The Papers of James Madison, Secretary of State Series, Vol. III: ***1 March-6 October***. Edited by David B. Mattern *et al.* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995. Pp. xxix, 657. $47.50.)

Scholars interested in the foreign affairs of the early Republic have cause to rejoice over the publication this volume of the James Madison papers. Covering seven months of 1802, the editors offer us over 600 pages of important and wide-ranging correspondence. This volume focuses largely on the interaction between the United States and the major powers of Western Europe with an auxiliary examination of the crisis in the Mediterranean. French ambitions were of critical importance to Madison as Robert Livingston reported the rise of Napoleon as First Consul, the territorial and mercantile problems created by the French movement to crush the Haitian Revolution, and the Spanish cession of Louisiana. The last issue became particularly frustrating for American agents abroad, as well as for Madison and President Thomas Jefferson, since the Europeans remained closemouthed on the scope of the transfer. Since New Orleans and the Floridas figured prominently in American expansionism, the correspondence reveals a heightening of tension as the administration realized the threat that an imperial France posed to the Caribbean basin and North America.

In Great Britain, Federalist Rufus King concluded the financial arrangements initiated by the Jay Treaty, but he was less successful either resolving the Canadian border dispute or securing a new commercial treaty. In Spain, Charles Pinckney faced serious obstacles in attempting to resolve spoliations claims and to facilitate the purchase of the Floridas. The Barbary wars consumed the attention of a variety of correspondents (including the volatile William Eaton) who offered Madison detailed—and sometimes contradictory—advice about resolving this dilemma. Clearly, the president, focused on Louisiana, wanted extrication from this troublesome and costly conflict.

Throughout the volume, the secretary of state, suffering from health problems and seriously understaffed, labored diligently to keep up with a flood of letters. He responded with a generally calm detachment to the sometimes passionate missives of his agents. Madison obviously determined policy matters with his old friend and neighbor Jefferson. The president posited his thoughts on subjects such as the desirability of a "permanent league" to restrain the Barbary pirates (510), the nettlesome nature of European colonial governors whom he dubbed "pigmy kings" (527), and patronage demands from revolutionary gadfly Stephen Sayre, whom he deemed "highly impudent" (223).

Editorial methodology is clear and exact with superbly detailed footnotes. The editors have enhanced the strong content through the abstraction of a number of additional letters. This summary method, while not fully satisfying, alerts the scholar to the existence of certain correspondence and provides the core of the text. While the office of secretary of state encompassed a variety of tasks at the turn of the century, non-diplomatic items (*e.g.*, the Yazoo lands or patronage matters) appear infrequently. This may simply be a reflection of the actual flow of correspondence. A modest request to indicate the content of the letters in the calendar is a minor quibble in an otherwise praiseworthy effort.

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