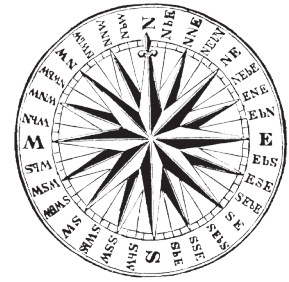


Meriwether Lewis's

Little Red BOOK



A Pacific Northwest Legacy

By John C. Jackson

CAPTAIN MERIWETHER LEWIS is usually understood as half of an exploration duo whose epic journey linked the United States frontier to the Pacific Slope. William Clark was effectively his second in command. In his 1803 organization of the expedition, Captain Lewis delegated the chore of keeping a record of progress and daily events to Second Lieutenant Clark. Despite sentimentalized interpretations of their relationship, a military chain of command had to prevail. Because Clark was not a talented writer of scientific details, his duty to the journals is generally terse. That arrangement left Lewis free to make observations, recording the new places, plants, and animals they encountered.

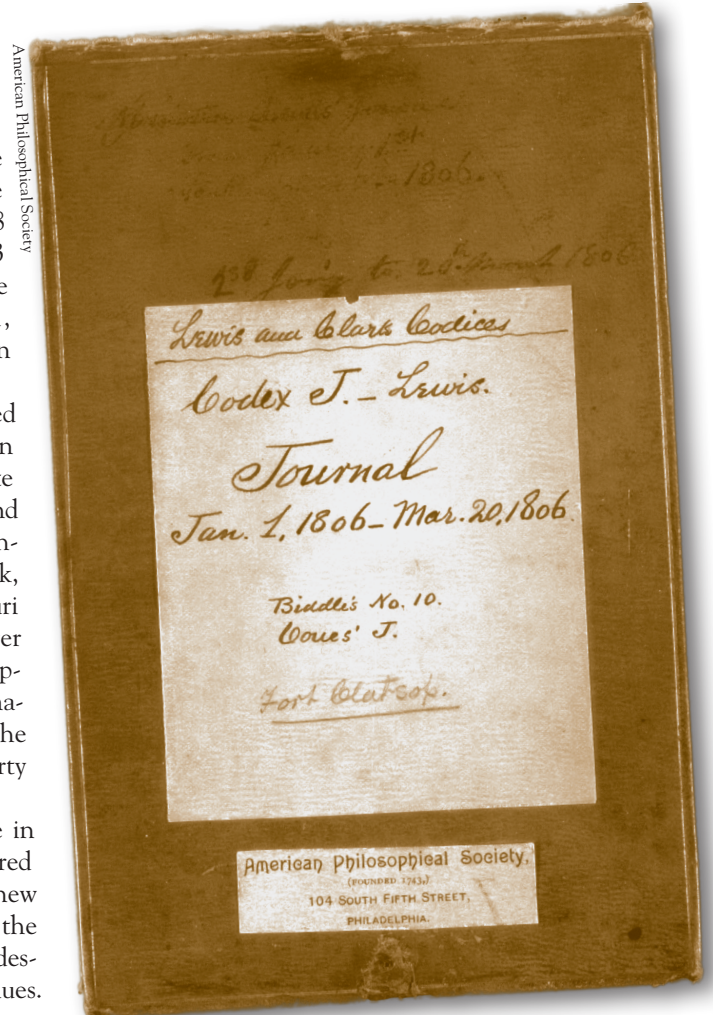
When he had time to reflect and the facilities to write, Lewis composed long literate descriptions that may have been intended to become part of a publishable natural history report. Scholars of the expedition have complained that he should have written more. Pacific Northwesters are lucky that he wrote so much during that trying winter at the mouth of the Columbia. Lewis composed these entries in a small book of 4-7/8 by 7-7/8 inches bound in red morocco. Of its 152 pages, pages 3 to 145 are Lewis's journal and observations and the rest to page 152 are given to his weather diary. It covers dates from January 1, 1806, to March 20, 1806, and now resides with the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

Earlier in the course of the expedition Lewis kept a fragmented journal of his Ohio River descent until he "left Capt Clark in charge of the Boat" on November 28, 1803. He did not write again until, as a result of Clark's illness, he had to take command at Camp Dubois on February 20, 1804. Lewis wrote stern detachment orders on that date and again on March 3. It was Clark, however, who recorded details of the first months of the Missouri River ascent. Lewis made a more extensive observation of river hydrology on July 21. He wrote about the flora and fauna on September 16 when he was confined to the boat, probably by a malarial episode. There were no descriptions of negotiations with the native peoples they met and treated with along the way. The party moved into winter quarters at Fort Mandan on November 20.

