

# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Discovering the American West

an exhibition from the Alfred Chapin Rogers Collection, the South Carolina College Library, and related collections

## ARCHIVED ONLINE EXHIBIT

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Originally displayed at the Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina

Curated by Patrick Scott

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Archived Online Exhibit.....	1
Introduction .....	2
About Karl Bodmer .....	3
The Unknown Interior and French Louisiana.....	4
The Louisiana Purchase and the Corps of Discovery .....	7
Journeying and Wintering.....	11
The Continental Divide, the Pacific, and the Return.....	15
Reports and Successors .....	18
References .....	22

## INTRODUCTION

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This exhibition marked two major events in American history: the ratification of the Louisiana Purchase, in October 1803, more than doubling the territory of the United States, and Thomas Jefferson's appointment of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead a Corps of Discovery up the Missouri River to find a route to the Pacific across the North American continent. Gathering first in St. Louis in the fall of 1803, the Corps of Discovery set out in May 1804, reached the Pacific coast in November 1805, and returned in triumph to St. Louis in September 1806. They had traveled more than 8,000 miles over a period of 864 days. They mapped their route in detail, brought back much new scientific and geographical information, and made the first European

contact with several groups of Native Americans.

The same years also saw the first book purchases made for the South Carolina College library. Chartered in 1801, the College opened to students in 1805, while Lewis and Clark were still making their journey. In its early years, the library acquired many of the most important contemporary publications on the exploration, ethnography and natural history of the American west, from Vancouver's *Voyages* and Jefferson's message to Congress about the Louisiana purchase (1803) to McKenney and Hall's folio *History of the Indian Tribes* (1836-1844), Karl Bodmer's illustrations for Maximilian's *Travels in the Interior of North America* (1839; English ed. 1843), and Audubon and Bachman's *Quadrupeds of North America* (1845-48).

The exhibition was arranged chronologically, beginning with early maps and books on the American west and on the Louisiana Purchase, following the expedition's progress in printed accounts and through early 19th-century illustrations of the peoples, animals and places they encountered, and concluding with a selection of later exploration narratives. It drew both on items from the antebellum College library and on the strong Americana holdings in the Alfred Chapin Rogers Collection, donated to the University through Mrs. Elizabeth Pyne and Charles French, which brought the first British edition of Lewis and Clark's *Travels* (1814), with its fine map of the expedition route. The exhibit also included individual items from the Kendall Collection, the John Shaw Billings Collection, the South Caroliniana Library, and the Map Library, volumes donated by Mrs. J. Henry Fair, and one of two additional Bodmer illustrations purchased with funds from the Barbara L. and David M. Graham Endowment.

## ABOUT KARL BODMER

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Many of the illustrations of Indian life and the American West in this exhibit were made to accompany Prince Maximilian of Wied's account of his travels in the United States in 1832-34, up the Missouri, in the tracks of the earlier expedition by Lewis and Clark. Maximilian's book *Travels in the Interior of North America* was first published in three volumes in German (issued in parts between 1839 and 1843), then published in French (in 1840-43), and finally in English (a translation of volumes 1 and 2 only) in 1843. Largely because of Bodmer's illustrations, the work is widely regarded as "the most Celebrated Book on Indian Life and the American Frontier."

The illustrator was a previously little-known Swiss artist, Karl Bodmer (1809-1893), who traveled with Maximilian, making both quick sketches and (during a prolonged stay at Fort Clark in the winter of 1833-34) more elaborate paintings. On Bodmer's return to Europe, he (and other artists) used his sketches as the basis for the series of 81 illustrations commissioned by Maximilian.

The aquatint engravings prepared from the paintings in Paris were issued in small groups, both hand-colored and uncolored, on different grades of paper, over several years. The original German issue in 1839-43 comprised 355 sets, more than half uncolored. The 81 illustrations are numbered in two sequences, as plates (Tableaux, to be bound as a separate volume) and smaller Vignettes (intended to be bound in with the text); the captions were given in three languages, to allow the same plates to be used with all three editions.

The library's set (London: Ackerman, 1843-44) was originally purchased in the 1840's for \$150 and now lacks a few of the plates. For conservation and display purposes, some years ago both the plates and vignettes were disbound, matted and framed.

# THE UNKNOWN INTERIOR AND FRENCH LOUISIANA

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## Thomas Jefferson's Vision

Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826.

***Notes on the State of Virginia. Written by Thomas Jefferson. Illustrated with a map, including the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania.***

Second English edition.

London: J. Stockdale, 1787. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers*



Long before he became President, and long before the Louisiana Purchase, Thomas Jefferson had envisioned the potential of the Missouri river as a route into the American west. Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* had first appeared in French, in Paris, in 1784.

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## An Early European Image of Native Americans

Bry, Theodor de, 1528-1598.

