The Lewis and Clark Expedition: A Bicentennial Reading List of Books in the Library’s Collections

Prelude: The Louisiana Purchase

Introduction:

The first permanent French settlement in North America was Quebec, founded in 1608. By 1682 French explorers had discovered the Mississippi River, claiming it and the entire basin that it drained. The Louisiana colony, founded in 1699 near present-day Mobile, gradually spread westward but remained sparsely populated. New Orleans was settled in 1718 and a series of smaller outposts were founded in the country’s interior in the hope that these might prosper and form a link between New France in Canada and the more recent Gulf Coast settlement.

Between 1689 and 1763 British and French rivalry for empire played out in a succession of wars fought both on the European continent and in North America. On the verge of losing its North American enterprise to the British with the fall of Quebec and Montreal during the French and Indian War, French diplomats sought an alliance with Spain, negotiating the Treaty of Fontainebleau in 1762 whereby France divided the Louisiana Territory and declared New Orleans a separate entity, ceding it and the Louisiana Territory west of the Mississippi to Spain, with a secret provision allowing France to reclaim New Orleans and Upper Louisiana in the future. As a consequence of this diplomatic maneuvering, the following year Britain obtained Canada but only the Louisiana Territory east of the Mississippi in the Treaty of Paris that ended the French and Indian War in North America and the Seven Years’ War in Europe.

Never particularly interested in Louisiana, Spain did not even establish a colonial administration in the Territory until 1768. Engaged on the side of the American colonists during their struggle for independence from Britain through the French alliance, Spain hoped to use America’s cause to regain Gibraltar, but that hope was dashed in 1783 when the Americans and British signed the Treaty of Paris that brought the American Revolution to an end. This Treaty’s drawing of the boundary between Spanish Florida and the new Republic further added to Spain’s unhappiness, provoking Spain’s denial to the Americans of navigation on the Mississippi and entry into the port of New Orleans.

Thus impeded, John Jay, Secretary for Foreign Affairs under the newly adopted Articles of Confederation, sought a diplomatic remedy but its terms so outraged the southern members that Congress refused to ratify the treaty. The situation remained unresolved until 1795 when Spain indicated a willingness to resume negotiations, agreeing to the Treaty of San Lorenzo (Pinckney’s Treaty) giving the United States
navigation rights on the Mississippi and special trade arrangements in New Orleans for a period of three years with an optional renewal.

In the meantime, France had undergone its own revolution, abolishing the monarchy and creating a French Republic interested in reestablishing its presence in North America. Although its first attempt to negotiate the return of western Louisiana and New Orleans from Spain failed, the French continued to press for retrocession, finally achieving their goal in 1801 by a complicated series of treaties and conventions that exchanged the newly renamed Kingdom of Etruria (Tuscany) for Louisiana.

The re-conquest by France of its former colony of Santo Domingo, lost to a slave revolt in the early years of the French Revolution, was a central feature of Napoleon Bonaparte’s plans for North America. Frustrated in the attempt to regain Santo Domingo and hard pressed for ready cash, Napoleon began to reconsider the value of the Louisiana Territory to France. Approached in April 1803 by Robert Livingston and James Monroe with an offer from President Jefferson to purchase New Orleans, Napoleon offered to sell all of Louisiana to the United States. Fearful that Napoleon’s offer might be withdrawn, Livingston and Monroe closed the deal at the end of the month, informing a surprised President that he had purchased the entire 828,000 square mile Louisiana Territory for approximately fifteen million dollars.

Although Spain protested that the sale was not legal under the provisions of the second Treaty of Ildefonso and Great Britain also refused to recognize the legality of Napoleon’s sale, the United States Senate ratified the treaty, thereby purchasing Louisiana in the autumn, with the official transfer ceremonies taking place in New Orleans on November 29, 1803 and in St. Louis on March 9-10, 1804. The European powers did not formally recognize the United States’ right to Louisiana until 1815 when the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna brought an end to the Napoleonic wars.

For additional information consult:


“Louisiana Purchase” in The Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery (National Park Service) http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/Circa1804/Heritage/LouisianaPurchase/LouisianaPurchase.htm

Books


Consult Uclid, the library’s online catalog, to find additional books about the Louisiana Purchase. Use the Subject Headings Louisiana Purchase and Louisiana Purchase—Sources.

Web Sites

The Cabildo Online: The Louisiana Purchase (Louisiana State Museum)
http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/cabildo/cab4.htm

Jefferson’s West The Louisiana Purchase (Monticello The Home of Thomas Jefferson)
http://www.monticello.org/jefferson/lewisandclark/louisiana.html

Louisiana Purchase (Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, National Park Service)
http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/Circa1804/Heritage/LouisianaPurchase/LouisianaPurchase.htm

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Exhibit (Louisiana State Museum)
http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/site/1nation/1nation.htm

Louisiana Purchase, 1803 (Yale University Avalon Project Source Documents)
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/france/fr1803m.htm

Louisiana Purchase Treaty, April 30, 1803 (National Archives and Records Administration)
http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/american_originals/loupurch.html

Langsam Stacks F373.R39

Langsam Stacks E333.M34

OMI/CAS Stacks E352.S75 1974
Louisiana Purchase Exhibitions and Cultural Events

Bicentennial Events

DAAP Oversize E333.F45 2003

U.S. Embassy in Paris *Bicentennial Celebration of the Louisiana Purchase*
http://www.amb-usa.fr/ca/louisianapurchase/home.htm

