

The Papers of James Madison, Vol. 16: *27 April 1795-27 March 1797*. Edited by J.C.A. Stagg *et al.* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1989. Pp. xxviii, 527. \$45.00.)

This volume of *The Papers of James Madison* encompasses the final years of James Madison's career in the House of Representatives. These documents reveal the increasingly bitter, partisan dispute between Federalists and Republicans over policy and ideology. By 1795, the feud was clearly evident, what with the heated debate surrounding the ratification and implementation of Jay's Treaty of 1794. The closely fought presidential election of 1796 that followed further intensified the political polarization. As these papers show, Madison "was deeply concerned with the outcomes of both these political battles, and he was to commit his political energies to the first of them far more than has ever been realized" (xvii).

The publication of this most recent volume is commensurate with the appearance of a new editor-in-chief for *The Papers of James Madison*, Associate Professor of History J.C.A. Stagg of the University of Virginia. Thomas A. Mason, former associate editor and acting editor, prepared a large portion of this publication, until departing to assume his duties as director of publications at the Indiana Historical Society. Volume 16 is dedicated to Robert A. Rutland, a scholar long associated with this project.

The editorial style and guidelines outlined in volumes 1 and 8 have been consistently followed in this latest volume, with relatively minor exceptions that are explained under the heading, "Editorial Method" (xxi).

Of particular importance to scholars of the early national era, or of Madison or Thomas Jefferson, are the letters between these two men covering the winter months of 1796-1797, which focus on the 1796 election news and which are "particularly revealing about the close relationship between Jefferson and Madison, highlighting as it does both their compatibility and their differences" (xix). At this point in their personal and political relationship, Madison clearly served to check some of Jefferson's "more impulsive tendencies" while, at the same time, helping to reconcile an unenthusiastic Jefferson to the vice presidency under Federalist John Adams (xix). The picture that emerges is one of relative equality between Jefferson and Madison, insofar as ideological and political leadership is concerned. Jefferson is ultimately encouraged by Madison to step "forward and assume the leadership of causes they had both been laboring to promote under the new constitutional order of the Republic" (xix).

The reader is assisted throughout the book by exceptionally informative notes, and the index is useful and complete. Professional historians and students of history will benefit greatly from the publication of this important volume of *The Papers of James Madison*, as well as future volumes. The completed set will reduce dependence upon older editions of Madison's works, most notably the nine volumes edited by Gaillard Hunt between 1900 and 1910. Volume 16 is a significant addition to the new series. This reviewer, for one, eagerly awaits the publication of subsequent volumes.

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