dead, consist in the belief that the spirits of the departed hover four days around the ancient dwelling performing

2/ according to their own computation about two thousand souls. They live in holes dug in the ground, covered with brush and dirt - or in the open air sleeping always in the sand. Their dress is exceedingly simple - for the man - a narrow band of bark or manta to cover the privates - for the women, two aprons of bark, one in front called ~~al-tah-dick~~ ^{al-tah-dick} - falling nearly to the knees. one in rear called ab-bah-haik falling to the hollows behind the knee. These aprons meet at the hips - and are held up by a band fastened tightly - round the waist. Beads are their great circulating medium which they obtain from tribes near civilization. They have no canoes - but men women and children swim like South Sea Islanders - playing in the water for hours. Their only means of water transportation is a simple raft made of flags, ^(tules) or a cotton wood log. They have no computation of time by weeks or months or years. They worship no God, ~~and~~ fear ~~no~~ evil spirit. They have no worship. The only ideas of the dead - consist in the belief that the spirits of the departed hover four days around the ancient dwelling performing

Observations on the Indians of the Colorado River, California, by George Gibbs; Accompanying vocabularies of the Yuma and Mohave tribes 1856
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-20-2024 09:46:09



Smithsonian Institution

National Anthropological Archives

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)