Louisiana Purchase Exposition 1904, St. Louis, Missouri

*The Forest City, Comprising the Official Photographic Views of the Universal Exposition, Held in Saint Louis, 1904, Commemorating the Acquisition of the Louisiana Territory...* St. Louis: Thompson, [1904]
ARB Rare Books T860.C1F6

Langsam Stacks T860.B1H4 1976

ARB Reference GN347.B74 1997

*For additional information use the Subject Heading Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904; Saint Louis, Mo.) in Uclid, the library’s online catalog.*

Also consult this microfilm collection:

Langsam Microforms Microfilm 1227


Web Sites

Louisiana Purchase Exhibition (Washington Monthly)
http://washingtonmo.com/1904/
The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Opening the American West: Jefferson’s Vision

ARB Reference F592.7.A49 1996

Langsam Stacks E332.2.J32

Langsam Stacks F296.O94 1997

Langsam Stacks F592.T47 1997

Who’s Who In the Lewis and Clark Expedition

The Expedition’s Founder

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

Early in his presidency, Thomas Jefferson’s interest in science led him to solicit advice from the most important scientific minds in the Republic in preparation for a major scientific expedition to explore the western regions of the North American continent. In January 1803 Jefferson sent a secret message to Congress urging approval for the western expedition. The unexpected purchase of Louisiana in April added to the importance of the proposed scientific venture that was to be led by Jefferson’s personal secretary and fellow Virginian, Meriwether Lewis.

Books

Langsam Stacks E3322.B47 2003

Langsam Stacks E332.B787
Langsam Stacks E332.79.B76 1998

Langsam Stacks E332.2.E45 1997

Langsam Stacks E332.M35

Langsam Stacks E332.76.P4 c.2

Langsam Reference E332.T43 1986

Langsam Stacks E332.P45

Langsam Stacks E332.R196 1993

Langsam media E332.T383 1997

*For additional information use the subject heading Jefferson, Thomas in Uclid, the library’s online catalog. Two short, scholarly biographical sketches may be read in Dictionary of American Biography (Langsam Reference E176.D56) and American National Biography (Langsam Reference CT213.A68 1999 or http://www.anb.org/articles/index.html).*

*These two bibliographies will also list additional articles about Thomas Jefferson:*

Langsam Reference Z8452.S55 1983

Langsam Reference Z8452.S54 1992

Note: Updated to 1997 in an electronic version provided in the Thomas Jefferson Digital Archive http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/jefferson
This collection of Jefferson quotations may also be useful:

The Jeffersonian Cyclopedia... New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1900
Langsam Stacks E332.82 1900
   Note: Digitally available in the Thomas Jefferson Digital Archive
   http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/jefferson

Web Sites

The Thomas Jefferson Digital Archive (University of Virginia Library)
http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/jefferson/

The Thomas Jefferson Papers at the Library of Congress
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html

The Expedition’s Co-Commanders

Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)

   Jefferson’s neighbor and friend, Meriwether Lewis, spent his formative years on the Virginia and Georgia frontiers before joining the army where he saw service under General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers and rose to the rank of Captain before being appointed by President Jefferson as his personal secretary. As he formed his idea for a western expedition of scientific discovery, Jefferson arranged for Lewis to be tutored by the most important scientists and naturalists of the day. When Congress authorized the expedition, Lewis was appointed to lead the Corps of Discovery.

Books

Langsam Stacks F592.7.L47 and ARB Rare Books F592.L47 1965

Although much has been written about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, little has been written about Meriwether Lewis separately. Two short, scholarly biographical sketches may be read in Dictionary of American Biography (Langsam Reference E176.D56) and American National Biography (Langsam Reference CT213.A68 1999 or http://www.anb.org/articles/index.html), as well as a short sketch in The Louisiana Purchase; a Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia (Langsam Stacks E333.L69 2002). Consult the appended bibliographies in each of these reference works for additional biographical information.
William Clark (1770-1838)

Born in Virginia, William Clark grew up on the Kentucky frontier near present-day Louisville. Like his illustrious elder brother, George Rogers Clark, William entered into military service, rising to the rank of Lieutenant in 1792. With his friend, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark served under General Anthony Wayne in the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

Having resigned his commission to return to manage the Clark family plantation, in 1803 William Clark received an invitation from Meriwether Lewis to join him as co-commander of Jefferson’s proposed expedition to explore the territory west of the Mississippi River. Lewis’ choice was fortunate. William Clark proved to be an able commander and cartographer, training the men who formed the expeditions corps and exercising skill in dealing with the various Indian tribes the Corps of Discovery encountered during its journey.

In January 2001 President Clinton elevated William Clark to the posthumous rank of Captain.

Books

Langsam Stacks F592.7.C56 2002
Although much has been written about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, little has been written about William Clark separately. Two short, scholarly biographical sketches may be read in Dictionary of American Biography (Langsam Reference E176.D56) and American National Biography (Langsam Reference CT213.A68 1999 or http://www.anb.org/articles/index.html), as well as a short sketch in The Louisiana Purchase; a Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia (Langsam Stacks E333.L69 2002). Consult the appended bibliographies in each of these reference works for additional biographical information.

