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## Review of Lubbock Lake: Late Quaternary Studies on the Southern High Plains

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*Lubbock Lake: Late Quaternary Studies on the Southern High Plains*. Edited by Eileen Johnson. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1987. Illustrations, tables, preface, references, index. xii + 179 pp. \$49.50.

During the decade following the first verification of humankind in the New World, *Early Man*, or *Paleo-Indian* remains, as they were variously called, were eagerly sought. Such archeological sites, in Late Quaternary deposits, were by no means numerous. Yet persistent search revealed them, and in some numbers, particularly in the fringes of the westernmost Plains. Nowhere were they more abundant than in the southern High Plains of northwestern Texas and adjacent New Mexico. Among them is the Yellowhouse Draw site, perhaps best known as the Lubbock Lake site, at Lubbock, Texas. The occupation area, extensive by American standards (ca. 300 acres) was discovered in 1935 incident to the construction of a reservoir. Systematic archeological investigation began in 1939 and subsequently has been renewed several times; the most recent attack is the subject of the volume under review.

Unfortunately, the results of the early work were never reported in detail although a brief summary, focusing upon the Folsom occupation, was included in Sellard's classic *Early Man in America* (1952). Interest in the site has never flagged, but since those early days, archeological concerns have shifted from discovery for the sake of discovery and expansion of inventories to something more comprehensive. The

most recent study integrates the results of a variety of disciplines—archeology, geology, palynology, paleoclimatology, and the like, “toward an understanding of man’s cultural response to a fluctuating climate and changing ecosystem throughout his known existence on the southern High Plains” (p. 4).

The bulk of the volume is based upon fieldwork completed during the interval 1973-79, not an unconscionable publication lag considering the many problems inherent in archeological reporting. The presentation is largely descriptive although analysis is not entirely absent (cf. Chapter Ten); nonetheless, it is not really amenable to a critical review, at least for a general journal such as this. Suffice it to say that I reacted positively. The content ranges from geology, through vertebrate and invertebrate remains and the pollen record, to an environmental overview and cultural sequence. Several chapters are basically systematic and will not be particularly informative for the non-professional reader. Chapter Eleven, however, will be quite useful. It summarizes depositional environments and cultural units from 11,500 years B.P. to the historic period. Taken as a whole, it is “one of the most nearly complete late Quaternary records in the New World and serves as a model for . . . history of the Southern High Plains” (p. 162). The book is worth your time.

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