

Afterword. Two years before the release of this book, one of the oldest archaeological sites with evidence of early human presence in the Americas was reported by C.F. Ardelean and coauthors in a well-known international journal; this site came to join a number of other sites all over Mexico addressing similar questions, such as El Cedral–Rancho La Amapola, in the State of San Luis Potosí; Tlapacoya, State of México; Valsequillo, Puebla; and Loltún Cave, Yucatán. A key difference with previous reports on several other localities is that the authors built up their arguments on a thorough array of analytical tools and laboratory studies performed in several countries, in both the New and Old Worlds. However, as expected for any scientific study – and especially for early human sites in the Americas – there has been much questioning around the actual evidence, mainly focusing on the purported *lithics* (stone tools) that were reported back then. Departing from those doubts, Ardelean developed a comprehensive, highly-detailed catalogue, with measurements and abundant photographs for each one of the included artefacts. This bibliographic tool brings into light 1,139 archaeological finds recovered from stratified sediments at *Cueva del Chiquihuite*, in the State of Zacatecas, Mexico – some of them dating back to the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) and even older: in fact, chronologically coincident with the finds at Rancho La Amapola (El Cedral). Well-known prehistorians have written forewords for this publication: Bruce A. Bradley and Astolfo Araujo, as well as Eudald Carbonell and Xosé Pedro Rodríguez-Álvarez, two of the main researchers at the famous Atapuerca site in Spain. They all coincide that this is a crucial contribution and that proponents and critics alike should converge in a constructive discussion of the validity of the proposed stone tools, in benefit of the knowledge of the Americas’ earliest humans.

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