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Review of *Into the Wilderness Dreams: Exploration Narratives of the American West, 1500-1805* Edited by Donald A. Barclay, James H. Maquire, and Peter Wild

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America. Spokesmen from Spain are especially represented, such as Cabeza de Vaca, Gaspar Castaño de Sosa, and Gaspar Pérez de Villagra. There are, as well, ample selections by French and English journeyers, ranging from Pierre Esprit Radisson's mid-seventeenth-century adventures in the Mississippi region of New France to John R. Jewitt's early nineteenth-century captivity along the coast of western Canada. Included, too, is a report by German-born Georg Wilhelm Steller, representing Russian interests along present-day Alaska, and a selection from a Navajo mountain chant and from a fantastic sixteenth-century chivalric romance.

The editors have not only chosen highly readable, well-translated passages but have also designed their anthology with equal care. Besides providing a brief, useful introduction to the volume as a whole, they preface each entry with thoughtful contextualizing commentary followed by a selected bibliography. These introductions, which occasionally recall specific prior observations, always relate each new selection to some feature of the anthology's thematic concern with the function of dream, of imagination, in the earliest descriptions of western North America.

The editors' selections tend to emphasize more the "exploration" of human frontiers than the exploration of geographical frontiers. Most of the excerpts in this volume, in other words, feature European encounters with Native Americans rather than with the various wonders of the land itself. Despite this focus, however, the editors have adopted a refreshingly sensible, perhaps courageous, approach to such cultural contact: "we are not dealing with questions to personal morality but with historical processes" (p. xiii).

Although some readers may wish for annotations to help with occasional obscure moments in the passages, over all they will find this well-produced book to be at once entertaining and instructive. Moreover, *Into the Wilderness Dream* provides academic specialists in early American studies with a substantial resource for furthering their current

Into the Wilderness Dreams: Exploration Narratives of the American West, 1500-1805. Edited by Donald A. Barclay, James H. Maquire, and Peter Wild. Salt Lake City, University of Utah Press, 1994. Introduction, epilogue, index. xvii + 397 pp. \$17.95 paper.

Into the Wilderness Dream is an anthology of thirty-three excerpts, in English translation, drawn from narratives by various individuals who consciously or unconsciously described the encounter between their traditional European expectations concerning the New World and their actual experiences in western North

interest in appreciating better the cultural diversity of colonial encounters with North America. In many respects, then, the editors have compiled an exemplary anthology.

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