

THE STATE OF NORTH AMERICAN ROCK ART

Lawrence Loendorf

Twenty-five years ago Christopher Chippindale of Great Britain and David Whitley of the United States organized a rock art session for the Society of American Archaeology in Toronto, Canada.¹ At the meeting there was a round table discussion on the standing of rock art research as it related to overall North American archaeology. Looking back that past quarter century, we see considerable change in how rock art research is perceived and carried out in North America.

Of course, an easy change to recognize is that those of us who met then are older, but that actually might be an advantage because as a group we are more experienced in understanding how rock art is best recorded, managed and interpreted. Furthermore, we represent a worldwide diversity of sorts that has allowed for an exchange of ideas about rock art. Indeed we have been quick to seize upon the successes of one another—especially in terms of recording and managing rock art sites. Recording is a logical place to begin a discussion on the changes in North American rock art research.

Professor Lawrence Loendorf is an anthropologist and archaeologist with Ph.D from the University of Missouri, Columbia. His research focuses on the North American intermountain west, ethnography, traditional cultural properties and rock art. Professor Loendorf earlier taught and completed his research at the University of North Dakota; he also taught at the New Mexico State University for ten years. During his teaching career, Professor Loendorf received a number of awards for his outstanding teaching and research. In 2007, the American Rock Art Research Association gave him the Klaus Wellman Award for Distinguished Service in the field of rock art.

Professor Loendorf started his career as a ‘dirt’ archaeologist where he led some major excavations into deeply stratified sites. He has written and published six books, five monographs and dozens of articles on subjects related to rock art.

His most recent book is *Thunder and Herds: Rock Art of the High Plains*. *Picture Cave and other Rock Art Sites on Fort Bliss* is a monograph that he co-wrote with Myles Miller and Leonard Kemp. Professor Loendorf has also published extensively on the Indians of Yellowstone National Park including a children’s book that he co-wrote with Nancy Stone.

Professor Loendorf is currently working to record rock art at several sites in the Joranda Mogollon region of southeastern New Mexico and northern Texas. He is also working on Montana related rock art projects.

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