

The Papers of James Madison. Presidential Series. Vol. 2, 1 October 1809-2 November 1810. Edited by J. C. A. Stagg, Jeanne Kerr Cross, and Susan Holbrook Perdue. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1992. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial method, Madison chronology, significant federal officers, index. Pp. xlv, 647. \$50.00.)

Once again J. C. A. Stagg and his coeditors deserve praise for completing another excellent volume in *The Papers of James Madison*—the second in the presidential series—covering the year October 1809 to November 1810. This volume completes Madison's first year in office and his first two crises—the annexation of West Florida and the recall of Ambassador David Erskine, ending America's short-lived rapprochement with England.

As the editors noted in the preface to the first volume in the presidential series, Madison the chief executive is far harder to present than Madison the legislator. Only

23 percent of this volume consists of documents by Madison, while about 35 percent of volumes 13-17 of the first series consists of Madison documents. Clearly, President Madison expressed his views more in conferences and meetings than with the written word. The presidency also dictated to a large degree the character of his correspondents. It should be no surprise that the members of his cabinet, Albert Gallatin—treasury, William Eustis—war, and Paul Hamilton—navy, head the list of Madison's correspondents. The minor appearance of Secretary of State Robert Smith reinforces the tradition that before James Monroe joined the cabinet in 1811, Madison acted as his own secretary of state.

Numerous letters from ambassadors William Pinkney in London and John Armstrong in Paris underscore the deteriorating relationship with England during the year. The recall of Britain's pro-American ambassador David Erskine in favor of the hard-liner Francis James Jackson marked the failure of Madison's nonintercourse policy and the continued drift toward war with Britain. The other continental intrigue between Spain and France also appears here in the context of West Florida, which the United States had claimed as a part of the Louisiana Purchase since 1803 and Madison would finally annex by presidential proclamation (October 27, 1810) near the end of this volume.

Finally one must note the ever-present correspondence with Thomas Jefferson—Madison's only true friend and universal adviser—which ranged from Louisiana to foreign policy to the breeding of merino sheep. It is only in the Jefferson correspondence that survives as a nearly unbroken chain of weekly letters stretching over thirty years that the reader regularly finds the personal, reflective, and occasionally introspective James Madison.

All in all this volume is another plus for Madison scholars as well as others interested in the early national period.

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