Web Sites

General William Clark (Locust Grove) http://www.ka.net/lghh/wmclark.html

http://www.smithsonianmag.si.edu/smithsonian/issues02/aug02/pdf/smithsonian_august_2002_iron_will.pdf

Notable Oregonians: William Clark—Explorer (Oregon Blue Book)
http://bluebook.state.or.us/notable/notclark.htm

William Clark Biography (National Park Service Jefferson National Expansion Memorial)
http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/CorpsOfDiscovery/TheLeaders/Clark/Clark.htm

William Clark Papers (Kansas Historical Society)
http://www.kshs.org/research/collections/documents/personalpapers/clarkpapers/

   Note: These are Clark’s Papers from the period in his life that he served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

United States. An Act to Provide for the Posthumous Promotion of William Clark of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Co-Leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, to the Grade of Captain in the Regular Army.
Two Notable Members of the Expedition

Sacagawea (1786?1788?- ?)

Sacagawea (Boat Pusher) was born sometime between 1786 and 1788 into the Lemhi Shoshone Tribe in present-day Idaho. Captured by a rival tribe’s raiding party around 1800, she was sold to the Mandan, where she attracted the attention of a French-Canadian trapper who won her in a game of chance.

During the Corps of Discovery’s first winter (1804-1805), spent at Fort Mandan near what is now Bismarck, North Dakota, Sacagawea met the explorers, joining their party, along with her husband and two-month old son, when the expedition resumed its westward journey in April. Sacagawea soon became a favorite among the explorers. Nicknamed “Janey,” by William Clark, Sacagawea’s and her son’s presence among the members of the Corps distinguished the group as a peaceful party to the various Indian tribes encountered along the way. Her knowledge of native plants and herbs and skill as an interpreter were valuable contributions to the expedition’s success.

Books

ARB Reference F592.S123C55 1979

Langsam Stacks F592.7.S2

Langsam Stacks F592.7.S22

Langsam Stacks F591.M388 2001

On Order for Langsam Stacks

Slaughter, Thomas P. Exploring Lewis and Clark: Reflections on Men and Wilderness
Langsam Cohen F592.7.S67 2003
See chapter on Sacagawea.
Biographical sketches of Sacagawea may be read in Dictionary of American Biography (Langsam Reference E176.D56) and American National Biography (Langsam Reference CT213.A68 1999 or http://www.anb.org/articles/index.html), as well as in The Louisiana Purchase; a Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia (Langsam Stacks E333.L69 2002) and Notable American Women, 1607-1950 (Langsam Reference CT3260.H57). Consult the appended bibliographies in each of these reference works for additional biographical information.

Web Sites

The Life of Sacagawea (Golden Dollar U.S. Mint)
http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/golden_dollar_coin/index.cfm?flash=yes&action=about_sacagawea

Notable Oregonians: Sacagawea (Oregon Blue Book)
http://bluebook.state.or.us/notable/notsacagawea.htm

Sacagawea (National Geographic Explore History)
http://iexplore.nationalgeographic.com/res/explorer_sacagawea.jhtml

Sacagawea (National Park Service Jefferson National Expansion Memorial)
http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/CorpsOfDiscovery/TheOthers/Civilians/Sacagawea.htm

Sacagawea (NebraskaStudies.org)

York (c. 1770-1831)

A slave in the Clark household, York was approximately the same age as William Clark and had been Clark’s childhood companion. York became William Clark’s property on the death of Clark’s father in 1799. When Clark accepted Lewis’ invitation to join the Corps of Discover as its co-commander in 1803, York accompanied him on the journey, becoming the first black man to cross the North American continent.

Although a slave, during the course of the expedition York acted in effect as though he were a free man, participating on an equal basis in any vote taken by the Corps and sharing similar responsibilities as other Corps members, including bearing arms, hunting, and manning the keelboat. In addition, York was responsible for preparing meals.

York, who was an exceptionally large man, amazed the Indian tribes the Corps encountered. Both his size and color conferred special status on him in the eyes of Native Americans.
Books


See chapter on York.

*A biographical sketch of York may be read in The Louisiana Purchase; a Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia (Langsam Stacks E333.L69 2002)*

Web Sites

An African American in the Corps (Nebraska Studies.Org)

York (National Park Service Jefferson National Expansion Memorial)
http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/CorpsOfDiscovery/TheOthers/Civilians/York.htm

York (U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Idaho)
http://www.id.blm.gov/lc/york.htm

*The Dog that Went West*

Seaman (?)

Seaman, a Newfoundland dog belonging to Meriwether Lewis, accompanied the Corps of Discovery on their journey.
**Books**

Langsam Stacks F592.7.J13 1987  
Until Jackson deciphered Lewis’ handwriting in his journal entries about Seaman, previous generations had thought Seaman’s name was Scannon.

CRC Child Book EMYE  
This book written about Seaman is a work of fiction intended for a juvenile audience.

**Web Sites**

Seaman: Lewis and Clark’s Dog (All Info About American History)  

Seaman (PBS Lewis and Clark)  

**Other Members of the Corps of Discovery**

Jefferson named his westward expedition “The Corps of Discovery.” It was originally designed to consist of a small party of twelve, but the demands of paddling, polling, pushing, and towing the expedition’s boats resulted in the addition of volunteer soldiers from nearby army outposts once Lewis’ party met Clark opposite Louisville in Clarksville, Indiana. More volunteer soldiers joined the expedition when it reached St. Louis, bringing the Corps to 45 members by spring of 1804, when the party set off up the Missouri River.

