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Review of Paleoamerican Origins: Beyond Clovis

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Paleoamerican Origins: Beyond Clovis. Edited by Robson Bonnichsen, Bradley T. Lepper, Dennis Stanford, and Michael R. Waters. College Station, TX: Center for the Study of the First Americans, distributed by Texas A&M University Press, 2005. ix + 368 pp. Maps, tables, figures, references cited, index. \$60.00 cloth.

Paleoamerican Origins is a compilation of 23 papers, most of them expanded versions of presentations or posters given at "Clovis and Beyond" in Santa Fe in late October of 1999, "the greatest Ice Age American conference of the twentieth century" according to Kenneth Tankersley in his 2002 *In Search of Ice Age Americans*. It follows up *New Perspectives on the First Americans* (Lepper and Bonnichsen, 2004), a slim volume comprised of 30 short, preliminary papers; eight contributors to *Paleoamerican Origins* also have papers in *New Perspectives*. Thus, these two volumes contain the published versions of about half of the conference presentations; several others are available elsewhere, as are some recollections of the conference. Not too shabby by any measure. Although he is now with us only in spirit, I think that Robson Bonnichsen, a leading expert in Paleoamerican research for four decades and to whom *Paleoamerican Origins* is dedicated, would be extremely pleased with the effort that his colleagues have put forth in seeing the volume through to completion.

Like its predecessors from the Center for the Study of the First Americans, *Paleoamerican Origins* is a large-format, high-quality publication. For \$60, it's a good deal for specialists, who figure to be its primary consumers, providing as it does a wealth of information on a variety of topics ranging from a fascinating ethnographic review of water transport technology (Jodry) to an equally interesting discussion on public policy, science, and archaeology (Schneider and Bonnichsen). Only three chapters examine evidence from the Great Plains. As might be expected, nine chapters focus on suspected or purported Pleistocene-age archaeological sites. The book also includes seven chapters on Paleoamerican skeletal remains and genetics, three on chronology, climate change, and Pleistocene extinctions, an introductory chapter by Bonnichsen, and a concluding chapter by Stanford and colleagues.

The volume does have several shortcomings. Most chapters reflect the state of knowledge around the time of the conference and are not designed to evaluate (test) ideas about, say, the process and timing of the peopling of the New World or the factors responsible for shaping the organization of Paleoamerican technology and sub-

sistence. As a zooarchaeologist with a strong interest in large animal kill/butchery sites, I am struck by the lack of analytical rigor in trying to elucidate the taphonomic histories of accumulations of late Pleistocene megafauna remains, which occasionally are associated with artifacts or purported artifacts. **Matthew G. Hill**, *Department of Anthropology, Iowa State University*.