The suggestion is that Meriwether Lewis was conservative in his writing and unwilling to waste words on what he considered mundane or already known. It was new plants, new animals, or new conditions that led him to uncap the inkwell and flow. Leaving the great adventure that was unreeling before his eyes to Clark's pedestrian imagination, he reserved himself for more scientific values.

BELOW: Meriwether Lewis wrote Codex J during the corps' winter at Fort Clatsop. It contains a wealth of observations on Pacific Northwest plants, animals, and people the expedition encountered.

FACING PAGE: This artist's rendering depicts Lewis at Fort Clatsop, attaching a small medal to the hat of a Chinook leader who had come to trade at the fort.

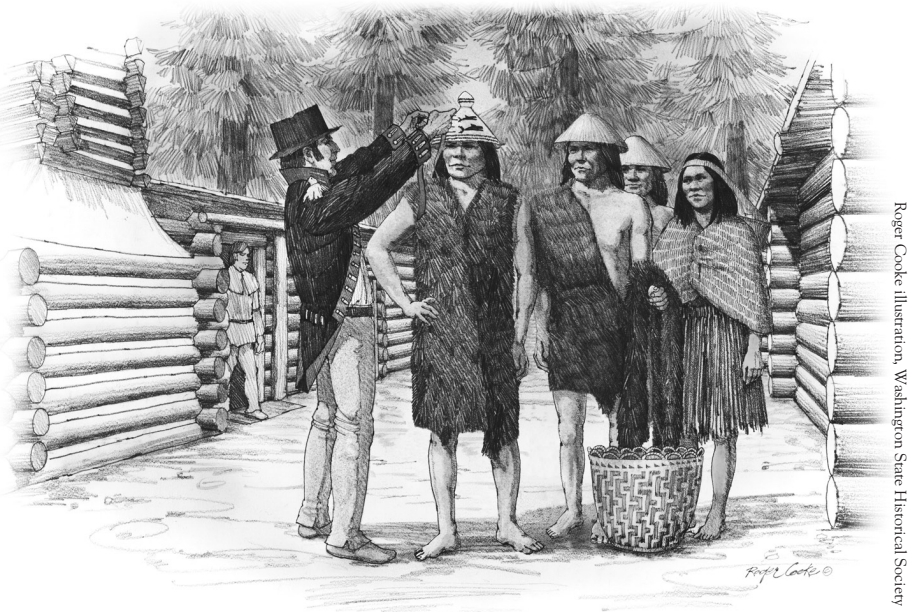


How much of Clark's writing might have been dictated is difficult to know, but despite the sentimental legend, the two leaders were quite different men.

Gary Moulton, the editor of the latest and most complete compilation of all the field journals, introduces "The Fort Mandan Miscellany" with the note that Lewis was keeping his field observations in special notebooks. Codex Q was zoological material and Codex R was botanical. On March 16, 1805, Lewis recorded the Arikara freeman Joseph Garreau's description of Mandan bead making. Major work accomplished at Fort Mandan over the winter was sent back to St. Louis in the spring and included two geographical treatises, "Affluents of the Missouri River" (drawn from Clark's daily record), and the large map he began on February 27. Both officers contributed to the "Estimate of Eastern Indians," which was compiled from many sources beyond their direct observation.

Lewis may have considered the already traveled Missouri as far as the Mandan villages unworthy of his daily interest. But when they entered the unexplored river above, he became enthusiastic and wrote more extensive entries until August 27. He recorded the brief, linguistically frustrating meeting with Flatheads (Bitterroot Salish) on September 10 but did not write about the exciting descent of the Columbia drainage until November 29 when he left the stalled expedition to find a location for their winter quarters.