As the expedition progressed, its membership fluctuated. Some participants were local men. Recruited for a specific, but limited, purpose they did not continue with the expedition once their contribution to its success had been made.

After the Corps of Discovery left its winter camp at Fort Mandan in the spring of 1805, the party numbered 33 members, including the two co-captains, 3 sergeants, and 23 privates. Nonmilitary members of the Corps of Discovery were a diverse group, including York, a black slave, Sacagawea, an Indian woman and her son, two French-Canadian fur traders, and a metis hunter and guide. Only one member of the Corps died on the journey. Two of the Corps original members had been dismissed for desertion and mutinous acts before the party continued west from Fort Mandan.

The title “Corps of Discovery” was popularized in Sergeant Patrick Gass’ book about his experience on the westward expedition. Sergeant John Ordway assisted in the publication of the Biddle edition of the expedition’s journals.
Books

Clarke, Charles G.  *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; a Biographical Roster of the Fifty-One Members and a Composite Diary of their Activities from all the Known Sources*.  Glendale, Calif.: A. H. Clark Co., 1970  
ARB Rare Books F592.7.C57

Jacob, J.G.  *The Life and Times of Patrick Gass, Now Sole Survivor of the Overland Expedition to the Pacific...Together with Gass’ Journal of the Expedition Condensed...*  Wellsburg, Virginia: Jacob & Smith, 1859  
ARB Rare Books F592.7.J15 1859

Langsam Stacks E333.L69 2002

ARB Rare Books F592.5. G2 1807  
For other editions of this work, conduct an author search in Uclid, the library’s online catalog.  Gass, one of the three sergeants in the Corps of Discovery, published his book several years before the expedition’s official journals were issued.  Each of the sergeants in the Corps had been required to maintain a journal.

Langsam Stacks F576.W81 v.22 (1916)  
Although Ordway assisted Nicholas Biddle with the expedition’s official journals, his own journal was not published in Biddle’s edition.

ARB Rare Books F592.7.D7S5
Web Sites

Corps of Discovery: The Others (National Park Service Jefferson National Expansion Memorial)
http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/CorpsOfDiscovery/TheOthers/Others.htm

Inside the Corps (PBS Lewis and Clark)
http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/inside/index.html

Lewis and Clark the Beginning of an Expedition (U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Idaho)
http://www.id.blm.gov/lc/corpsdiscovery_1.htm

The Expedition

Lewis Joins Clark

Meriwether Lewis set out from Washington to join his co-commander on July 5, 1803, stopping at the government arsenal in Harpers Ferry to secure the rifles and ammunition the expedition required. Continuing to Pittsburgh, Lewis oversaw the construction of a specially designed keelboat the expedition would use to travel the western rivers. When the boat was completed, Lewis floated it down the Ohio River, past Cincinnati, to Clarksville, Indiana, just across the river from Louisville, Kentucky, where William Clark joined the expedition.

St. Louis

Leaving Clark in charge of getting the keelboat from the Ohio River to the mouth of the Missouri, Lewis rode ahead to St. Louis where he collected additional supplies. After wintering opposite the mouth of the Missouri River at Camp Dubois, Clark joined Lewis in St. Louis to witness the transfer of the upper Louisiana Territory to the United States on March 9-10, 1804. Their preparations completed, Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery left St. Louis on May 14, 1804 on their journey west.

Fort Mandan: Winter Headquarters

On a typical day, the expedition covered 15 to 20 hard-won miles. By mid-August the Corps reached Iowa. By late October the Corps reached the Mandan settlement near present day Bismarck, North Dakota. With winter fast approaching when travel would be impossible, the Corps constructed a fort from the native Cottonwood trees on the upper Missouri near the Mandan village.
**Spring Thaw**

When the ice started breaking up at the end of March, the Corps members began to prepare for their departure. The keelboat was made ready for a return trip to St. Louis with all the botanical, zoological, and geological specimens that had been gathered. Letters and reports detailing the journey and the various Indian tribes encountered were sent to President Jefferson, as were maps drawn of the territory through which the Corps had traveled.

The members of the Corps continuing westward constructed 6 large dugout canoes. They also added Sacagawea, her son, and her husband to their numbers.

On April 7, 1805 the keelboat and its crew set out for St. Louis while the Corps of Discovery’s permanent members left Fort Mandan headed west.

**The Fork in the River**

A week after leaving Fort Mandan, the Corps of Discovery reached the highest point on the Missouri. On April 25th they reached the Yellowstone River. The Rocky Mountains were in sight on May 26.

On June 2nd the Corps of Discovery reached a major fork in the Missouri River in central Montana. Uncertain which direction to take, and aware that the wrong choice might mean the loss of the rest of the travel season, Lewis and Clark each took one branch to explore. Based on the evidence they obtained through direct observation, Clark and the Corps pressed onward while Lewis and a small party rode overland for additional confirmation that they were still on the Missouri.

**Unanticipated Delay**

The Great Falls, reached by Lewis and his party on June 13th, provided confirmation that Clark and the canoes were indeed on the Missouri River. The unexpected discovery of four more waterfalls on June 14th turned an anticipated one-day portage into several weeks of pushing, pulling, and carrying the canoes, the difficulty compounded by fierce storms and grizzlies. One small boat had to be abandoned and two more dugout canoes constructed to replace it. Finally, on July 15th, the Corps was again underway.

