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Review of The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Volume 6: November 2, 1805-March 22, 1806.

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Parsons, Gerald M., "Review of The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Volume 6: November 2, 1805-March 22, 1806." (1992). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 697.

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sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska and co-sponsored by the American Philosophical Society, to publish a completely reedited version of all extant materials relating to the famous expedition of 1804-1806. Nine volumes (2-10) will contain all extant journal writings, while Volume 1 (1983) is already acknowledged a magnificently produced edition of the cartographic history of the trip, and Volume 11 will contain natural history materials, including reproductions of the herbarium sheets that Lewis gathered during the journey.

This volume covers the period that took the Corps of Discovery from the cascades of the Columbia River to the Pacific and includes their depressing three-month stay at Fort Clatsop. While here, though, the explorers undertook considerable scientific investigation and reported so extensively on ethnography and natural history that when they turned eastward again on 23 March 1806 they carried back what James Ronda has called "a virtual catalog of western North America—its land, peoples, plants, and animals."

In virtually every sense, this volume is a tribute to both careful scholarship and a publisher's concern for readability. The text itself is printed with minimal clutter, and the various editorial corrections, conjectures, emendations, interlineations, and remarks are easily recognized and highlighted. Locating footnotes throughout the text and in immediate proximity to journal entries (as in standard editions of letters) serves both the interests of editorial economy and reader facility and makes for easy and quick referencing. The very first entry (2 November 1805), for example, has fourteen footnotes covering information about original manuscripts, current locations and names for original text references, scientific data collected by Lewis and Clark, relevant scholarship on journal entries and related journal passages that help illuminate and complete the descriptions of a given entry, and, as appropriate, editorial speculations on journal inclusions and omissions. Together, these extensive notations and citations provide us with the most complete and updated knowledge

The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Volume 6: November 2, 1805-March 22, 1806. Edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. Illustrations, maps, sources cited, index. xii + 531 pp. \$50.00.

This latest edition of the *Journals* represents the midpoint of an eleven-volume project,

available on the expedition since the effort of Thwaites in 1904-05. There are also fifty-one figures included in this text, carefully chosen from the numerous drawings of northwest Indian life and culture, and scientific discovery in expedition texts.

One must compliment the editorial staff on the practical wisdom of all their choices; the result is that the serious scholar has proximate access to the original text while also having complete access to the editing history and scholarship of these journals. To the extent that Moulton's aim was to approach Coues's unmet ambition of producing a text that is "verbatim et literatim et punctuatim," he has succeeded admirably!

The cost of these volumes is probably prohibitive to the non-specialist, which is a shame. The experience of tracking this epic journey, even through a leisurely reading of these journals, is a remarkable experience that should be available to a general audience. Unquestionably, this edition can be read by both the specialist and non-specialist alike. And, as Lewis and Clark become more broadly accessible to American audiences, these *Journals* will increase in value to the scholarly enterprise of other disciplines. An appreciation of their rhetoric of technical and scientific description, for example, has just barely been studied or recognized, but scholars in this emerging field should benefit enormously from the efforts of this editorial team.

Like earlier volumes, this singular account of the expedition's Pacific destination provides us with a remarkable window onto a particular and glorious moment in the discovery of our continent. To read these pages, even in a cursory way, is to experience a sense of wonder.

This edition will further facilitate a rearrangement of seminal American documents and place the *Journals* more appropriately toward the center of those accounts that help define our significance.

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