Plate 17, from ***Vivæ imagines et ritus incolarum eius provinciae in America in Admiranda narratio, fida tamen, de commodis et incolarum ritibus Virginiae Anglico scripta sermone à Thoma Hariot . . .*** [Greater Voyages, Part 1].



Francoforti ad Moenum: Typis Ioannis Wecheli, Sumtibus Theodor de Bry, 1590.

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## The American West as Terra Incognita

John Ogilby, 1600-1676.

"Totius Americae Descriptio," frontispiece map in his ***America: being the latest, and most accurate description of the New World; containing the original of the inhabitants, and the remarkable voyages thither. . . adorn'd with maps and sculptures.***

London: Printed by the author, 1671. Contemporary brown panelled calf. *Kendall Collection.*



This late seventeenth-century map illustrates the reliance of early European settlers on rivers as their main routes for inland exploration. Where the interior of South America has significant settlement, the map of North America is still largely blank. Despite the claims of his title-page, Ogilby's account (including his maps and pictures) was taken wholesale from the work of Arnoldus Montanus, published in Dutch the previous year.

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## The French in North America

Charlevoix, Pierre-François-Xavier de, 1682-1761.

***Histoire et description generale de la Nouvelle France, avec le journal historique d'un voyage fait par ordre du roi dans l'Amérique septentrionale.*** 3 vols.



Paris: Rolin, 1744. Modern half morocco. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers*

In the first part of the eighteenth century, most of the territory between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains was claimed by France. Even after the end of the Seven Years War in 1762, when formal control was yielded to Spain, the predominant settlement throughout "Louisiana" remained French.

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### Rivers and Transport before European Settlement

Lafitau, Joseph-François, 1681-1746.

***Moeurs des sauvages américains, comparées aux mœurs des premiers temps. . . . enrichi de figures en taille-douce.*** 2 vols.

Paris: Saugrain l'aîné, 1724. Contemporary sprinkled calf. *Label and stamping of South Carolina College library.*



The Jesuit missionary Lafitau was chiefly concerned with native American life in the upper mid-West.

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### French Settlement Moves Inland

Le Page du Pratz, d. 1775.

***Histoire de la Louisiane, contenant la découverte de ce vaste pays.*** 3 vols. Paris: De Bure, l'aîné, 1758. Contemporary mottled calf. *Stamp of South Carolina College Library.*



The map and illustration from Le Page's account indicate the way that throughout the eighteenth century French settlers steadily pushed north and west from New Orleans up the Mississippi and Red rivers.

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### The American West before European Settlement

Karl Bodmer,

"Herds of Bisons and Elks," Plate 47, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, 1782-1867, ***Travels in the interior of North America. . . . Translated from the German, by H. Evans Lloyd.***

London: Ackermann, 1843.



Many of the illustrations of Indian life and the American West in this exhibition come from Prince Maximilian's account of his travels in the United States in 1832-34, first published in German in 1839, and widely regarded as "the most Celebrated Book on Indian Life and the American Frontier". The illustrator was a previously little-known Swiss artist, Karl Bodmer, who traveled with Maximilian up the Missouri on the steamboat Yellowstone. The plates were hand-colored aquatints, with the legend in three languages.

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## River Travel in the Opening of the American Interior, I

Karl Bodmer,

"View on the Delaware near Bordenton," Vignette II, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, 1782-1867, *Travels in the interior of North America*. . . ., 1839.



This was one of two Bodmer illustrations purchased with funds from the Barbara L. and David M. Graham Endowment for Library Acquisitions and Preservation as replacements for plates missing in the South Carolina College copy.

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## River Travel in the Opening of the American Interior, II

Karl Bodmer,

"Encampment of the Travellers on the Missouri", Vignette XXII, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, 1782-1867, *Travels in the interior of North America*. . . ., 1839.



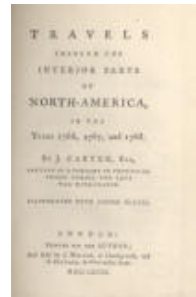
This illustration, drawn by Bodmer on his return journey downstream in November 1833, shows the isolation of travel on most of the Missouri, even thirty years after Lewis and Clark.

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## A British Military Expedition to Explore the American West

Carver, Jonathan, 1710-1780.

*Travels through the interior parts of North-America, in the years 1766, 1767, and 1768*. First edition. London: Printed for the author, and sold by J. Walter, 1778. Two folding maps, plates. Full tree calf, gilt, by Sangorski and Sutcliffe. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers*.



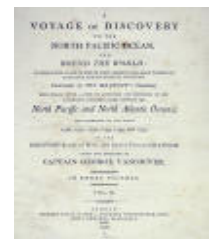
Carver, a British officer who with a small group of soldiers penetrated further into the west than any previous explorer, was the most widely-read of Lewis and Clark's immediate precursors. The *Travels* were probably ghosted for Carver by Dr. John Lettsom.