**Finding the Shoshone**

The unanticipated delay at the Great Falls of the Missouri made meeting the Shoshone, with whom the Corps expected to trade for the horses they would need to cross
the Rockies before winter, a matter of great importance. Clark, who was skilled at negotiating with the Indian tribes, took to walking, hoping to encounter a Shoshone hunting party.

On July 27th the river party and Clark reunited at the Three Forks of the Missouri. Encouraged that Sacagawea recognized the area as a familiar landscape, Lewis now went ahead with a small party, reaching the Continental Divide on August 12th.

Descending into the valley, Lewis came upon a headwater of the Columbia River and three Shoshone who led him to their chief. Persuaded by Lewis to return with him to the main party, the chief was immediately recognized by Sacagawea as her brother, Cameahwait.

**Following an Indian Trail**

Now equipped with 29 horses and persuaded that it was impossible to continue on their present course, the expedition followed the advice of their newly acquired Indian guides to head north over the mountains into the Bitterroot Valley and from there westward on an established Indian trail.

**Taking the More Difficult Route**

Outside of present-day Missoula the Corps inspected a river that appeared to flow northwest to the Columbia but rejected what would have provided them with an all-water route to the Pacific because the absence of salmon suggested impassable barriers, although there were, in fact, none that could not have been surmounted.

Turning west, the Corps endured an arduous 11-day trek across the heavily forested Bitterroot Mountains to the Clearwater River in Idaho. Faced with early snow, bitter cold, and the absence of game, the Corps was forced to kill and eat some of their horses.

**Nez Perce to the Rescue**

Facing starvation when they finally emerged from the timberland, the Corps met a band of Nez Perce Indians who gave them food. The explorers set up camp near the Clearwater River. While waiting for all their members to regain their strength, those who were well enough constructed the five dugout canoes they would need for their journey down the Clearwater.
From the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean

The Corps of Discovery continued their journey on October 7th, paddling down the Clearwater River to the Snake River. Clearing numerous rapids, the Corps reached the Columbia River 9 days later.

The Columbia, with its rough waters, steep falls, agitated narrows and cascades put the Corps powers of navigation to the test. Finally, on November 2nd, the canoes emerged into tidewater and by November 7th they had reached the Columbia basin’s upper estuary. On November 8th, 1805, Lewis and Clark stood in sight of the Pacific Ocean.

Winter Quarters: Fort Clatsop

Fierce storms and strong winds convinced the Corps that it was time to seek high ground near what is now Astoria, Oregon. Anticipating the coming winter, the Corps constructed Fort Clatsop, and gathered in what provisions they would need to see them through the cold months ahead.

Taking advantage of winter’s enforced idleness, Lewis and Clark spent their time writing, making maps, and recording and drawing their collected specimens. They also began to plan for the return trip.

The Trip Home

The spring thaw signaled that it was time for the Corps of Discovery to leave Fort Clatsop and begin their return trip home, but not before composing a letter to be left for President Jefferson stating that they had reached the Pacific Ocean. On March 23, 1806, the Corps was once again on the treacherous Columbia River.

The end of April found the Corps returned to the Nez Perce territory. Retrieving the horses they had left behind the previous year, the Corps waited until the snowy passes in the Bitterroot Mountains could be traversed, setting off again on June 24th.

On July 3rd, at the western base of the Rocky Mountains, the party split, agreeing to reunite at the Great Falls of the Missouri River as near to August 5th as possible. Clark’s party was to retrace the original route the Corps had taken on their westward trek while Lewis’s party would take the more direct overland route.

During this part of the expedition, Lewis’s party engaged in a fight with a hostile Blackfoot band, killing two Indians. The group was also disappointed to discover the plant specimens ruined that the expedition had gathered between Fort Mandan and the Great Falls, but left behind to be picked up on the return trip. Further catastrophe occurred on August 11th, when Lewis was shot in the buttocks in a hunting accident.
Fortunately, the ball passed through the flesh, lessening the possibility of infection. The wound was sufficiently painful however that when Clark rejoined Lewis on August 12th, Clark assumed full command of the expedition during the weeks it took Lewis to recover.

By August 14th the Corps of Discovery had returned to the Mandan Village near where their first winter had been spent. Here Sacagawea, her son, and her husband parted from the expedition.

Eager to return to St. Louis, the Corps made a swift journey down the Missouri River, arriving in St. Charles on the afternoon of September 21st. Two days later, on September 23, 1806, the Corps of Discovery entered St. Louis, hailed as heroes and greeted with great enthusiasm by the city’s population.

**Significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**

Although the Corps of Discovery found no easy commercial passage to the Pacific Ocean, it set the stage for the United States’ westward expansion, solidifying the Louisiana Purchase and laying a basis for the United States’ later claim to the Oregon Territory. The expedition’s animal and plant specimens and drawings added to the nation’s scientific knowledge, as did the ethnographic reports relating to the various Indian nations encountered during their two-year journey. More accurate maps produced in the course of the expedition provided the nation with a better geographical sense of its vastness and diversity and assisted future explorers and settlers to make their way westward.

Beyond all this, the Lewis and Clark Expedition continues to create a sense of awe and to instill pride in the very undertaking itself. Two hundred years later the Corps of Discovery still fires the nation’s historical imagination.

