

The Papers of James Madison. Secretary of State Series. Vol. 3, 1 March 1802-6 October 1802. Edited by David B. Mattern, J. C. A. Stagg, Jeanne Kerr Cross, and Susan Holbrook Perdue. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1995. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial method, chronology, index. Pp. xxxix, 657. \$47.50.)

J. C. A. Stagg's Madison team has released yet another excellent volume in the *Papers of James Madison*, this time under the coordination of David B. Mattern. This third volume in the Secretary of State series covers the period from March to October 1802, with continuing coverage of the three foreign crises that dominated the first Jefferson administration—the war with Tripoli, the ill-fated French expedition to reclaim Sainte Domingue, and the American acquisition of Louisiana.

As with earlier volumes in the series, Madison remains somewhat elusive. Barely 20 percent of the entries are actually by Madison. About two-thirds of the documents are the correspondence to and from the ambassadors, consuls, and commercial agents dealing with the three crises. Nearly everything else concerns claims by U.S. citizens against England, France, or Spain in the ongoing effort to sort out the role of American seaborne commerce in the post-1783 world. Only eight of the nearly 800 entries can be described as personal documents.

Jefferson continues to be Madison's principal correspondent, and clearly they worked in tandem on all major issues. One fascinating exception to this seems to be in Madison's response to Tripolitan Consul James Leander Cathcart's plan to unseat the reigning Dey Yusuf Pasha Qaramanli in favor of his deposed brother Hamet Qaramanli as a way to end the Dey's war against America and enhance America's power along the Barbary coast in general. Madison wrote on August 22, 1802, that, although the United States did not approve of intervening in another nation's internal affairs, in "the prosecution of a just war, or the accomplishment of a reasonable peace" it would not be "unfair." Cathcart and Tunisian consul William Eaton took Madison's guarded response as approval and began what was perhaps America's first effort at interventionist politics.

Concerning the other great crises this is a volume of great expectations. By the end of 1802 the French will have failed to reconquer Sainte Domingue, Napoleon will consider selling Louisiana, and Monroe will be heading to Paris; but, in October 1802 when this volume ends, none of these events are yet known. Nevertheless, this is an excellent work that leaves Madison fans eagerly waiting for the next installment.

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