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## The Race to the Northwest, I

Vancouver, George, 1757-1798.

*A voyage of discovery to the North Pacific ocean, and round the world; in which the coast of north-west America has been carefully examined and accurately surveyed. Undertaken by His Majesty's command, principally with a view to ascertain the existence of any navigable communication between the North Pacific and North Atlantic oceans; and performed in the years 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, and 1795, in the Discovery sloop of war, and armed tender Chatham, under the command of Captain George Vancouver.* 3 vols. and atlas. London: G. G. and J. Robinson, 1798. Contemporary diced calf. *Label of South Carolina College library ["No. 346"]*.



The full subtitle of Vancouver's account indicates clearly the national rivalries contending for the upper west coast of North America in the 1790's. Both Britain and the United States were racing to join their eastern and western territories. In 1792 Captain Robert Gray had brought his ship Columbia to a great river mouth that he named the Columbia River and claimed as American territory, and Vancouver was anxious to counter this claim.

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## The Race to the Northwest, II

Mackenzie, Alexander, Sir, 1763-1820.

***Voyages from Montreal, on the river St. Laurence, through the continent of North America, to the frozen and Pacific oceans; in the years 1789 and 1793.***

1st American ed.

New York: G. F. Hopkins, 1802. Modern red cloth.



The urgency of the international rivalry to find a route across North America was sharpened by this account by a Scot, Alexander Mackenzie. While Mackenzie made his way successfully across from what is now Canada to the Pacific coast, he found no practicable transcontinental trade route.

## THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE AND THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

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### The Louisiana Purchase, I: American Access to the Port of New Orleans

Stoddard, Amos, 1762-1813.

***Sketches, historical and descriptive, of Louisiana.***

Philadelphia: Mathew Carey, 1812. Contemporary half calf.



French and then Spanish control over the port of New Orleans had long posed difficulties for American citizens who relied on exporting their products by way of the Mississippi River. As this account indicates, President Adams had begun planning for seizing the port by force. The defeat of Spain by Napoleon, and the retrocession of Louisiana from Spain to back to France in 1801, initially offered little prospect for improvement.

### The Louisiana Purchase, II: the Treaty

***Debates in the House of representatives, on the bills for carrying into effect the Louisiana treaty.***

Philadelphia: Thomas and George Palmer, for J. Conrad, et al., 1804. Original



boards. *Winyah Indigo Library Society, Georgetown, S.C.*

What transformed the stand-off and opened the way for a negotiated transfer of power in Louisiana was the French army's costly attempt to Toussaint l'Ouverture's slave revolution in Haiti. In a secret treaty, Jefferson's envoy to Paris, James Monroe, was able in 1803 to negotiate, not just control of New Orleans, but purchase for \$15 million of the whole of greater Louisiana. The Treaty was ratified on October 31, 1803, and control formally transferred On December 3, 1803.

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### The Louisiana Purchase, III: occupying a foreign country

***An account of Louisiana, being an abstract of documents, in the offices of the Departments of state, and of the Treasury.***

Philadelphia: John Conrad [etc., etc., 1803]. Original boards. *Winyah Indigo Library Society, Georgetown, S.C.*



This compilation of information about the geography and civil government of Louisiana was an official presidential publication, compiled at Jefferson's direction from information furnished by Dr. John Sibley, of Natchitoches, La., and others. It was transmitted to Congress on November 14, 1803.

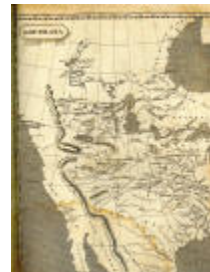
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### The Louisiana Purchase, IV: the Scale of the New Territory

Arrowsmith, Aaron, 1750-1823, and Samuel Lewis, d. 1865.

***A new and elegant general atlas, comprising all the new discoveries, to the present time; containing sixty-three maps.***

Philadelphia: J. Conrad, 1804. Quarter calf, boards. *Courtesy of South Caroliniana Library.*



This contemporary map makes clear just how much additional land was added to the United States by the Louisiana Purchase: the treaty had increased the territory of the United States by 140%, adding land that would be the basis for thirteen new states. The map also shows the new possibility for Americans to attempt a transcontinental expedition without entering another sphere of influence. Arrowsmith's atlas was published after the conclusion of the U.S.-French treaty but before any reports from the explorations by Lewis and Clark.

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### The Corps of Discovery

Clark, William, 1770-1838.

"Journal May 13, 1804-Aug. 14, 1804," facsimiled in Edward C. Carter II,





ed., *Three journals of the Lewis & Clark expedition, 1804-1806: from the collections of the American Philosophical Society*.

Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2000.

In 1803, Meriwether Lewis was twenty-seven, a Virginian militia officer who had been serving as Jefferson's private secretary since 1801. In January 1803, Jefferson sent a secret message to Congress, persuading them to appropriate \$2500 for a transcontinental expedition (the Corps of Discovery), and appointed Lewis to lead it. Jefferson's instructions mandated the keeping of detailed journals and maps. Lewis spent the next winter in Philadelphia, preparing for the scientific aspects of the job, and then traveled by river to St. Louis, to meet up with his co-captain, William Clark and their recruits. The expedition set sail up the Missouri, with 27 men in three boats, on May 14th 1804.

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### River Travel on the Missouri

Karl Bodmer, "Camp of the Gros Ventres of the Prairies," Plate 38, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America*. . . . London: Ackermann, 1843.



For the first leg of their journey, Lewis and Clark took three boats, a larger keel-boat, which would have looked much like the sail-boat in this illustration, and two smaller pirogues. Later, before tackling the shallower upper reaches of the river, they sent the keel-boat back, and acquired several smaller canoes.

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### The Expedition Route

Foldout frontispiece map, from Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, *Travels to the source of the Missouri river and across the American continent to the Pacific ocean. Performed by order of the government of the United States, in the years, 1804, 1805, and 1806*. 3 vols. New ed.

London: Longman, et al., 1815. Three-quarter morocco. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers*.

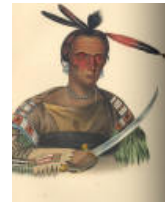


The expedition traveled in the months from spring to fall and established a camp each winter. The long journey up river and across the Rockies to the Pacific took two-summer traveling periods (1804, 1805), while the return journey, which was all downstream after recrossing the continental divide, was completed in one summer (1806). The book is open to show a typical passage from the first weeks of the journey.

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## Among the Sioux

"To-Ka-Con, A Sioux Chief" from Thomas L. M'Kenney, 1785-1859, and James Hall, 1793-1868. ***History of the Indian Tribes of North America . . . with 120 portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War.*** 3 vols., octavo. Philadelphia: Rice and Hart, 1855. Blind-stamped morocco. *Gift of Mrs. J. Henry Fair.*



In addition to scientific exploration, the expedition had the political agenda of making treaties with the Indian tribes previously beyond United States influence. The first contact was with a friendly group of Yankton Sioux, but in September they encountered the more hostile Teton Sioux: "Capt. Clark told them that . . . if they misused us he or Capt. Lewis could by writing have them all destroyed . . . we were on our guard all night" (Sgt. Ordway, September 25th, 1804).

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## Encountering Native Americans: the West Before European Settlement

Karl Bodmer,  
"Assinboin Indians," Plate 32, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, ***Travels in the interior of North America.*** . . . London: Ackermann, 1843.



Bodmer's portraits of individual native Americans and their dress have a special historical value because they were made *in situ*, while rival series by McKenney was mostly painted when the chiefs of various Indian tribes visited European settlements and often show a partially Europeanized appearance. Lewis and Clark had encountered Assinboins several times during the first leg of their journey and during their first winter.

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## The "Barking Squirrel" or Prairie Dog

John James Audubon, 1785-1851,  
"Pl. XCIX: The Prairie Dog," in Audubon and John Bachman, 1790-1874, ***The quadrupeds of North America.*** 3 vols., octavo. New York: V. G. Audubon, 1851-54. Contemporary half morocco



One of the animals that most puzzled the explorers was the prairie dog, or prairie marmot, which Lewis called the barking squirrel: "this animal appears here in infinite numbers . . . the Village contains great numbers of holes on the top of which the little animals Set erect make a Whistling noise and when allarmed Step into their hole" (September 17, 1804).

## JOURNEYING AND WINTERING

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### Hunting the Buffalo,

"Hunting the Buffalo,"

from Thomas L. M'Kenney, 1785-1859, and James Hall, 1793-1868. **History of the Indian Tribes of North America . . .with 120 portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War.** 3 vols., octavo.

Philadelphia: Rice and Hart, 1855. Blind-stamped morocco. *Gift of Mrs. J. Henry Fair.*



To a great extent, the expedition lived, not on supplies it brought with it, but on meat from hunting along the journey. Deer, antelope and buffalo all provided such supplies. Lewis was amazed by the size of buffalo herds ("above 3000"), and in a journal entry for May 1805 gives a detailed account of the methods by which Indians hunted them. For another image of Buffalo on Upper Missouri, see the illustrations by Bodmer in Island I.

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### The American Badger

John James Audubon, 1785-1851,

"Pl. XLVII: American Badger," in Audubon and John Bachman, **The quadrupeds of North America.**

3 vols., octavo.