A great part of the natural history observations Meriwether Lewis wrote between January 1 and March 20, 1806, were composed on a wide slab desk Joseph Fields had whittled at Fort Clatsop. In his small, precise handwriting—apparently written with a quill pen—Lewis compiled a body of careful observation and analysis. This work represents some of the first insights into the Pacific Northwest's flora, fauna, and geography. In the American Philosophical Society collection it is cataloged as Codex J. As Moulton points out in his introduction to *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, it is one of the expedition's



Roger Cooke illustration, Washington State Historical Society

richest accounts in natural history and ethnological data:

Codex J is a detailed record, to March 20, of life at Fort Clatsop, and contains extensive descriptions of local flora and fauna and the life of the nearby Indians, with numerous illustrations. Nowhere else did Lewis devote more time to fulfilling the scientific objectives of the expedition by recording so much.

WITH TIME TO write and a relatively comfortable place to do it, the gifted naturalist composed more detailed descriptions of new plants and animals than he was able to do while traveling. These pages reveal his compositional talent and personal style, which were both succinct and inspired. There is a good possibility that Lewis thought of those careful observations as elements of an intended masterpiece of scientific description that he would compile at the end of the expedition. Unfortunately, when they returned, President Thomas Jefferson, being short of good men he could trust to administer Louisiana Territory, "rewarded" Captain Lewis with an appointment as governor. That demanding duty left no time to complete the natural history volume, and preparations for publication languished.

When the *History of the Expedition under the command of Captains Lewis & Clark to the Sources of the Missouri*

Thence Across the Rocky Mountains and Down the River Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, Performed During the Years 1804-5-6 by Order of the Government of the United States was finally published in 1814, its last editor, Paul Allen, greatly reduced the promised "Estimate of the Western Indians." The tribes best known to the expedition during the winter of 1805–06—the Chinook and Clatsop—had descriptions shorter than the title of the book.

Chinooks reside on the north side of the Columbia at the entrance of, and on Chinnok river. 28 houses, 400 souls. Clatsop nation resides on the south side of the Columbia, and a few miles along the southeast coast, on both sides of Point Adams, 14 houses, 200 souls.

How does that compare with the observations Lewis wrote during that winter? Editors Nicholas Biddle and Allen were producing a trip narrative based on Clark's daily record. Scientific details only interrupted the adventure and so were largely omitted. What Lewis actually wrote was:

The Clatsops, Chinooks, Killamucks &c. are very loquacious and inquisitive; they possess good memories and have repeated to us the names capacities of the vessels &c of many traders and others who have visited the mouth of this river; they are generally low in stature, proportionably

“[T]heir baskets are formed of cedar bark and beargrass so closely interwoven...that they are watertight without the aid of gum or rosin...”

small, rather lighter complected and much more illy formed than the Indians of the Missouri and those of our frontier; they are generally cheerfull but never gay. with us their conversation generally turns upon the subjects of trade, smoking, eating or their women; about the latter they speak without reserve in their presents, of their every part, and of the most formiliar connection. they do not hold the virtue of their women in high estimation, and will even prostitute their wives and daughters for a fishinghook or a stran of beads. in common with other savage nations they make their women perform every species of domestic drudgery. but in almost every species of this drudgery the men also participate. their women are also compelled to geather roots, and assist them in taking fish, which articles form much the greatest part of their subsistance; notwithstanding the survive manner in which they treat their women they pay much more respect to their judgment and oppinions in many respects than most indian nations; their women are permitted to speak freely before them, and sometimes appear to command with a tone of authority; they generally consult them in their traffic and act in conformity to their opinions. I think it may be established as a

general maxim that those nations treat their old people and women with most diference [deference] and respect where they subsist principally on such articles that these can participate with the men in obtaining them.... It appears to me that nature has been much more deficient in her filial tie than in any other of the strong affections of the human heart, and therefore think, our old men equally with our women indebted to civilization for their ease and comfort.

Whites were not strangers here, and Lewis commented on the tribesmen's fondness for tobacco and lack of interest in "Spirituos liquors" which he took as an indication of the restraint practiced by the English and American sea traders who visited the mouth of the river, arising from their desire to avoid creating trouble. A visit by neighboring Cathlamet Indians made him aware of the active intertribal network that brought wapato from inland to exchange for whale blubber or oil. Trade carried on by the coastal natives found its way to their most distant neighbors.

