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Review of *Arch Lake Woman: Physical Anthropology
and Geoarchaeology*. By Douglas W. Owsley,
Margaret A. Jodry, Thomas W. Stafford, Jr., C. Vance
Haynes, Jr., and Dennis J. Stanford.

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of the First Americans, 2010. xiv + 93 pp. Color plates, maps, photographs, illustrations, tables, reference list, index. \$30.00 cloth.

Approximately 10,000 radiocarbon years before present, the body of a 17- to 19-year-old female, probably associated with the Plainview Culture, was buried on the south side of Arch Lake, located near the present-day border of New Mexico and Texas. The young woman was interred in an extended supine position with a necklace of talc beads low on her neck, a bag containing red pigment and a unifacial stone tool on her left hip, and a bone tool placed on her chest. Her grave remained relatively undisturbed until 1967 when it was exposed, discovered, and carefully excavated by archaeologists. The Arch Lake Woman's skeleton is among the oldest found in North America and therefore of significant interest to archaeologists and physical anthropologists. While known at the time to be a fascinating archaeological find, the Arch Lake Woman remains have not been extensively studied.

In 2000, Douglas Owsley and a team of Paleoamerican experts undertook an extensive reinvestigation of the skeleton, radiocarbon dates, burial geology, and artifact assemblage. The skeletal remains investigation included the development of a biological profile, new radiocarbon dating, stable isotope analysis, and comparison of the Arch Lake Woman's skeletal features to those of other early Americans, Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans. The investigation also included geoarchaeological analysis of the burial location, microprobe analysis of the red pigment in the burial fill, and comparison of Early American mortuary practices.

In *Arch Lake Woman*, Owsley and his colleagues successfully demonstrate the wealth of information that can be gleaned from ancient skeletons such as Arch Lake Woman. What stands out in the analyses is that, like other early Americans, the Arch Lake Woman is morphologically different from modern Native Americans. Furthermore, while similar in much of her morphology and lifestyle to other early Americans, the young woman from Arch Lake is distinct in two ways: she was buried in an extended supine position, and she had a relatively short and wide cranial vault relative to the other Paleoamericans. Early Americans are more commonly found in a flexed position and are characterized by long and narrow cranial vaults.

Arch Lake Woman is a concise, technical book that provides a wealth of information about this early American skeleton from the southwestern Great Plains. It should be read by anyone who does research on Paleoamericans or Great Plains prehistory. Besides their analyses and interpretations, Owsley and his colleagues provide raw cranial, postcranial, and dental measure-

Arch Lake Woman: Physical Anthropology and Geoarchaeology. By Douglas W. Owsley, Margaret A. Jodry, Thomas W. Stafford, Jr., C. Vance Haynes, Jr., and Dennis J. Stanford. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, published for the Center for the Study

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ments as well as detailed descriptions of the burial artifacts. For nonspecialist readers with a recreational curiosity about the earliest occupants of the Great Plains, this book is worth examining. Because its target audience is professionals, however, it may require some scientific background to be fully comprehended. **Daniel J. Wescott**, *Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University*.