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**Review of *Retracing Major Stephen H. Long's Expedition: The Itinerary and Botany* by George J. Goodman and Cheryl A. Lawson**

Robert B. Kaul

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, rkaul1@unl.edu

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**Retracing Major Stephen H. Long's Expedition: The Itinerary and Botany.** George J. Goodman and Cheryl A. Lawson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. xviii+366 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, and index. \$38.50 cloth (ISBN 0-8061-2703-1).

Earlier expeditions made incidental collections of plants and animals in Louisiana Territory, but the Long Expedition of 1820 was the first deliberately staffed with scientists assigned to that task. Authorized by President Monroe and Secretary of War Calhoun, the Expedition was directed to document plant and animal life and geology in the intimidating country between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains and to find the source of the Platte and Red rivers in the mountains. All this was to be done quickly and, in fact, took only 100 days, June 6—September 13, 1820. Starting near

present-day Omaha, the Expedition moved westward along the Platte and South Platte rivers to the mountains, then southward into present-day New Mexico, and finally eastward following the Canadian River (not the Red as hoped) to Fort Smith, Arkansas. The staff included Major Stephen H. Long, an army engineer, as leader; Titian Peale, son of the painter, as naturalist and painter of animals; Samuel Seymour as landscape painter; John Bell as journalist; Thomas Say, later famous for his scientific discoveries and writings, as zoologist; and Edwin James M.D., of Vermont, as botanist. Admonished by both natives and settlers east of the Louisiana Purchase, the explorers were told of terrors in that land of unreachable horizons in what was then west of the West.

But this book is not a recounting of the Expedition's tribulations and discoveries, which have been well told elsewhere. Rather, it is the story of its authors' trips retracing the Expedition's route and relocating the sites of Edwin James's botanical discoveries. With first-person narratives of its authors' activities smoothly interwoven with brief accounts of the Expedition's day-by-day movements, the book is at once detective story and travelogue, modern and historical. Using as references James's published account and unpublished diary of the Expedition, Bell's diary, Peale's and Seymour's paintings, and modern maps, Oklahoma botanists Goodman and Lawson carefully retraced the Expedition's path, which is shown in clearly detailed state-by-state maps that use modern political boundaries for reference. The Expedition's daily encampments and James's collecting sites are marked, each carefully estimated by Goodman and Lawson.

Edwin James collected specimens of about 700 species of the flora along the Expedition's route, nearly all of which still exist in museums. More than 100 are of then-unknown species, some the type specimens that define those species. Two-thirds of the book is a species-by-species catalog of James's plants, each entry annotated in taxonomic details and supplemented by the authors' interpretations of the provenance of the specimens. The book thus serves as an important taxonomic nomenclatural reference as well as a fine example of reconstructive history of science and exploration. Far from a dry recitation of tedious detail, this handsome, readable volume will appeal to botanists and historians alike for its wealth of information and clever format. Readers would have been aided by an introductory map of the entire route to supplement the state-by-state maps, and non-botanists by an explanation of the significance of type specimens so often mentioned, but both are easily inferred by the careful reader. **Robert B. Kaul**, *School of Biological Sciences, University of Nebraska—Lincoln*.