

The Papers of James Madison [Secretary of State Series]. Volume 5: 16 May-31 October 1803. Edited by David B. Mattern, J. C. A. Stagg, Ellen J. Barber, Bradley J. Daigle, and Anne Mandeville Colony. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial method, Madison chronology, notes, index. Pp. xxxv, 643. \$67.50.)

The fifth volume in the Secretary of State Series of *The Papers of James Madison*, this extensive collection of Madison's correspondence covers May 16 to October 31, 1803. Mainly dealing with American relations with France, Great Britain, and Spain, these letters reflect Madison's many responsibilities as secretary of state.

Perhaps the most important development during this segment of Madison's tenure as secretary of state proved to be the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory from France in the summer of 1803. Much of the volume is devoted to Madison's correspondence with Robert Livingston, James Monroe, and Charles Pinckney on the details of the Louisiana Purchase. The correspondence from Pinckney, the United States minister in Madrid, reveals much about Spanish protests against the American occupation of Louisiana. This volume also includes a number of direct appeals to Madison by the Spanish foreign minister to the United States, Carlos Martínez de Yrujo.

Other than the Louisiana Purchase, the letters also discuss the impressment of American soldiers. Hoping to clarify British naval policies on the subject, Madison attempted to intercede on behalf of the soldiers' parents. Throughout the summer of 1803, Madison argued bitterly with Edward Thornton, the British chargé d'affaires. Outside of Europe, Madison attempted to improve relations in the Barbary Coast area. While the war with Tripoli and Morocco continued, the appointment of Tobias Lear as consul general at Algiers appeared to signal a promise of peace.

In addition to official diplomatic correspondence, this volume also contains several letters that shed light on Madison's personal life. Madison's letters to Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe provide the reader with an opportunity to observe the intricacies of the working relationships within Jefferson's administration. While on a retreat to their Virginia homes in August and September, Madison and Jefferson exchanged weekly letters that particularly demonstrate a close collaboration between the two leaders.

Like the other volumes in the Secretary of State Series, this book provides a full assessment of the activities of the State Department and the Jefferson administration that historians will find exceedingly helpful. Filled with nearly six hundred letters and abstracts, including ninety written by Madison, the volume covers a wide array of topics, favorably demonstrating the careful and thoughtful selection process undertaken by its editors. Additionally, with the creation of a thorough index, the editors have ensured that readers will have easy access to the topics that interest them. At times, the sheer volume of correspondence appears to preclude the editors from devoting time and space to the explanatory notes accompanying the letters. While these notes provide information on the source of the letters or reference other letters in the series, they could benefit from more explanation on the identities and backgrounds of the individuals with whom Madison corresponded. Despite this very small criticism, volume 5 of *The Papers of James Madison* gives readers an extensive look into the affairs of early-nineteenth-century America and the political career of one of its esteemed leaders.

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