The Papers of James Madison: Secretary of State Series. Vol. 2: ***1 August 1801-28 February 1802***. Edited by Mary A. Hackett *et al.* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993. Pp. xli, 562. $60.00.)

The publication of this volume is welcome news for students of James Madison and early American diplomacy alike. The editors provide us with 725 letters, few of which have been previously printed—124 from Madison, 599 to him, and 2 by third parties. As one might expect from such an established editorial project, the documents are accurately transcribed and judiciously annotated. Aside from a valuable introductory overview of the volume as a whole, the editors have wisely kept their scholarly commentary on the documents to a minimum, which is the most sensible strategy to follow in dealing with an editorial enterprise of this magnitude.

In this volume we find Madison confronting a kaleidoscope of diplomatic, political, and personal problems. On the diplomatic front, the leading themes are the ratification of the Convention of Mortfontaine, the accelerating French effort to reimpose effective metropolitan control over the rebellious slaves on Saint-Domingue, the naval war with Tripoli, Madison's attempts in the wake of the Peace of Amiens to press for European economic concessions to the United States, and his decision to strive for the addition of East and West Florida to the Union in response to the reported retrocession of Louisiana to France. In this area one of this volume's most interesting revelations is the extent to which Jacob Wagner, the Federalist holdover as chief clerk of the Department of State, took the initiative during Madison's absence in Virginia to draft diplomatic correspondence for Madison's consideration and to advise him on certain diplomatic issues—a striking example of clerical influence in this department for which one can find no precedent during the tenure of Madison's only Republican predecessor as Secretary of State. On the political front, the problem of Republican factionalism in New York and Pennsylvania begins to vie in importance with the problem of republicanizing the federal bureaucracy, and the crucial case of *Marbury* v. *Madison* is set in train. And on a personal level, Madison is forced to devote a great deal of attention to a family quarrel arising out of differences over the administration of his recently deceased father's estate.

The disproportion between letters printed in full and letters summarized is the only feature of the editing that might warrant a different approach in future volumes. Of the 725 letters dealt with here, 321 are printed in full and 404 are summarized. Among the latter the

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greatest number by far consist of letters written by the 63 American consuls who served under Madison. In view of the editors' admission that letters from consuls generally had little or no impact on Madison, perhaps they should consider the advisability of calendaring the routine consular correspondence. By thus listing briefly the subjects covered in most consular letters, as opposed to providing detailed summaries of their contents, the editors could then print in full the most critical consular correspondence, which in this volume would have been that from the Barbary States and Saint-Domingue, as well as more of the ministerial correspondence. But this is a point on which scholars may reasonably differ, and the approach followed by the editors certainly reflects the conscientiousness that has typified this magisterial project from its inception.

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