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Book Review of *Geoarchaeology in the Great Plains* Edited by Rolfe D. Mandel

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Geoarchaeology in the Great Plains. Edited by Rolfe D. Mandel. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000. xi+306 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

This volume emerged from the 1992 symposium "Geoarchaeological Research in the Great Plains: A Historical Perspective" held in conjunction with the fiftieth annual meeting of the Plains Anthropological Society in Lincoln, Nebraska. Edited by the symposium's organizer, it includes an introduction and summary by Mandel and seven chapters covering portions of the Great Plains. Areas identified and contributing authors include the Southern High Plains (Vance T. Holliday), the Southern Osage Plains (C. Reid Ferring), Kansas and Northern Oklahoma (Rolfe D.

Mandel), Eastern Plains and Prairies (E. Arthur Bettis), Nebraska (David W. May), the Northwestern Plains (John Albanese), and the Northern Plains (Joe Alan Artz). Each chapter provides anecdotal references to the significant individuals, events, interactions between disciplines, sites, and advances in the evolution of geoarchaeology in the author's respective subdivisions of the Great Plains. The book's general theme is not an elaboration of major research results that have come from the work of geoarchaeologists. Collectively, the authors relate the changing face of geoarchaeology from (in most cases) the simple relative dating of sites by geoscientists for archaeologists.

The volume has its distractions. First, there is considerable redundancy among the chapters describing the subdivisions of the Great Plains and the introduction. All of the authors, for example, expand on the importance of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. While these acts had an enormous impact on the quantity and quality of research, including in geoarchaeology, this detailed discussion could have been covered in the introduction and simply mentioned in the other chapters. Second, the subdivisions described by the chapters do not conform to any particular classification, but include physiographic regions, parts of physiographic regions, states, and overlapping states. This mix of natural areas mingled with political boundaries does not make much sense. In addition, with the exception of a few chapters, a little more emphasis could have been placed on significant research results.

Nonetheless, the book is overall an excellent review of the development of geoarchaeology in the Great Plains and of the significant advances in the field attributed to work done there. Each chapter is well written and organized in such a fashion that the non-specialist can easily grasp its content. **John W. Wyckoff**, *Department of Geography, University of Colorado at Denver*.