New York: V. G. Audubon, 1851-54. Full morocco gilt. *John Shaw Billings Collection.*



The scientific purpose of the expedition led Lewis and Clarke to record each new animal or bird they encountered. On July 20, 1803, Clark recorded that: "Joseph Fields Killed and brought in an Anamale Called by the French Brarow and by the Panies Cho car tooch . . . He is of the Bear species," while one of his subordinates asserted that this species of badger "never was seen by any of the company before."

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### The American Beaver

John James Audubon, 1785-1851,

"Pl. XLVI: The American Beaver," in Audubon and John Bachman, **The quadrupeds of North America.** 3 vols., octavo.

New York: V. G. Audubon, 1851-54. Contemporary half morocco



The expedition first encountered beavers early the following spring, when they left camp to resume their journey and fell in with three French fur-hunters: "the beaver these people have already taken is by far the best I have ever seen" (April 10, 1805). By 1806, the explorers were themselves hunting for beavers, for medicinal purposes.

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## The First Winter: at the Mandan Village

Catlin, George, 1796-1872.

Plates 47, 48: the Mandan Village, in his ***Letters and notes on the manners, customs, and condition of the North American Indians. Written during eight years' travel amongst the wildest tribes . . . . With four hundred illustrations from the author's original paintings.*** 3rd ed. 2 vols. London: for the Author by Tilt and Bogue, 1842. Original half calf. *John Shaw Billings Collection.*



By late October 1804, the expedition had reached what is now North Dakota, and built a log fort in which to spend the winter, near two villages of the Mandan people ('Fort Mandan'). They remained there till April 7, the next year, when they sent the larger keel-boat, now too deep for the rivers, back downstream with a small detachment to take dispatches to Jefferson. The remainder of the expedition pressed on upstream in the smaller pirogues and canoes.

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## Winter on the Upper Missouri

Karl Bodmer, "Fort Clark on the Missouri (February 1834)," Plate 15, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, ***Travels in the interior of North America.*** . . . London: Ackermann, 1843.



Fort Clark, named for the co-leader of the Corps of Discovery, was very near the Mandan village where Lewis and Clark spent the winter of 1804-1805 building their own Fort Mandan.

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## The Visit of a Pawnee Chief

"Pes-Ke-Le-Cha-Co, A Pawnee Chief" from Thomas L. M'Kenney, 1785-1859, and James Hall, 1793-1868.

***History of the Indian Tribes of North America . . . with 120 portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War.*** 3 vols., octavo.

Philadelphia: Rice and Hart, 1855. Blind-stamped morocco. *Gift of Mrs. J. Henry Fair.*

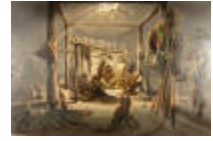


While the Corps members were still building their winter quarters at Fort Mandan, they were visited by several Indians, including "a Chief Half Pania [Pawnee]" who "came & brought a side of Buffalow . . . he crossed the river in the Buffalow Skin Canoo" (November 10, 1804).

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### Indian Life: A Mandan Cabin

Karl Bodmer, "The Interior of the Hut of a Mandan Chief," Plate 19, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America. . . .* London: Ackermann, 1843.



The five months that Lewis and Clark spent at Fort Mandan also gave them their first, and most extended, exposure to native American life and culture.

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### Indian Life: Mandan Indians

Karl Bodmer, "Mandan Indians," Plate 20, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America. . . .* London: Ackermann, 1843.



### Indian Life: Dog-Sledges of the Mandan Indians

Karl Bodmer, "Dog-Sledges of the Mandan Indians," Vig. XXIX, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America. . . .* London: Ackermann, 1843.



### The Importance of the Buffalo in Indian Life

Karl Bodmer, "Bison-Dance of the Mandan Indians," Plate 18, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America. . . .* London: Ackermann, 1843.



The successful hunting of bison or buffalo provided the main food supply for the Mandans, as for Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery.

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### Dance of the Mandan Women

Karl Bodmer, "Dance of the Mandan Women," Vig. XXVIII, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America. . . .* London: Ackermann, 1843.



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## Danger and the Grizzly Bear

John James Audubon, 1785-1851,  
"Pl. CXXXI: Grizzly Bear," in Audubon and John Bachman, *The quadrupeds of North America*.  
3 vols., octavo.  
New York: V. G. Audubon, 1851-54. Contemporary half morocco



As they set out on their second summer, tackling the upper reaches of the Missouri basin, Lewis and his fellows were amazed at the weight and resilience of the grizzly bear, as compared with the black bear; "it is a much more furious and formidable animal, and will frequently pursue the hunter when wounded" (Lewis, April 29, 1805).

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## Hunting of the Grizzly Bear

Karl Bodmer, "Hunting of the Grizzly Bear," Plate 36, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America*. . . .  
London: Ackermann, 1843.



