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**Review of *Herbarium of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Vol. 12, The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition* Edited by Gary E.**

**Moulton**

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**Herbarium of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.** Vol. 12, **The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition.** Edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999. Calendar of Botanical Specimens, herbarium, tables, illustrations, references. xii+359 pp. \$75.00 (ISBN 0-8032-2931-3).

This volume continues the series edited by Gary E. Moulton and is certainly its capstone publication, including as it does a portion of the scientific results of that amazing expedition. The strengths of the volume are great indeed. Foremost is the presentation of a photographic representation

of the extant herbarium collected on the Expedition. Moreover, the careful review of the historical meanderings of the herbarium specimens from their gathering to their present sites provides real insight into botanical history. That any of the specimens survived to contemporary times is a wonder, demonstrating again the fragmentary nature of early collections upon which great interpretations were and continue to be based. The specimens, despite their fragmentary nature or state of preservation, evidence the devotion of their collectors and set the standard followed on other expeditions of exploration, especially of the vast lands of the American West.

Of less importance is the attempt to place modern names with the plates. Some of the names taken from various contemporary sources, including those supplied as an appendix following deadlines for the work's completion, are clearly wrong. The list of scientific names applied to the specimens would be subject to controversy no matter who was cited as authority for the contemporary names. No two botanists would agree on all of them. Those specimens representing types of various taxa could have been more clearly identified, however. There are other minor errors that could have been corrected by one familiar with both taxonomic jargon and literature, but those are unimportant to the general presentation.

Those unacquainted with the nuances of botanical terminology and nomenclature will overlook minor flaws in this work of considerable value. This is especially true in assessing the importance of the collections of Lewis and Clark to Frederick Pursh's *Florae Americae Septentrionalis*. The work also gives additional insight into the botanical expertise and possible intrigues of Pursh, whose enterprise was also an important milestone in American botanical history.

The botanical community will be forever grateful for the appearance of this handsomely printed volume. **Stanley L. Welsh**, *Department of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium*, Brigham Young University.