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Review of *Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* By H. Wayne Phillips

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Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. By H. Wayne Phillips. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2003. vii + 277 pp. Color photographs, figures, glossary, bibliography, index. \$20.00 paper.

Since the publication of *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists* by Paul Russell Cutright in 1969 and the arrival of the expedition's bicentennial, more and more people are interested in the botanical results of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The combined efforts of explorer Meriwether Lewis and botanist Frederick Pursh provided the foundation of our knowledge of the flora of western North America as well as the earliest portrayal of western plants as botanical art. Despite all the ordeals of the expedition, Lewis managed to collect specimens of about eighty currently recognized plant species that were described as new to science by Pursh in his classic 1813 two-volume work, *Flora Americae Septentrionalis*.

The main part of Phillips's book is a "field guide" to 225 plant species encountered on the expedition. Generally, there are descriptions of two species on the even-numbered pages, illustrated with color photographs on the facing

odd-numbered ones. Color illustrations in Pursh's *Flora* are also included, and photographs of western landscapes are scattered throughout the text. Relevant information from Gary Moulton's *Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* follows the succinct descriptions. The arrangement of species is offered in a convenient east-west sequence by geographical regions: the Deciduous Forest, the Tallgrass Prairie, the High Plains, the Rocky Mountains, Columbia Plains, and the Pacific Forest. Trail maps and lists of plants precede the discussion for each geographic region.

The arrangement of the sections at the beginning of the book seems hastily devised. The preface, which describes an experience the author had in Oregon while searching for plants, follows "A Brief History of the Plant Collections." The latter section, which seems out of keeping with the thrust of the book, nevertheless contains information readers may want to know. Some of it, however, needs correction: Woodlands was a garden (now a cemetery) in Philadelphia, not "near Baltimore," and Pursh's explorations did not take him "north to New Hampshire," although he got as close as Vermont.

As a curator of the Lewis and Clark Herbarium since 1962, I find this book a pleasure to read. The dried herbarium specimens almost come to life in the excellent photographs of living plants. H. Wayne Phillips has presented the botanical achievements of Meriwether Lewis and Frederick Pursh in an appealing format. It is a fitting tribute to the scientific legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. **Alfred E. Schuyler**, *Department of Botany, Academy of Natural Sciences*.