

The Papers of James Madison. Presidential Series. Vol. 3: 3 November 1810-4 November 1811. Edited by J. C. A. Stagg, Jeanne Kerr Cross, and Susan Holbrook Perdue. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1996. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial method, depository symbols, abbreviations, short titles for books, Madison chronology, significant federal officers, notes, index. Pp. xlii, 584. \$55.00.)

Four years have passed since the appearance of the second volume in the Madison Papers' *Presidential Series*, but the third volume demonstrates it has been a worthwhile wait. J. C. A. Stagg and his colleagues have produced another winner.

The new volume, covering the year from November 1810 to November 1811, ably continues the chronicle of Madison's foreign and domestic crises while preserving a sense of suspense. Volume 2 ended with Madison's proclamation of the end of France's Berlin and Milan Decrees against American trade and his formal annexation of West Florida. Now come the details of the effects that these acts had on his presidency. France, one learns, was not quite so sweeping in its policy change as Madison had hoped, and Congress was not so quick to confirm his proclamation. West Floridians were not certain whether they wanted to become part of the United States, and southwesterners continued to flirt with Burr-like dreams of filibustering all of Florida into their own hands. These events in turn brought Madison new headaches. Secretary of State Robert Smith's refusal to endorse Madison's temporized policy towards France led to his dismissal in March 1811 and his fortunate replacement with James Monroe. Territorial officials in Mississippi and Orleans (now Louisiana) had to arrest the filibusterers even though they were viewed as local heroes. And behind all of these events, land-hungry westerners were stirring up Native American discontents while war with Britain became ever more inevitable.

As with the earlier volumes, Madison, while president of the United States, continues to be an elusive personality. A mere 19 percent of all of the entries were written by him, and while one-third of these might be termed personal in nature, they reveal more about his choice of wines and his interest in breeding sheep than his private thoughts about Napoleon or the impending breakup of Spain's American empire. Jefferson and Monroe are his principal correspondents, although they only account for 10 percent of Madison's own letters. Communications to and from the cabinet, Congress, the diplomatic corps, and other government officials account for about half of the entries in the volume. About one-third of the text concerns domestic politics ranging from requests for office appointments to complaints about customs collectors.

Three items in the volume deserve special mention. The first, the longest item included, is a proposal from Jeremy Bentham to produce a law code for America based on his theories of universal knowledge. The second, Henry Lee's account of Gen. James Wilkinson's court marshal as a co-conspirator with Burr, calls upon Madison to remember and be careful of the rights of the accused, for "when the nation accuses, the defendant ought to be encouraged, not discouraged." The final item is Madison's explanation of his veto of a bill that would have granted public land in the Mississippi Territory to the Baptist Church. He acted because he believed that "the practical distinction between Religion & Civil Govt was essential to both."

Once again, the editors of the Madison Papers are to be congratulated for their continuing excellent work.

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