Lewis observed and carefully described the Indian's weapons and implements: short, sinew-backed bows and arrows with shafts made of two different kinds of wood that kept the weight forward to make it fly true. When it came to descriptions of household articles, he could not contain his interest, which slipped from ethnography to botany:

[T]heir baskets are formed of cedar bark and beargrass so closely interwoven with

the fingers that they are watertight without the aid of gum or rosin; some of these are highly ornamented with strans of beargrass which they dye of several colours and interweave in a great variety of figures; this serves them the double perpose of holding their water or wearing on their heads; and are of different capacities from that of the smallest cup to five or six gallons; they are generally of a conic form or rather the segment of a cone of which the smaller end forms the base or bottom of the basket. these they make very expediciously and dispose off for a mear trifle. it is for the construction of these baskets that the beargrass becomes an article of traffic among the natives this grass grows only on their high mountains near the snowey region; the blade is about 3/8ths of an inch wide and 2 feet long smoth pliant and strong; the young blades which are white from not being exposed to the sun or air, are those most commonly employed, particularly in their neatest work.

FROM BASKETS and hats it was an easy shift for a naturalist to the garden of the forest, which the coastal people harvested for fern, rush, and root. When Lewis considered the thistle, he waxed absolutely scientific:

The root of the thistle, called by the natives shan-ne-táh-que is a perpendicular fusiform and possesses from two to four radicles; is from 9 to 15 Inces in length and about the size a mans thumb; the rhind somewhat rough and of a brown colour; the consistence when first taken from the earth is white and nearly as crisp as a carrot; when prepared for uce by the same process before discribed of the white bulb or pashshequo quawmash, it becomes black, and is more shugary than any fuit or root that I have met with in uce among the natives; the sweet is precisely that of the sugar in flavor; this root is sometimes eaten also when first taken from the ground without any preperation; but in this way is vastly inferior.

LEFT: Lewis noted that the Lower Columbia Indians highly valued the leaves of the bear grass plant (*Xerophyllum tenax*), which they used in making baskets and hats.

FACING PAGE: From Codex J, February 24, 1806, page 93, a drawing of a "eulachon," or smelt, by Meriwether Lewis, who had nothing but praise for the fish and the way the Indians prepared it.



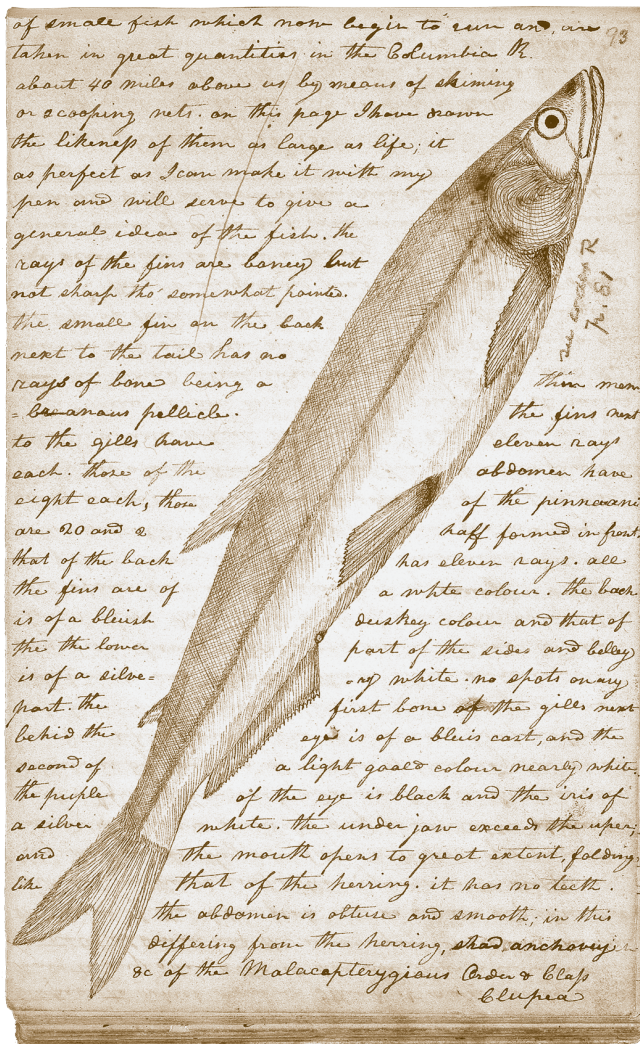
Edwards's Botanical Register, Volume 19 (1833)