**Sources:** Harry Fritz, “The Lewis & Clark Expedition: A Western Adventure-A National Epic” in Discovering Lewis and Clark [http://www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm](http://www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm)


**Journals, Field Notes, and Letters from the Expedition**

**The Journals: Biddle’s Edition**

In accordance with Jefferson’s instructions that a written record of the expedition be maintained, both Lewis and Clark kept a journal during their long trek to the Pacific Ocean and back. Whether their journal entries constitute a faithful diary or were, in some instances, entered after-the-fact is a matter of scholarly controversy, as is the question of
whether or not the notebooks delivered to Jefferson at the journey’s end are the original or were transcribed from field notes.

Jefferson intended that as full an account as possible of the expedition’s historical record and scientific discoveries should be published, complete with maps and illustrations, and selected Lewis to accomplish the task, at the same time appointing him governor of the upper Louisiana Territory. Anticipating that the first volume in a multi-volume set would be issued in 1807, Lewis made the necessary arrangements with a publisher to issue a call for subscribers before leaving to take up his post in St. Louis.

Upset that one of the expedition’s officers, Sergeant Patrick Gass, had already published an account of the expedition, albeit heavily revised and of little scientific merit, and beset by personal, political, and financial difficulties, a melancholic Lewis left St. Louis in October 1809, bound for Washington. Lewis died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Tennessee. Although some historians have suggested that Lewis was murdered, most agree with the judgment of his contemporaries that the matter was a suicide.

At the time of his death, Lewis had made little or no progress toward preparing the journals for publication. That task now fell to Clark.

Largely self-educated and lacking the writing style demanded in 19th century publications, Clark sought the assistance of Nicholas Biddle, a well-known literary figure of the day. Given full access to the expedition’s official journals, as well as the journal kept by another officer in the Corps of Discovery, Sergeant John Ordway, Biddle set himself to the task of supplying the historical narrative, leaving the scientific aspects to be completed by Benjamin Smith Barton, a leading naturalist of the day. He also enlisted the assistance of Paul Allen in making the final revisions to the text, and it is Allen’s name that appeared on the title page of the History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark when it was published in a run of 2,000 sets by the firm of Bradford and Inskeep in 1814.

Shortly thereafter, Bradford and Inskeep declared bankruptcy. Neither Biddle nor Clark received any payment for their efforts and Clark was still trying to secure a personal copy of the printed work several years later. Moreover, the supplemental scientific publication assigned to Barton in 1810 failed to materialize.

Biddle’s History and Clark’s own map of the West printed in it remained the most accurate published record of the Corps of Discovery’s expedition for almost 80 years, its strength residing in its portrayal of the various Native American tribes.

Source of information:

http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/v02.introduction.html
Langsam Stacks E173.M3 no. 56 vol. 1 & vol.2

ARB Rare Books F592.4 1814a
Langsam Microfiche 2nd series no. 31924 fiche 1-5; 6-10; 11-12

OMI/CAS Stacks F592.4 1962a v.1 and v.2

**The Journals: The Coues Edition**

In 1891 the publisher Francis P. Harper decided to produce a new edition of the journals under the editorship of Elliot Coues, an army surgeon and noted ornithologist. Rather than working from Biddle’s published text, Coues decided to use the original volumes that had been deposited with the American Philosophical Society.

Having received the original documents on loan from the society, Coues set about tampering with the original organization of the journals, dismantling and rearranging them into chronological order and numbering their pages in addition to adding his own notes to the text and trimming ragged edges. The resulting edition published in 1893 organized the notebooks and loose papers into an easily referenced series of chronologically arranged codices with lengthy descriptions of their contents and notations concerning illustrative materials such as maps, drawings, and tables. Coues added masterfully annotated notes to the journal entries that included identification of many of the plants and animals mentioned, references to geographical landmarks, discussions of authorship of the various entries, and details concerning each journal’s deposition. He also supplemented passages with extensive quotes from the journals but often altered their original language and not infrequently added his own opinions.
The Journals: The Thwaites Edition

Engaged in 1901 by Dodd, Mead and Company to produce another edition of the journals for publication, Reuben Gold Thwaites, head of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and an experienced editor, turned up a number of new documents from the expedition that had not been incorporated into the two previously published editions. Among Thwaites’s findings were the journal maintained by the third sergeant in the Corps of Discovery, Sergeant Charles Floyd, and a journal that had been kept by one of the Corps’s privates, Joseph Whitehouse. Thwaites also discovered a cache of maps still in the possession of Clark’s descendants that Clark had not turned over to be incorporated into the Biddle edition.

Thwaites’s edition of the journals published in 1904 incorporated all the expedition’s papers that had been deposited at the American Philosophical Society as well as the new material his own research had uncovered. The Thwaites edition’s particular merit was the attention to the scientific materials largely lacking in the Biddle edition, the inclusion of material previously unknown or overlooked, including Clark’s newly discovered maps, and the printing in an appendix of a number of letters from the expedition. Still, the
Thwaites edition contained numerous errors in transcription, meager annotations, and less than desirable organization.

**Source of information:**

Langsam Stacks F592.4 1983;*  
[http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/v02.introduction.html](http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/v02.introduction.html)

Lewis, Meriwether. *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806; Printed from the Original Manuscripts in the Library of the American Philosophical Society and by Direction of its Committee on Historical Documents, Together with Manuscript Material of Lewis and Clark from other Sources, Including Note-Books, Letters, Maps, etc., and the Journals of Charles Floyd and Joseph Whitehouse, now for the First Time Published in Full and Exactly as Written; ed., with Introduction, Notes, and Index, by Reuben Gold Thwaites.* New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1904-05. 7v. and Atlas  
ARB Rare Books F592.4 1904

Langsam Stacks F592.4 1953 c.2  
ARB Rare Books F592.4 1953 c.3  
RWC Stacks F592.4 1953  
This is a condensed version based on the Thwaites edition.

