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Review of *Paleoindian Geoarchaeology of the Southern High Plains* by Vance T. Holliday

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Paleoindian Geoarchaeology of the Southern High Plains. Vance T. Holliday. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1997. xx+297 pp. Maps, photos, tables, references, index. \$24.95 paper (ISBN 0-292-73114-0).

Written in a clear, concise manner and profusely illustrated, Vance Holliday's book introduces the serious student of geoarchaeology to the variety and complexity of twenty Paleoindian archaeological sites on the Southern High Plains. A logical sequence of chapters begins with an engaging regional history of Paleoindian geoarchaeological research, followed by comprehensive discussions of the geomorphology, stratigraphy, soils, Late Pleistocene paleoenvironments, and geochronology, jointly presenting Paleoindian archaeological sites as much more than collections of stone tools and extinct animal bones. Holliday includes good summaries of lithic and faunal data for each archaeological site discussed in the text.

Following the presentation of numerous chains of geoarchaeological evidence for each cultural period and archaeological site, the author provides a thorough discussion incorporating Paleoindian sites found outside the standard geographic demarcation for the Southern High Plains. This is important since much of the archaeological literature concerning Paleoindian occupations on the Great Plains tends to be extremely provincial in scope, limited to a single site, temporal period, or distinct culture. Holliday initiates an encompassing review of pertinent literature to strengthen his own conclusions in the final chapter, thereby offering a valuable bibliography on Paleoindian archaeology. With a final flair for the all-inclusive, he supplies appendices that convey detailed information pertaining to site setting, stratigraphic profiles, pedology, as well as lithic raw material resources available on the Southern High Plains.

According to Holliday's second appendix concerning availability of lithic raw material, the Upper Permian lithostratigraphy of the Texas Panhandle is defined by the Quartermaster Formation. In addition, he states that within the upper Quartermaster is the Alibates Dolomite Lentil (244-45), which from an archaeological standpoint contains an extremely important lithic raw material resource termed Alibates Agatized Dolomite. The reader should note that the Quartermaster Formation was initially proposed by C. N. Gould in 1902; continued lithostratigraphic refinement in western Oklahoma by R. O. Fay has subsequently led to a revised sedimentary petrology for these Upper Permian deposits. Consequently, the Quartermaster Formation has been dropped from use since it cannot be demonstrated to illustrate a viable stratigraphic classification. In part, this stemmed from the fact that the Elk City Sandstone cannot be grouped with the Doxey Shale on the basis of a natural tectonic or sedimentologic unit. As a result, the current Upper Permian lithostratigraphic classification replaces the Quartermaster Formation and is now defined by the Foss Group.

Paleoindian Geoarchaeology of the Southern High Plains is an important addition to the field of Great Plains archaeology. While technical in scope, those readers having the background or interest in Paleoindian geoarchaeology should certainly own it. **Berkley B. Bailey**, *Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*.