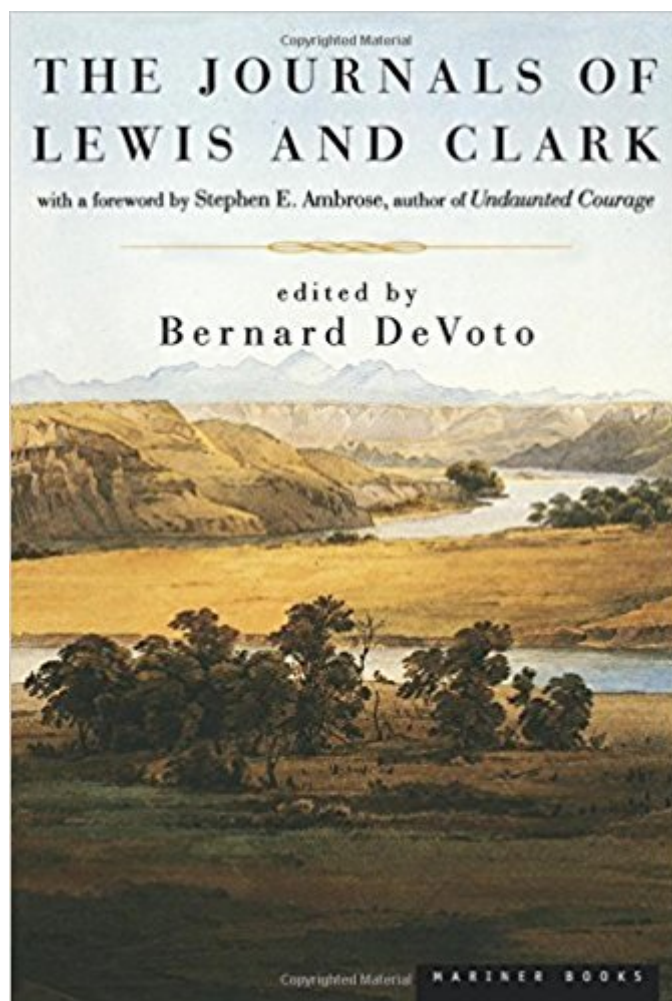


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The Journals Of Lewis And Clark (Lewis & Clark Expedition)



Synopsis

The Journals of Lewis and Clark are "the first report on the West, on the United States over the hill and beyond the sunset, on the province of the American future" (Bernard DeVoto). In 1803, the great expanse of the Louisiana Purchase was an empty canvas. Keenly aware that the course of the nation's destiny lay westward; and that a "Voyage of Discovery" would be necessary to determine the nature of the frontier; President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Meriwether Lewis to lead an expedition from the Missouri River to the northern Pacific coast and back. From 1804 to 1806, accompanied by co-captain William Clark, the Shoshone guide Sacajawea, and thirty-two men, Lewis mapped rivers, traced the principal waterways to the sea, and established the American claim to the territories of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Together the captains kept this journal: a richly detailed record of the flora and fauna they sighted, the native tribes they encountered, and the awe-inspiring landscape they traversed, from their base camp near present-day St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River, that has become an incomparable contribution to the literature of exploration and the writing of natural history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In 1803, when the United States purchased Louisiana from France, the great expanse of this new American territory was a blank - not only on the map but in our knowledge. President Thomas Jefferson keenly understood that the course of the nation's destiny lay westward and that a national

"Voyage of Discovery" must be mounted to determine the nature and accessibility of the frontier. He commissioned his young secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead an intelligence-gathering expedition from the Missouri River to the northern Pacific coast and back. From 1804 to 1806, Lewis, accompanied by co-captain William Clark, the Shoshone guide Sacajawea, and thirty-two men, made the first trek across the Louisiana Purchase, mapping the rivers as he went, tracing the principal waterways to the sea, and establishing the American claim to the territories of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. Together the captains kept a journal, a richly detailed record of the flora and fauna they sighted, the Indian tribes they encountered, and the awe-inspiring landscape they traversed, from their base camp near present-day St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River. In keeping this record they made an incomparable contribution to the literature of exploration and the writing of natural history.

Bernard DeVoto (1897-1955), winner of the Pulitzer Prize, was a renowned scholar-historian of the American West and one of the country's greatest men of letters.

A heartstopping, deeply escapist read, and a fascinating account of an epic, hard journey. Even as landscape unfolds and hardships are endured, one can't help also feeling that the seeds of later catastrophe are being sown. Some of it is plodding, some of it is cringe-inducing (the woman who means so much to their expedition is barely mentioned), some of it makes you wonder how they found the will to make it through. It makes me very curious about various aspects of their journey and survival, as well as the historical context of it. More books to read.

I read Vardis Fisher's Lewis&Clark story first, but felt like I needed to see Lewis & Clark's real words. This book, edited by Bernard DeVoto, with a view to be as 'correct as possible" was not as entertaining as Vardis book, for sure! Was good to see where Vardis was pulling my leg for the sake of entertainment. I think it was a good choice to be entertained first then put to memory was the more truthful (albeit less entertaining) version. What kept me reading was the truth of the account and the excitement of the adventure. Very glad to have read this seminal piece of American history. Accounts of the true friends that L & C made with many indian chiefs across the country are heartwarming (and also how they avoided or thwarted the indian scoundrels).

Outstanding, it's amazing what they accomplished, remember, there were no McDonald's, no Hotels, no Highways, NOTHING. Few Men today could make such a trip, and then there were the

Indians, which for the most part were friendly and in fact, they never could have made to the Pacific and back without help from the Indians and guides working for the fur trading outfits. Just an Amazing story.

Incredible amount of detail, almost always repeated. However, if that's one's interest, this is the book for you. The callous disdain for native Americans throughout the expedition was overwhelming, and the needless slaughter of wildlife, beyond that which was necessary for substance, reflect the attitudes of many early European Americans. Overall, a fact filled travelogue, but without maps to assist in reading, you will need additional reference material.

It was a book I have wanted to read and it had some real insights into the way things were. described a 28 foot fish skeleton and a 61/2 pound rabbit. Curiouser and curiouser.

On the surface these journals of Lewis and Clark are dry and limited in their perspective. Considering the men themselves, their undertaking and the era this is not at all unexpected. While adventurous, their journey was a natural extension of the expanding western civilization of the time. What is extraordinary is to relax one's contemporary thought process and imagine these places, people and events as they were or might have been in their original era and realize that all of this took place a mere 200 years ago.

I had never read the journals of the expedition. I gave only four stars for the lack of pictorials or drawings as that is left to the imagination of the reader. Anyone interested in early American History would likely find this interesting and informative enough to get through what I would call somewhat rough reading. Recommended.

One of the most interesting and exciting books that I have ever read. GREAT! I literally had a hard time putting it down. Knowing that I was reading the actual words of Lewis and Clark was just incredible. !!!

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