

patterns, would have helped readers unfamiliar with the geographic details of the Great Basin. Also, inclusion of a few satellite photos would have been appropriate. It would be helpful for the reader to have at hand some of the new computer-generated landform maps and images—for example, those of Edwards and Batson (*U.S. Geol. Surv. Misc. Inv.*, Map I-1850 [1990]) and Thelin and Pike (*ibid.*, Map I-2206 [1991]).

Its geographic approach and many tables of data make *The Desert's Past* an attractive candidate for release in CD-ROM form. Indeed, putting the many types of digital data being generated by Great Basin researchers into a common format would do a great deal to enhance the kind of sharing between disciplines that is so well exemplified by this book.

Grayson clearly has a great love for and deep understanding of his subject, and throughout the book he manages to convey a sense of excitement through the inclusion of odd bits of information about topics ranging from compelling coprolites to a lost Manx farthing and the unlikely immortality of Danny King's dog. Stylistically, the book is an interesting (and successful) hybrid. The informality and readability of the main text will satisfy the needs of a general audience. On the other hand, even active researchers are likely to find new sources of information in the more than 1000 references that are packed into narrative "Notes" sections at the ends of the chapters. This book will appeal to

all those interested in the natural history of the Great Basin and might be useful as the basis of a course in historical environmental science.

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Books Received

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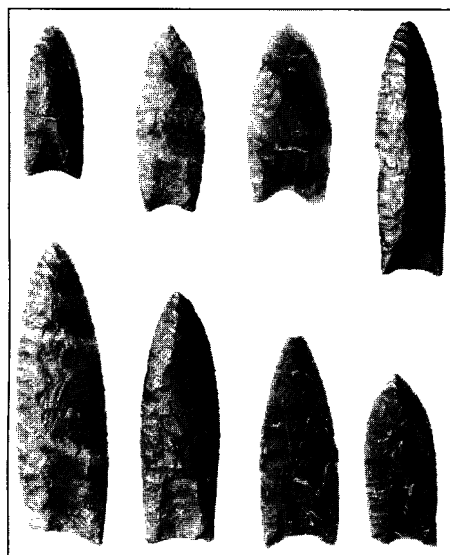
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"Clovis points" from the Naco site, Arizona, found among the remains of a mammoth (the longest measures 4.6 inches). Approximately 11,000 years old, they take their name from the town of Clovis, New Mexico, where such projectile points were first found and recognized to be ancient. [From *The Desert's Past*, photograph by E. B. Sayles, courtesy of the Arizona State Museum]