Later, Lewis himself, having just fired his gun at a buffalo, found himself being chased by a grizzly while he was still 300 yards from the nearest tree: "I ran about 80 yards and found he gained on me . . . the idea struck me to get into the water . . . he suddenly wheeled about as if frightened, declined to combat . . . and retreated" (June 14, 1805).

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## Landscape of the Upper Missouri

Karl Bodmer, "Remarkable Hills on the Upper Missouri," Plate 34, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, *Travels in the interior of North America*. . . .  
London: Ackermann, 1843.



The strange formations shown here from Bodmer's illustrations had previously been described by Lewis, in his journal entry for May 31, 1805: "The hills and river Clifts which we passed today exhibit a most romantic appearance . . . which with the help of a little imagination and an oblique view, at a distance are made to represent eligant ranges of lofty freestone buildings. . . As we passed it seemed as if those seens of visionary inchantments would never have an end."

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## Jefferson and Lewis Make an Interim Report

***Travels in the interior parts of America; communicating discoveries made in exploring the Missouri, Red River and Washita, by Captains Lewis and Clark, . . . As laid before the Senate, by the President of the United States in February, 1806, and never before published in Great Britain.***

London: Phillips, 1807. Green half-calf. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers.*



Before leaving Fort Mandan in April 1805, Lewis sent Jefferson a confident report on his progress so far ("We do not calculate on completing our voyage within the present year . . . You may therefore expect me to meet you at Montachello in September 1806"). Jefferson added a cover-letter (dated February 19, 1806) and had it printed (with additional material from others) as a Presidential message to Congress.

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### Jefferson's 1806 Message to Congress

***The travels of Capts. Lewis and Clarke from St. Louis, by way of the Missouri and Columbia rivers, to the Pacific ocean; performed in the years 1804, 1805 & 1806, by order of the government of the United States. . . . from the official communication of Meriwether Lewis.***

London: Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, 1809. Modern half morocco, by Sangorski and Sutcliffe. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers.*



As this 1809 reprinting shows, the interim report and *Jefferson's 1806 message* continued to be reprinted even after the expedition returned, while book-buyers waited for publication of Lewis's official narrative.

## THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, THE PACIFIC, AND THE RETURN

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### Charting the Journey

William Clark, Route maps for April 7-14 and April 14-23, 1805, facsimiled in Gary E. Moulton, ed., ***Atlas of the Lewis and Clark Expedition***. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983.

And: Meriwether Lewis, "Journal May 24, 1805-July 16, 1805" facsimiled in Edward C. Carter II, ed., ***Three journals of the Lewis & Clark expedition, 1804-1806: from the collections of the American Philosophical Society***. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2000.

In his instructions, Jefferson had emphasized the need to keep multiple copies of maps and journals, in case of loss or damage. Clarke's first annotated sketch map reproduced in this widely-available scholarly facsimile indicates progress in the first few days after the Corps left its first winter camp at the Mandan village; this was also the route retraced by Lewis on the return journey. Lewis's journal from later that same summer (also available in a recent

facsimile) is a reminder that Lewis and Clark had to be their own doctors during their two-and-a-half year expedition.

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### Choosing a Route across the Rockies: Where the Rivers Divide

Karl Bodmer, "Junction of the Yellow Stone River with the Missouri," Plate 29, from Maximilian, Prince of Wied, ***Travels in the interior of North America. . . .***  
London: Ackermann, 1843.



As Lewis and Clark moved upriver, again and again they had to choose which fork to follow. On April 25, 1805, they reached the confluence of the Missouri and the Yellowstone, where the Yellowstone is wider, while the Missouri runs more swiftly. It took several days of exploration to settle on the best route forward.

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### Crossing the Great Continental Divide

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, ***Travels to the source of the Missouri river and across the American continent to the Pacific ocean***, Vol. II.  
London: Longman, et al., 1815. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers.*



During its second summer, the expedition traveled with a considerable struggle up narrower and narrower water courses, before reaching the headwaters of the Missouri, among the Shoshonees. In mid-July, suffering great shortages of food and supplies, and proceeding on horseback and foot, they struggled across the continental divide to find the headwaters of the Columbia river and the way down to the Pacific, through the country of the Flatheads and Nez Perces. Failing to find the American ship by which they had hoped to make the return journey, they spent their second winter on the shore of the Pacific, building themselves another fort (Fort Clatsop).

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### Among the Tushepaw or Flatheads: September 1805

Thomas L. M'Kenney, 1785-1859, and  
James Hall, 1793-1868.

***History of the Indian Tribes of North America . . .with 120 portraits from the Indian Gallery in the Department of War.*** 3 vols., folio.