**The Eastern Journals and Ordway’s Journal**

Although Nicholas Biddle had used Sergeant John Ordway’s journal in his edition of the Lewis and Clark journals, he had not published the Ordway journal as a part of this edition. Ordway’s journal, intermingled with Biddle’s papers, was lost to Coues and Thwaites when they prepared their subsequent editions. Its rediscovery in 1913 by Biddle’s grandsons, along with a hitherto unknown journal of Lewis’ trip from Pittsburgh to meet Clark, and Clark’s subsequent journey to winter headquarters at Camp Dubois in 1803, called for an edition of these two important additions to the Lewis and Clark corpus. Milo Milton Quaife, a professional historian and Thwaites’s successor at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, undertook to edit Lewis and Clark’s Eastern Journal and Ordway’s three-volume work, publishing them in 1916 in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin’s *Collections.*
The Field Notes of Captain William Clark

A bundle of papers found in 1953 in the desk of General John Henry Hammond by the curator of manuscripts for the Minnesota Historical Society turned out to contain 67 sheets of Clark’s hitherto unknown field notes written between 1804 and 1805 as well as preliminary journal notes dating from the expedition’s start on May 14, 1804 to April 13, 1805. Dubbed the Dubois Journal and the River Journal respectively, these papers subsequently became the property of Yale University.

The western historian Ernest Staples Osgood undertook an annotated edition of Clark’s field notes that was published in 1964 by Yale University Press as number 5 in its Yale Western Americana series.

Source of information:

Langsam Stacks F592.4 1983;
http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/v02.introduction.html

OhioLINK

The Journals: University of Nebraska Press Moulton Edition
The University of Nebraska Press, under the editorship of Gary E. Moulton, and the sponsorship of the Center for Great Plains Studies and the American Philosophical Society, has now published what promises to be the definitive edition of all extant materials from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Begun in 1993, this edition of the journals won the Western Heritage Award the following year and in 1990 won the J. Franklin Jameson Prize awarded by the American Historical Association.


Review, The Journals of Lewis and Clark (The History Net)  
[http://americanhistory.about.com/library/prm/blrlewisandclarkexpedition.htm](http://americanhistory.about.com/library/prm/blrlewisandclarkexpedition.htm)

**Books**


**Web Sites**

The Journals (PBS) [http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive/idx_jou.html](http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive/idx_jou.html)

The Journals of Lewis and Clark (American Philosophical Society)  

The Journals of Lewis and Clark (University of Virginia)  
[http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/JOURNALS/journals.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/JOURNALS/journals.html)

The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (University of Nebraska/Moulton Edition) [http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/](http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/)

Lewis and Clark Illustrations from the Journals (American Philosophical Society)  
[http://www.amphilsoc.org/library/guides/lcills.htm](http://www.amphilsoc.org/library/guides/lcills.htm)
Slaughter, Thomas. “Re-Examining the Lewis and Clark Journals” (Monticello: The Home of Thomas Jefferson)
http://www.monticello.org/streaming/speakers/slaughter.html

Lewis and Clark Letters

Langsam Stacks F592.7.C56 2002


The Thwaites edition of the Journals included some of the co-commanders’ letters.

Spurious Accounts of the Expedition

So great was the public’s interest in Lewis and Clark’s expedition that a number of spurious accounts were issued before Biddle brought out his edition in 1814. Among these spurious accounts are:

The travels of Capts. Lewis & Clarke, by order of the government of the United States, performed in the years 1804, 1805, & 1806… Philadelphia: H. Lester, 1809
ARB Rare Books F592.4 1809
A microfilm edition is also available: Langsam Microforms Microfiche 1242 2nd series, no.18775-18776

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. By William Fisher.
Baltimore: P. Mauro, 1813
Langsam Microforms Microfiche 1242 Early American Imprints Second Series, no. 28817/Shaw & Shoemaker, 28817
A new edition of the spurious account that appeared in 1809 under the title The travels of Capts. Lewis & Clarke.

New travels among the Indians of North America being a compilation taken partly from the communications already published of Captains Lewis and Clark, to the President of the United States, and partly from other authors who traveled among the various tribes of
Indians...with a dictionary of the Indian tongue compiled by William Fisher.
Philadelphia: James Sharan, 1812
Langsam Microforms  Microfiche 1242 Early American Imprints Second Series, no. 26261/Shaw & Shoemaker, 26261
Another edition of the spurious account published in 1809 under the title The travels of Capts. Lewis & Clarke.

Additional information and a listing of other spurious journals may be found in the Thwaites edition. See V.H. Palsits’ bibliographical data, p.lxvi-lxx.

