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## Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

*Pageant in the Wilderness*, the diary and itinerary of the expedition of Fathers Domínguez and Escalante into the area northwest of New Mexico; translated, annotated, and furnished with a historical introduction by Herbert E. Bolton. Pp. 265, xi. Salt Lake City, Utah: Utah State Historical Society, 1950. \$5.50.

One hundred and seventy-five years ago the two Frailes Francisco Atanasio Domínguez and Silvestre Vélez de Escalante set out from Santa Fe to discover a land route that would connect the Spanish Province of New Mexico with Monterey, California. Of the group that accompanied them two others should be mentioned, Captain Don Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco for the beautiful colored maps he made of the Province of New Mexico, and Andrés Muñiz because he had already visited the domain of the Yuta Indians through which the expedition was to pass, and knew their language.

The group followed old trails, and encountered Indians well known to New Mexico almost to the point where they entered the present state of Utah. From here they were breaking new trail. That the Yutas encountered near Utah Lake and called Lagunas, or Lake Indians, and those seen as the party traveled south into Utah's Dixie and called "Yutas Cobardes," or timid Yutas, were bands previously unknown to the Spanish can be discerned by reading Escalante.

Crossing the Colorado River and returning to Santa Fe, the expedition failed to open the proposed route and was not of great significance to the future history of New Mexico, but as Domínguez wrote before the departure from Santa Fe:

Even though we may not achieve our purpose, which is to explore a road from this kingdom to Monterey, much advance will be made by the knowledge we can acquire of the lands through which we shall travel, and it will be very useful in subsequent attempts. Moreover, we plan to return through Cosnina [the land of the Havasupai], to confirm that nation in its good intention to be christianized, and to sepa-

rate it entirely (if God so favors us) from the Moquinos [Hopis], who are so opposed to the conversion of themselves and others.

The expedition was not a failure as far as Domínguez and Escalante were concerned. They had seen new lands and visited new peoples, with whom they left the message of Christianity. The historian has, in addition to the record of an early trip through Colorado, Utah, and Arizona, an example of the virility of the Spanish citizens of the new world, and of the stuff of which some of the members of the religious orders were made.

An Anglo-American first translated a part of the diary kept by Escalante almost a hundred years ago. This synopsis of the journey appeared in the government surveys of the territories of the United States. Since then, Coues, translator and editor of the Garcés diary, commented upon and planned to edit the journal of the travels of Domínguez and Escalante, but did not get beyond the planning stage; W. R. Harris translated the diary as a part of his history of the Catholic Church in Utah; Jessie Hazel Power, a student of Professor Bolton, used the Domínguez-Escalante expedition as the subject of a Masters Thesis; and Herbert S. Auerbach edited and translated the manuscript which was published with a fine collection of early maps of the area by the Utah Historical Society in 1943.

There are some differences in the Bolton and Auerbach translations of the documents, but the most important contribution made by this publication is the historical introduction, which contains a "blow by blow" description of the travels of the "Splendid Wayfarers." Supplied by Dr. Bolton as the result of field trips by automobile, on horseback, and on foot over the trail they followed, this portion of the work was previewed in the article "Escalante in Dixie and the Arizona Strip" which appeared in the NEW MEXICO HISTORICAL REVIEW in 1928.

The introduction and Dr. Bolton's "asides" help to clarify names and places for modern readers and add "color" to the recorded events. The inclusion of a copy of an original Miera y Pacheco map in color, plus a map by Bolton with stopping

places marked, day by day, also helps the reader to orient himself as he follows the diary.

Approximately half of the book is Professor Bolton's introduction to the diary, and the other half is the translation, with notes. Two sets of notes are kept, those marked by stars for editorial comment, and the numbered notes to correlate the daily record in the diary with the campsites and other data shown on Bolton's map.

Escalante's editors and translators have failed to do two things in the way of performing a service to their readers: they have not properly evaluated the significance of the Domínguez-Escalante expedition to the history of New Mexico (its present significance appears to be only in relation to the history of Utah), and they have not shown the importance of Domínguez to the undertaking. (Eleanor Adams is now editing and translating the record of the *Visita*, or tour of inspection, of Domínguez to the missions of New Mexico. This, and accompanying letters by both Domínguez and Escalante, promise to further enlighten those interested in the expedition).

The reproduction of an oil painting giving the artist's (Keith Eddington) concept of the appearance of the expedition, and the inclusion of significant photographs, adds to the appearance of the publication. Written with the layman in mind, the book will also be read with interest by historians, anthropologists, students of Utah history, and those with a wider interest in the accomplishments of Spain in America.

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*Travels in Search of the Elephant: The Wanderings of Alfred S. Waugh, Artist, in Louisiana, Missouri, and Santa Fe, in 1845-1846.* John Francis McDermott, editor. St. Louis: Missouri Historical Society, 1951. Pp. xxi, 153.

This publication is a worthwhile addition to the literature on the mid-nineteenth century American frontier. Despite the oddities in spelling and the lapses from orthodox

punctuation, Mr. Waugh has left an interesting account of life when the Santa Fe trail was at its heyday. He made at least one trip over the trail, and lived for a few weeks in Santa Fe just prior to the arrival of the Army of the West in 1846.

An artist by profession, a keen observer of people and environment, he failed to develop any enthusiasm for life in New Mexico comparable to that which marked the attitude of the artists who discovered the beauties of the country during this century. On the contrary, he wrote a very realistic description of Santa Fe which illustrates the rather common failure of foreigners to do otherwise when visiting here in the era of Mexican rule. This realism was usually tinged with prejudice due to the differences in cultural background that marked the Mexican and the outsider. The bulk of the publication, however, deals with the eastern environment of the trail. It is descriptive and at times exciting, especially when the writer is describing his own shooting scrape.

Waugh wrote a three part manuscript, but only the first part has been preserved. This is known as the Waugh Collection and is housed in the library of the Missouri Historical Society. It covers Waugh's experiences from Mobile to the time of departure for Santa Fe. His experiences in Santa Fe described in a long letter is reprinted from the *Southern Literary Messenger*. A short excerpt from Part II of the manuscript, which has not been preserved, is reprinted from the *Western Journal*.

Mr. McDermott has contributed a ten page biographical sketch of Waugh based on the available and scanty sources. He has also done an excellent job of annotation. A bibliography and index complete the volume. The printing and binding is well done.

F. D. R.