Philadelphia: Rice and Clark, 1842. Quarter calf, marbled boards. *Gilt-stamped leather label of South Carolina College Library.*





M'Kenney and Hall's series of Indian portraits was published both in folio as here and in the smaller octavo format. The original paintings were destroyed in 1865, in a fire at the Smithsonian Institution. The South Carolina College set of the folio series now lacks many of the plates, and a later octavo set is used for several other entries in this exhibit.

On the Flatheads, Clark reported: "We met a party of the Tushepau nation, of 33 lodges about 80 men 400 total . . . those people received us friendly, threw white robes over our shoulders and smoked in the pipes of peace. . . . I was the first white man who ever were on the waters of this river" (Clark's diary, September 4, 1805).

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### Lewis's Journal at Fort Clatsop

Meriwether Lewis, "Journal Jan. 1, 1806-Mar.20, 1806," facsimiled in Edward C. Carter II, ed., *Three journals of the Lewis & Clark expedition, 1804-1806: from the collections of the American Philosophical Society*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2000.

While there have been many editions of the Lewis and Clark journals, these widely-available facsimiles give the best flavor of the originals. Even in camp, Lewis kept up a journal of daily weather observations and other scientific information.

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### Among the Nez-Perces, the Chinooks, and the Clatsops

"Map of Oregon Showing the location of Indian Tribes," in Henry R. Schoolcraft, 1793-1864, *Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1851-57), Part III. Half-morocco. *Gift of Mrs. J. Henry Fair.*



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### The Return Journey: Sacajawea as Guide

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, *Travels to the source of the Missouri river and across the American continent to the Pacific ocean*. Vol. III. New ed. London: Longman, et al., 1815. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers.*



In the spring of 1806, Lewis and Clark set off back overland, though, mindful of the struggles of their first crossing, they split up as they got further inland, to explore alternative routes. When Clark's party faced a dilemma over the best route, it was the only woman in the group, Sacajewaea, the Shoshone wife of their French-Canadian guide Charbonneau, who was able to tell them of a pass across the divide.

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## Jefferson reports to Congress on the Expedition's Success

Thomas Jefferson, "Message from the President of the United States to Both Houses of Congress, Dec. 2, 1806," in ***The speeches, addresses and messages, of the several presidents of the United States, at the openings of Congress and at their respective inaugurations. . . .***

Philadelphia: R. Desilver, 1825. Original boards.



Once back across the Divide, the expedition moved downstream faster and faster as the rivers got more easily navigable, sometimes covering as much as 75 miles a day, and made its triumphant return to St. Louis, arriving on September 23, 1806. Jefferson included this report on their success in his next message to Congress: "Messrs. Lewis and Clark, and their brave companions, have by this arduous service, deserved well of their country."

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## REPORTS AND SUCCESSORS

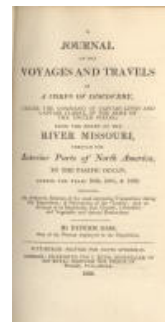
### Reports on the West: Lewis and Clark and their successors

#### Reporting on the Corps of Discovery, I

Gass, Patrick, 1771-1870.

***A journal of the voyages and travels of a corps of discovery under the command of Captain Lewis and Captain Clarke, from the mouth of the river Missouri, through the interior parts of North America, to the Pacific Ocean; during the years 1804, 1805, & 1806.***

Pittsburgh: Printed for David M'Keehan; London, Re-printed for J. Budd 1808. Inscribed by William Cobbett to Dr. Batty. Brown calf. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers.*



Patrick Gass had volunteered for the expedition in 1803 and was promoted to sergeant in August 1804. His record of the journey, published only a year after the return, appeared seven years ahead of the official Lewis and Clark narrative.

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#### Reporting on the Corps of Discovery, II

Fisher, William, comp. ***An interesting account of the voyages and travels of Captains Lewis and Clarke, in the years 1804-5, & 6. Giving a faithful description of the river Missouri and its source . . . To which is added a***



***complete dictionary of the Indian tongue.***

Baltimore: Printed and published by P. Mauro, 1813. Rebound.

This spurious compilation, which first appeared in Philadelphia in 1809, pirated Jefferson's and Lewis's interim reports of 1806 and padded them out with extracts from Carver's *Travels* and Mackenzie's *Voyage from Montreal*, together with a Cree vocabulary.

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**Reporting on the Corps of Discovery, III**

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark,

***Travels to the source of the Missouri river and across the American continent to the Pacific ocean. Performed by order of the government of the United States, in the years 1804, 1805, and 1806.***

London: Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown, 1814. Modern green half morocco, by Sangorski & Sutcliffe. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers.*



The official narrative of the expedition was not prepared by Lewis and Clark themselves, but edited from their original journals by Nicholas Biddle and Paul Allen. Though announced for publication in 1810, it first appeared in Philadelphia in 1814. For this English edition, the editor, Thomas Rees, made both cuts and substitutions.