At the beginning of the 19th century there were no accredited natural scientists in North America. Inquiring minds like President Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, or Dr. Caspar Winster were educated in other fields and are best described as enlightened amateurs. Yet under their tutelage Lewis had developed an impressive working botanical vocabulary:

[T]he stem of this plant is simple ascending celindric and hisped. the root leaves yet possess their verdure and are about half grown of a pale green. the cauline leaf as well as the stem of the last season are now dead, but in respect to it's form &c. it is simple, crenate, & oblong, reather more obtuse at it's apex than at the base or insertion; it's margin armed with prickles while it's disks are hairy, it's insertion decurrent and position declining.

At Fort Clatsop, Clark copied the correct terminology verbatim in his own journal. The two captains agreed to make an insurance copy of Lewis's observations, which Clark repeated in his own record of daily occurrences. Copyists were not unusual in the days before carbon paper and photocopiers, and many of the documents we find so precious now are actually in the handwriting of someone other than the author. Lewis must have been aware of Clark's deficiencies with a pen, and this provided an opportunity to improve his friend's education by example. So there are two versions of most of Meriwether's descriptions, sometimes dated the same day or the next. The example was not all one way; there is a place where Lewis in describing the sodden bracken wrote "firn," which Clark, despite his usual penchant for imaginative spelling, corrected as "fern."

Lewis wrote a page on the three species of ferns growing in the vicinity. The roots when roasted were not unlike wheat



American Philosophical Society

Wappetoe, or the bulb of the *Sagittifolia* or common arrow head, which grows in great abundance in the marshy grounds of that beautiful and fertile valley on the Columbia commencing just above the entrance of Quicksand River [present Sandy River], and extending downwards for about 70 Miles. this bulb forms a principal article of traffic between the inhabitants of the valley and those of this neighbourhood or sea coast.

Lewis's botany had a way of taking him far afield and drawing data from any source.

The native fruits and berries in use among the Indians of this neighbourhood are a deep purple berry about the size of a small cherry called by them Shal-lum, [salal] a small pale red berry called Sol-me; [bunchberry] the vineing or low Crambury, [wild cranberry] a light brown berry rather larger and much the shape of the black haw; [Oregon crabapple] and a scarlet berry about the size of a small cherry the plant called by the Canadian Engages of the N. W. sac a commis produces this berry [bearberry]; this plant is so called from the circumstance of the Clerks of those trading companies carrying the leaves of this plant in a small bag for the purpose of smoking of which they are excessively fond.

dough in flavor. Lewis also described the intertribal trade in foodstuffs:

The root of the rush used by the natives is a solid bulb about one inch in length and usually as thick as a man's thumb, of an ovate form depressed on two or more sides, covered with a thin smooth black rind. the pulp is white brittle and easily masticated either raw or roasted the latter is the way in which it is most usually prepared for use. this root is rather insipid in point of flavour, it grows in greatest abundance along the sea coast in the sandy grounds and is most used by the Klamucks and those inhabiting the coast....

[T]he most valuable of their roots is foreign to this neighbourhood I mean the

Nor did Lewis overlook the uses of the wild crab apple tree whose wood was so hard that the natives made wedges from it for splitting boards for their houses and firewood, and for hollowing out canoes.

IN LATE FEBRUARY the smelt began to run and Lewis allowed himself a few words of appreciation worthy of any Oregon boy with a hankering for a change of diet. "I find them best when cooked in Indian stile," he wrote,

which is by roasting a number of them together on a wooden spit without any



ABOVE: Artist's rendering of a California condor taken by members of the expedition on the Pacific Coast where it was feeding on a whale carcass.

FACING PAGE: Caw-Wacham: Flathead Woman with Child, oil on canvas, by Paul Kane (1810–1871). This painting depicts a cradleboard with a head-flattening panel, a device described by Lewis in his journal.

previous preparation whatever. they are so fat they require no additional sauce, and I think them superior to any fish I ever tasted, even more delicate and lussious than the white fish of the lakes which have heretofore formed my standart of excellence among the fishes. I have heard the fresh anchovey much extolled but I hope I shall be pardoned for beleiving this quite as good.

