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Book Review: *Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the
High Plains* By Lawrence L. Loendorf

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to traverse the humanities-science divide, calling on scientific techniques along with the knowledge of the lifeways and oral traditions of Indigenous people. The archaeologist's detective kit includes chemistry and physics, anthropology, geology, mythology, psychology, zoology, and art history.

This book details current knowledge of High Plains rock art dating from more than 5,000 years ago to a time when Europeans had arrived in the Americas and their horses and manufactured goods preceded them into the High Plains. In a lively writing style, the author shows how various kinds of information can be meticulously pieced together to show when and by what groups the rock art was made, how old it is, and some of what it meant to its makers. He also notes the many unanswered questions raised by these enduring messages from the past. Those interested in the Native American history of the West will find much to ponder in the complex series of migrations, survival strategies, and religious ideas indicated by the various rock art styles. Those curious about how archaeology works will get more insight from Loendorf's narrative here than from all the archaeology movies in the Netflix catalog. The book presents separate chapters on each style of rock art in the region, focusing on the unique information each conveys. The book is written for the average reader curious about these topics. It presents theories about the human history of the region within the personal story of the author's quest to unravel the rock art's meaning.

Thunder and Herds reads like a good travel guide, with asides about wildlife, fossils, geology, and climate. Via analysis of the images, the archaeological remains associated with them, and oral tradition, the reader is transported between the worlds of modern archaeology and ancient High Plains dwellers. **Linea Sundstrom**, *Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*.

Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains. By Lawrence L. Loendorf. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press, 2008. 254 pp. Photographs, drawings, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$89.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper.

Archaeology is often described as detective work. In this detailed exploration of the High Plains of Colorado and New Mexico, archaeologist Lawrence Loendorf proves as adept as Sherlock Holmes in bringing diverse and often surprising clues to bear on understanding the who, when, where, and why of ancient rock carvings and paintings. From climate change to cultural migrations to landscape, Loendorf carefully reconstructs the contexts, cultural and physical, in which long-ago and not-so-long-ago American Indians created this complex array of images.

The twin joys of archaeology are discovery and the challenge of filling in missing pieces of history. The former requires patience, training, a discerning eye, and sometimes dumb luck. The latter requires the researcher