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**An American Response to the Lewis and Clark Travels**

"B," "Original Review—Lewis and Clarke's Travels, "*Analectic Magazine* (Philadelphia), 5 (February 1815): 127-149; (March 1815): 210-234. *South Carolina College library.*



After copious extracts, the reviewer judges the expedition to have been "conducted and sustained throughout with the greatest skill, courage, and fortitude, with the loss of only one man, who died of sickness on their passage up the river, and occasioning the death of only two Indians. . . . We almost imagine ourselves to be of the party; and the journal seems like a vehicle by which we are enabled to keep pace with the travelers."

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**A British Response to the Lewis and Clark Travels**

[John Playfair and Webb Seymour], "Travels to the Source of the Missouri," *Edinburgh Review*, 24 (February 1815): 412-438.



This review stressed particularly the information that Lewis and Clark brought back about the life and culture of the native American tribes; the expedition was, it concluded, "a band of active and intrepid men, which no country in the world would not be proud to acknowledge."

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### Reporting Scientific Discoveries

John James Audubon, 1785-1851, " Plate CCLXXII: Lewis's Woodpecker," from Audubon, *The Birds of America from Drawings made in the United States*. 5 vols.

New York: J. J. Audubon; Philadelphia: J. B. Chevalier, 1842. *Half morocco*.



The knowledge that Lewis and Clark brought back from the expedition, in geography, ethnology, and natural history, was of wide interest to scientists worldwide. Shown here is one of several new species that the expedition discovered, as drawn by John James Audubon. It is shown here for practical reasons in the smaller octavo format, rather than from the South Carolina College set of Audubon's great double-elephant folio.

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### Major Pike: The Other Expedition into Upper Louisiana

Pike, Zebulon Montgomery, 1779-1813.

*An account of expeditions to the sources of the Mississippi: and through the western parts of Louisiana . . . performed by order of the government of the United States during the years 1805, 1806, and 1807.* Philadelphia: Conrad, . . . 1810. Contemporary tree calf. *John Shaw Billings Collection*.



During the years of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Major Zebulon Pike led two parallel expeditions through other parts of the Louisiana Purchase, the first to the source of the Mississippi, and the second westward, and across into Mexican territory.

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### Pike's Expedition on the Upper Mississippi

Nicholas King, "Map of the Mississippi River from its Source to the Mouth of the Missouri," in Zebulon M. Pike, *An account of expeditions to the sources of the Mississippi: and through the western parts of Louisiana*.

Philadelphia: Conrad, . . . 1810. Contemporary half calf. *Bookplate of Alfred Chapin Rogers*.



## Major Long's Expedition to the Rockies

James, Edwin, 1797-1861, comp.

***Account of an expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains: performed in the years 1819 and '20, by order of the Hon. J. C. Calhoun, sec'y of war: under the command of Major Stephen H. Long: from the notes of Major Long, Mr. T. Say, and other gentlemen of the exploring party.*** 2 vols.

Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1823. Half calf. *Label of South Carolina College.*



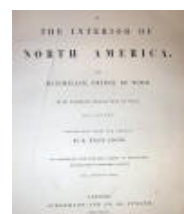
Stephen Long (1784-1864), a Dartmouth graduate and former West Point instructor, had previously explored the upper Mississippi. This is one of two accounts of the expedition; the other, by W.H. Keating (1824), is also in the Thomas Cooper Library collection.

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## Prince Maximilian of Wied: Retracing the Steps of Lewis and Clark

Maximilian, Prince of Wied, 1782-1867, ***Travels in the interior of North America. . . . Translated from the German, by H. Evans Lloyd.*** Illustrated by Karl Bodmer.

London: Ackermann, 1843.



Prince Maximilian's account of his travels in the United States in 1832-34 was first published in German in 1839. The text volume, opened here at Maximilian's discussion of Mandan beliefs, shows the continuing effect of the Lewis and Clark expedition in setting the agenda for subsequent explorers and ethnographers. Most of the illustrations elsewhere in this exhibition come from the plates and vignettes for Maximilian's volume, painted by the Swiss artist Karl Bodmer.

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## Frémont's Expeditions to the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada

Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890.

***Report of the exploring expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in the years 1843-44. . . . Printed by order of the Senate of the United States.***

Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1845. Modern calf. *Stamping of South Carolina College.*



John Charles Frémont, from Georgia, became famous for his crossing of the Sierra Nevada to California. He was briefly governor of California during the Bear Flag rebellion in 1845, and following the Gold Rush he became one of California's first senators and the Republican Party's first presidential candidate, in 1856. After the Civil War, he lost most of his wealth in a failed attempt to found a transcontinental railroad.

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