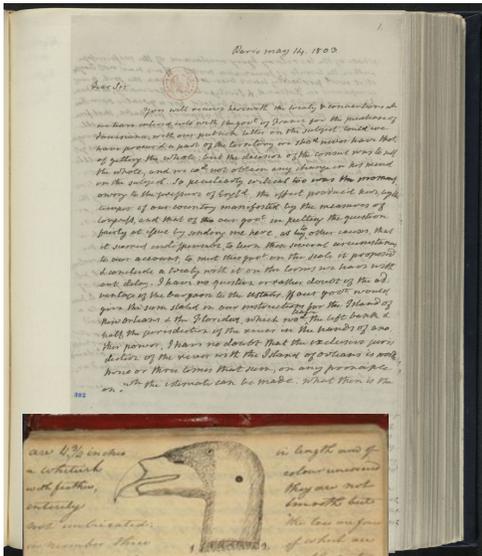


The Lewis & Clark Paper Trail

The letters, maps, notes, journals and other documents of the expedition were not always part of America public archives. Thankfully, today they are. In addition, there are other very high-level historical documents—all of which at one time traversed through the contemporary mail, such as those shown here. Elements of this feature are from the Library of Congress's special bicentennial exhibition relating to the expedition and can be viewed online at: www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/lewisandclark.html



The Purchase of Louisiana

In his letter to James Madison (page one of 10 pages is shown here), James Monroe, U.S. special envoy, explains why he and Robert R. Livingston, America's minister to France, were obliged to purchase "the whole" of Louisiana. Monroe and Livingston later quarreled over who deserved credit for the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory. Monroe complained to Madison in this letter that the "most difficult vexations and embarrassing part of my labors has been with my associate." (Library of Congress)

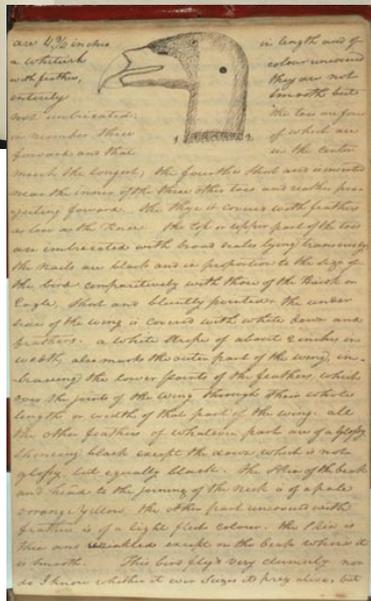


Nicholas King, with annotations by Meriwether Lewis

"Tracing of western North America showing the Mississippi, and the Missouri for a short distance above the Kansas, Lakes Michigan, Superior, and Winnipeg, and the country onwards to the Pacific" with annotations in the hand of Meriwether Lewis, 1803. [Carried as far as Mandan village] Engraved map with annotations in pen and ink (Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress).

William Clark (1770-1838), His journal.

Head of a Vulture (California condor), February 17, 1806. Copyprint of journal illustration (Courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society, St Louis)



Benjamin Rush (ca.1745-1813) letter to Meriwether Lewis, June 11, 1803

"Rules for Preserving his Health" Manuscript. William Clark Cures for toothache and "whooping cough."

Thomas Jefferson asked Benjamin Rush, a noted physician and professor of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, to "prepare some notes of such particulars as may occur in his journey & which you think should draw his attention & enquiry." Dr. Rush restricted his advice to practical hints for maintaining health in the field—some of it unwelcome like using alcohol for cleaning feet instead of for drinking. Many Americans did not trust professional medicine and instead used folk cures like these written down by Clark after the expedition. Many folk cures originally came from Indian sources. (Courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis)

Lamponing Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson's plan in 1805 to build on the Louisiana Purchase by buying West Florida from Spain is lampooned here by cartoonist James Akin. Induced by the sting of the hornet Napoleon, Jefferson vomits gold coins before a dancing Spanish representative holding maps of East and West Florida and carrying French Minister Talleyrand's instructions in his pocket. By the end of the War of 1812, the U.S. had gained possession of most of West Florida. The remainder of West Florida and East Florida were acquired by Treaty in the year 1819 during James Monroe's administration.