The corpsmen recognized Captain Lewis's interest in wildlife and brought him samples to study.

Charbono found a bird [varied thrush] dead lying near the fort this morning and brought it to me I immediately recognized it to be of the same kind of that which I had seen in the Rocky mountains on the morning of the 20th of September last. this bird is about the size as near as may be of the robbin.

Another time Privates Shannon and Labiche brought in a wounded vulture which had been feeding on a whale or fish thrown up on the beach by waves.

Lewis believed it to be the largest bird of North America (California condor) and drew a picture of its head.

On the first of March, after dividing the birds into two categories, terrestrial and aquatic, Lewis began a march through descriptions of those he saw, occasionally augmented by his drawings. These latter suggest that he was not John James Audubon.

AVIAN DESCRIPTION continued through mid month, sharing the daily page with concerns about the food supply (elk meat), his men's health, or visits from local Indians. Lewis segued into reptiles, fish, and even bivalves or recalled other creatures he had seen along the trail west while condensing the animals of the West into a single paragraph:

The quadrupeds of this country from the Rocky Mountains to the pacific Ocean are 1st the domestic animals, consisting of the horse and the dog only; 2cdly the native wild animals, consisting of the Brown white or grizly bear (which I beleive to be the same family with a nearly accedental difference in point of colour), the black bear, the common red deer, the black tailed fallow deer, the Mule deer, Elk, the large brown wolf, the small wolf of the plains, the large wolf of the plains, the tiger cat, the common red fox, black fox or fisher, silver fox, large red fox of the plains, small fox of the plains or kit fox, Antelope, sheep, beaver, common

otter, sea Otter, mink, spuck, seal, racoon, large grey squirrel, small brown squirrel, small grey squirrel, ground squirrel, sewelex, Braro, rat, mouse, mole, Panther, hare, rabbit, and polecat or skunk.

He devoted twice as much space to horses and their origin, which from brands appeared to have been stolen from the Spanish interior provinces. "[W]hether the horse was orrigeonally a native of this country or not it is out of my power to determine as we can not understand the language of the natives sufficiently to ask the question." However, he foresaw that they would be cheap and indispensable "to those who may hereafter attempt the fir trade to the East Indies by way of the Columbia river and the Pacific Ocean."

Although Lewis admitted his slender botanical skill was unequal to the description of Sitka spruce, which reached 27 to 36 feet in girth and soared as high as 230 feet, he devoted several days to recording other species, including western hemlock, grand fir, yet-to-be-named Douglas fir, western white pine, and the wind-sculpted shore pine.

After identifying orange honeysuckle, blue elderberry, ninebark, and mountain huckleberry, the scientific botanist returned to salal, the berries of which were much esteemed by the Indians:

[E]ach berry is supported by a seperate celindric peduncle of half an inch in length; these to the number of ten or twelve issue from a common peduncle or footstalk which is fuxouse and forms the termination of the twig of the present years growth.

Meanwhile, his soaked elk hunters were pushing through dripping salal and trying to keep their powder and heads dry. There is an amusing image of the Corps of Discovery that is missing in most writings on the subject, which Lewis described without the least bit of tongue-in-cheek:

We were visited today by two Clatsop women and two boys who brought a parsel of excellent hats made of Cedar bark and ornamented with beargrass. two of these

“We were visited today by two Clatsop women and two boys who brought a parcel of excellent hats made of Cedar bark and ornamented with beargrass.”

hats had been made by measures which Capt Clark and myself had given one of the women some time since with a request to make each of us a hat; they fit us very well, and are in the form we desired them. we purchased all their hats and distributed them among the party....

By then the military clothing of the party was worn and indiscriminate, but they were at least uniform again under those cone-shaped lids. This allows a rare glimpse of the explorer. Lewis augmented his worn hunting frock with a coat made from the skin of the tiger cat [cougar] which he had lined with a quilt made from skins of an animal that he couldn't quite place. In his excellent notes Moulton identifies this as the mountain beaver, a rodent the coastal Indians used much as eastern tribes wore beaver. Lewis found the lining light and pleasant, and the corpsmen refrained from being alarmed by the strange-looking creature prowling around the stockade.