Lewis, Meriwether. Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806; Printed from the Original Manuscripts in the Library of the American Philosophical Society and by Direction of its Committee on Historical Documents, Together with Manuscript Material of Lewis and Clark from other Sources, Including Note-Books, Letters, Maps, etc., and the Journals of Charles Floyd and Joseph Whitehouse, now for the First Time Published in Full and Exactly as Written; ed., with Introduction, Notes, and Index, by Reuben Gold Thwaites. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1904-05. 7v. and Atlas
ARB Rare Books F592.4 1904

Films, Histories, and Maps

Films

Lewis & Clark [videorecording]: the Journey of the Corps of Discovery. A Film by Ken Burns. PBS DVD. Burbank, CA: Distributed by Warner Home Video, 2001
Burbank, CA.: Distributed by Warner Home Video, 2001
CRC Pre K-12 AV 917.8042 LEW DVD

Langsam Media F592.7.B8 1997 pt.1 and pt.2

Histories

ARB Reference F592.7.A48 1975


Laut, Agnes C. *Pathfinders of the West...* New York: The Macmillan Company, 1930 c 1904 ARB Rare Books F1060.7.L38 1930
Langsam Stacks F592.L38 1988

ARB Reference F592.7.M24 2003

SW Depository E27.M5

*Old West-New West: Centennial Essays.* Edited by Barbara Howard Meldrum. Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1993
Langsam Stacks PS271.04 1993

Ronda, James P. *Lewis and Clark among the Indians.* Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984
ARB Rare Books F592.7.R66 1984

Langsam Stacks F592.7.R63 2002

Snyder, Gerald S. *In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark.* Photos by Dick Durrance II. Washington: National Geographic Society, 1970
OMI/CAS F592.7.S68 1979

Strong, Emory M. *Seeking Western Waters: the Lewis and Clark Trail from the Rockies to the Pacific.* Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1995
ARB Reference F592.7.S77 1995

Langsam Stacks CT256.T35 1994

ARB Rare Books F852.W3

Langsam Stacks F591.T4

**History-Related Web Sites**

Discovering Lewis and Clark [http://www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm](http://www.lewis-clark.org/index.htm)

The Discovery Expedition of Lewis and Clark [http://www.lewisandclark.net](http://www.lewisandclark.net)

Lewis and Clark in North Dakota (Web Site of U. S. Senator Byron Dorgan)
[http://www.senate.gov/%7Edorgan/lewis%5Fand%5Fclark/index.html](http://www.senate.gov/%7Edorgan/lewis%5Fand%5Fclark/index.html)

National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration

National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary
[http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark](http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/lewisandclark)

Guides to Lewis and Clark Web sites:
Lewis and Clark on the Information Superhighway (Jay Rasmussen)
[http://www.lcarchive.org/fulllist.html](http://www.lcarchive.org/fulllist.html)

Related Lewis and Clark Web Links (PBS)
[http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive/idx_rel.html](http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/archive/idx_rel.html)

**Maps**

Geophys Map Collection Geo G4127.L4 2003. D57

Geophysics Map Collection A13.12:L58/2/989
Geophysics Map Collection Geo G4127.L4 2003.L49

Lewis and Clark in the Rocky Mountains. Missoula: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region, 1990
Geophysics Map Collection A13.28:L58/5


Langsam Oversize G1417.L4P5 2000

Wheat, Carl I. Mapping the Transmississippi West, 1540-1861. San Francisco: Institute of Historical Cartography, 1957-63
ARB Rare Book Oversize GA405.W5 vol.

Map Web Sites

Mapping and Lewis and Clark (U.S. Geological Survey)
http://nd.water.usgs.gov/lewisandclark(mapping.html

Poetry

Elliston Stacks No Call Number

Fiction

Cohen PS3558.A363I13 2003
Scientific Matters

Langsam Stacks QH104.5.W4B68 1995

SW Depository AS36.M82 v.15, no. 1-4

Langsam Cohen F592.7.C87 2003

Geophysics Stacks Geo QE149.H64 2003

Johnsgard, Paul A.  *Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains: a Natural History*.  Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press with the Center for Great Plains Studies University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2003
Chemibiology Library Biol QH104.5.W4J65 2003
ARB Reference QH104.5.W4J65 2003 c.2

Langsam GovDoc UX A13.2:L58

Langsam GovDocs US I29.88/3:L58/2

Geophysics Stacks QE75.C5 no. 1246

On Order for Langsam Library

SW Depository  Biol QL795.B4M34

*Message from the President of the United States, Communicating Discoveries Made in Exploring the Missouri, Red River, and Washita, by Captains Lewis and Clark...February 19, 1806....* City of Washington: A. and G. Way, Printers, 1806


**Science-Related Web Sites**

*Images of the Plants Collected by Lewis and Clark (The Lewis and Clark Herbarium University of Maryland)*

[http://www.life.umd.edu/emeritus/reveal/pbio/LnC/LnCpublic.html](http://www.life.umd.edu/emeritus/reveal/pbio/LnC/LnCpublic.html)

Lewis and Clark Expedition Discoveries and Tribes Encountered (National Geographic Society) [http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/resources_discoveries.html]


Science of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Lewis and Clark Journey of Discovery) [http://www.nps.gov/jeff/LewisClark2/TheJourney/ScienceofExpedition.htm]


Science on the Trail [http://lewisandclarktrail.com/elearningscience.htm]


Reference Works

ARB Reference F592.7.M35 2003

ARB Reference Oversize F592.7.B43 2003
ARB Reference F592.7.L4 1981

Clermont Stacks F592.7.L715 2 volumes

Langsam GovDoc US LC1.2:L 59

Copy on Order for Langsam Library


Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition (1905: Portland, Oregon)

ARB Rare Books T834.C1G5 1905

Sally Moffitt, Bibliographer
April 8, 2004