ON MARCH 19, almost as an afterthought, the naturalist finally got around to describing a unique characteristic of the people with whom he spent the winter as neighbors. Raised in the respectability of piedmont Virginia and 18th-century social conventions, Lewis must have found it difficult at times to maintain scientific detachment as he penned sometimes embarrassing observations of casual native modesty.

Killamucks, Clatsops, Chinooks, Cathlahmahs and Wâc'-ki-a-cums resemble each other as well in their persons and dress as in their habits and manners.—their complexion is not remarkable, being the usual copper brown of most

of the tribes of North America. they are low in stature rather diminutive, and illy shapen; possessing thick broad flat feet, thick ankles, crooked legs wide mouths thick lips, nose moderately large, fleshy, wide at the extremity with large nostrils, black eyes and black coarse hair. their eyes are sometimes of a dark yellowish brown the purple black. I have observed some high acqualine noses among them but they are extremely rare. the nose is generally low between the eyes.

[T]he most remarkable trait in their physiognomy is the peculiar flatness and width of forehead which they artificially obtain by compressing the head between two boards while in a state of infancy and from which it never afterwards perfectly



Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

recovers. this is a custom among all the nations we have met with West of the Rocky mountains. I have observed the heads of many infants, after this singular bandage had been dismissed, or about the age of 10 or eleven months, that were not more than two inches thick about the upper edge of the forehead and rather thinner still higher. from the top of the head to the extremity of

the nose is one straight line. this is done in order to give a greater width to the forehead, which they much admire. this process seems to be continued longer with their female than their male children, and neither appear to suffer any pain from the operation.

Lewis meant only the people of the lower river as he wrestled with an ethnological question that would continue to confuse eastern minds for several decades and eventually lead to the introduction of Christian missionaries:

[I]t is from this peculiar form of the head that the nations East of the Rocky mountains, call all the nations on this side, except the Aliahtans or snake Indians, by the generic name of Flat heads. I think myself that the prevalence of this custom is a strong proof that those nations having originally proceeded from the same stock.

[T]he dress of the man consists of a small robe, which reaches about as low as the middle of the thigh and is attached with a string across the breast and is at pleasure turned from side to side as they may have occasion to disencumber the right or left arm from the robe entirely, or when they have occasion for both hands, the fixture of the robe is in front with its corners loosely hanging over their arms...they have no other article of clothing whatever neither winter nor summer. and every part except the shoulders and back is exposed to view....

[T]hey are very fond of the dress of the whites, which they wear in a similar manner when they can obtain them, except the shoe which I have never seen worn by any of them. they call us pâh-shish'-e-ooks, or cloth men....

The dress of the women consists of a robe...much smaller than that of the men, never reaching lower than the waist nor extending in front sufficiently far to cover the body. it is like that of the men confined across the breast with a string and hangs loosely over the shoulders and back. the most

esteemed and valuable of these robes are made of strips of the skins of the Sea Otter net together with the bark of the white cedar or sil-grass. these strips are first twisted and laid parallel with each other a little distance assunder, and then net or wove together in such manner that the fur appears equally on both sides, and unites between the strands. it make a warm and soft covering....

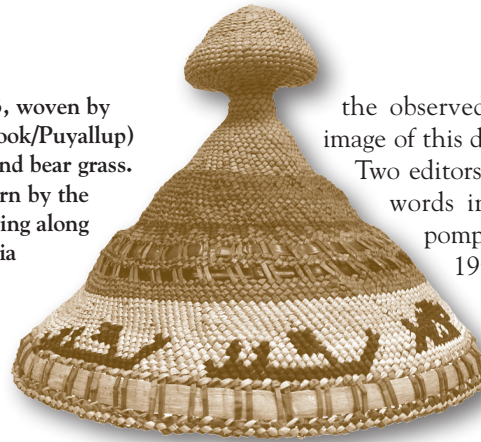
The weight of command was on him as he inventoried the remaining stock of trade goods that could be mostly contained in two handkerchiefs. There were also seven robes (blankets), an artilleryist's uniform coat (his own) and five robes made of one large flag. That was all they had with which to buy horses or sustenance for their return home. As the winter at Fort Clatsop came to an end, his uniform coat went to purchase an Indian canoe.

Altho' we have not fared sumptuously this winter and spring at Fort Clatsop, we have lived quite as comfortably as we had any reason to expect we should; and have accomplished every object which induced our remaining at this place except that of meeting with the traders who visit the entrance of this river. our salt will be very sufficient to last us to the Missouri where we have a stock in store.— it would have been very fortunate for us had some of those traders arrived previous to our departure from hence, as we should then have had it in our power to obtain an addition to our stock of merchandize which would have made our journey much more comfortable.

Captain Lewis's notebook was distracted from its ethnographic observations by preparations for their departure. On Tuesday, March 18, 1806, he wrote:

[T]his morning we gave Delashelwilt a certificate of his good deportment &c. and also a list of our names, after which we dispatched him to his village with his female band. These lists of our names we have given to several of the natives and also paisted up a copy in our room...that through the medium of some civilized person who may see the same, it may be made known to the informed world, that the party consist-

Chinook hat, 2003, woven by Karen Reed (Chinook/Puyallup) out of cedar bark and bear grass. Such hats were worn by the Chinook people living along the Lower Columbia when the Corps of Discovery arrived in 1805.



ing of the persons whoes names are hereinto annexed, and who were sent out by the government of the U' States in May 1804 to explore the interior of the Continent of North America, did penetrate the same by way of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, to the discharge of the latter into the Pacific Ocean, where they arrive on the 14th November 1805, and from whence they departed the [blank] day of March 1806 on their return to the United States by the same rout they had come out.

Although Lewis stopped writing in his notebook on March 20, rain delayed the departure and the party did not actually get off until the 23rd. The two leaders began a new field journal on the 21st, and as the boats drove up the Columbia, Lewis was still observing and noting birds.


WHETHER Meriwether Lewis was a pinched scholar in over his head or a meticulous scientist dutifully recording what he observed in a strange new world cannot be determined from those brown lines bravely driving across the page. Paper was scarce on the Oregon coast and he had a lot to write in the brief hours of daylight.

Lewis conserved his words, hoarding them from daily concerns—like where the next mouthful of dried salmon was coming from or the torture his men endured swimming through rain-soaked salal bushes to surprise an unwary elk. Reading those tiny, carefully considered lines after 200 years gives a sense of the focus and descriptive concentration that drove them. Certainly not the work of a poet or the imagination of a novelist, it was the craftsmanship of a dedicated naturalist carefully compiling

the observed facts into a true image of this dripping new world.

Two editors trying to cram his words into the mannered pomposities of the early 19th century cobbled together a narrative. At the end of the century publishers of a fuller version of the journals failed to grasp the intensity of the originals. Anything set in type cannot recapture the intimacy of Lewis's handwriting penned in the dim circle of light provided by a guttering elk-fat candle.

His carefully calculated words and the personal expression behind them were put down in pinched, tiny pen strokes across small pages of precious paper. There were few scratch-outs or changes of mind—no groping for the right word—which suggests that Lewis had already ordered his thoughts in his mind and could let them flow naturally from the quill. Where he learned that self discipline was not evident in one of the first assignments President Jefferson gave him—to evaluate the officers of the national army and suggest who should be retained in service and who should go.

To his credit, Lewis seems more comfortable describing plants and animals in the little morocco-bound book than in deciding the fate of men. He took on the responsibilities of science officer when he assumed command of the Corps of Discovery and never tried to escape his duty. Were there times during his tenure as governor of Louisiana Territory when he took out that journal and recalled the wonders he had seen and described? In searching for the man behind the myth, it is possible to discern a keen sensitivity underlying the words that march so bravely across the pages of that little red book. 

John C. Jackson is coauthor with Thomas C. Danisi of Meriwether Lewis, a biography, published in 2009. His recent book, By Honor and Right: How One Man Boldly Defined the Destiny of a Nation, introduces the first United States military officer to follow Lewis and Clark west of the Rocky Mountains in 1807.

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COVER: William Owen Bush (1832–1907), firstborn son of mixed-race pioneer George Washington Bush, poses for a formal portrait. Owen dedicated his life to promoting the agricultural interests of Washington. He served in the state legislature, helped establish the Western Washington Industrial Association (WWIA), and represented Washington wheat growers at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876 and the Chicago World's Fair in 1892. See related story beginning on page 10. (Washington State Historical Society, #C1964.1.35)