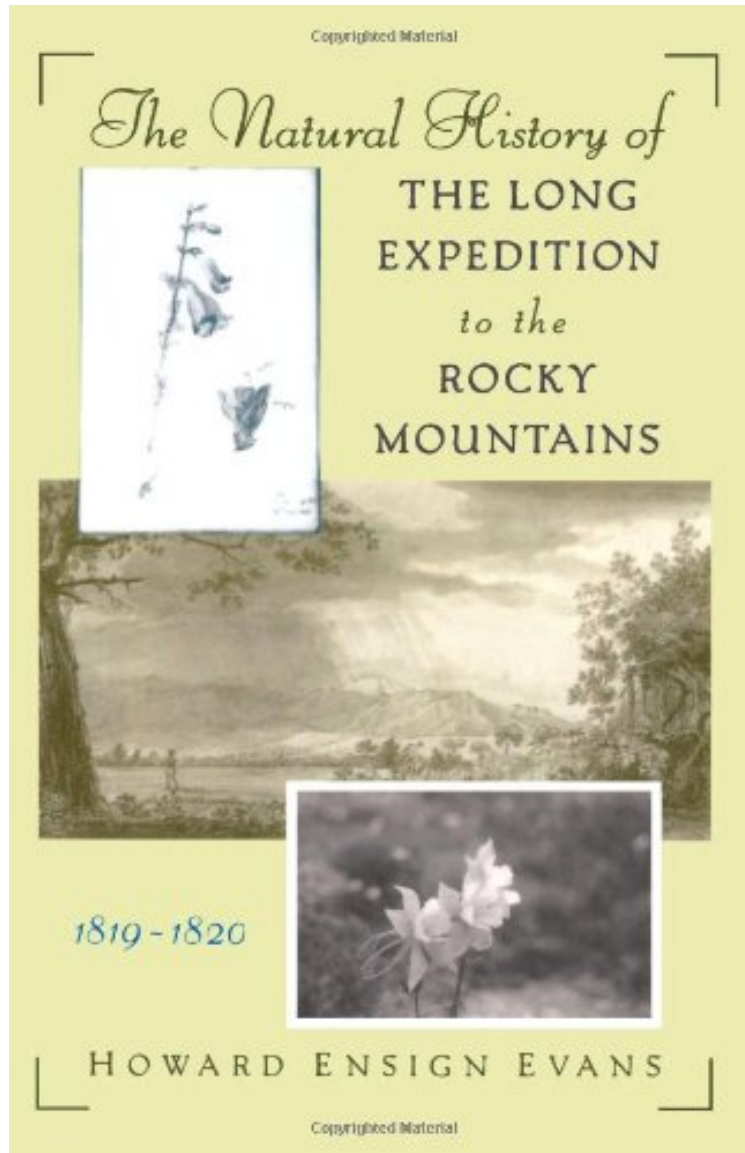


[FREE] The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820)

The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820)

Howard Ensign Evans
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Howard Ensign Evans : The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820)
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Natural History of

the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820):

A little over 170 years ago--hardly a moment on the clock of history--one half of the United States was empty of all but Indians and the plants and game on which they subsisted. Indeed, acquiring the Louisiana Territory approximately doubled the size of the United States, adding 800,000 square miles of land that had scarcely been explored or adequately mapped. Americans would be given an in-depth look this rugged and untamed land only when Secretary of War John C. Calhoun and President James Monroe agreed that a military presence at the mouth of the Yellowstone River (near the boundary between North Dakota and Montana) would impress the Indians and serve notice to Canadian trappers and traders that some of their favorite beaver country was now part of the United States. In *The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819- 1820)*, Howard E. Evans offers a colorful history of the expedition of Major Stephen H. Long--the first scientific exploration of the Louisiana Territory to be accompanied by trained naturalists and artists. Made up of twenty-two men--military personnel and "scientific gentlemen"--the Long Expedition struggled on foot and horseback along the Front Range of the Rockies, living off the land, recording rivers and landforms, shooting birds, plucking plants, and catching lizards and insects to preserve for study. They were often thirsty and hungry, sometimes ill, and always tired. But theirs was an experience awarded to only a chosen few: the opportunity to see and record firsthand the pristine lands that so majestically defined the United States. Based primarily on the expedition members' reports and diaries, and often told in the participants' own words, this fascinating chronicle transports readers back to the near-virgin wilderness of 1820. We accompany naturalist Edwin James as he becomes the first man to climb Pike's Peak, and roam with him in his dual role as botanist, collecting a multitude of flora specimens, 140 of which were described by him and others as new. We sit with artist Samuel Seymour as he sketches in vivid detail the panorama of breathtaking peaks and prominent landforms, travel along with Titian Peale as he visits the homes of Native Americans and records with an artist's keen eye and gifted hand the intense beauty of this land's first inhabitants, and go exploring with zoologist Thomas Say as he describes never before seen mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. Beautifully illustrated with crisp reproductions of Peale and Seymour's art, as well as photographs of the many plants and insects described by James and Say, *The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820)* offers a vivid account of this monumental expedition. The story of the Long Expedition has been told before, but without due recognition of the party's great contributions to natural history. Now, anyone interested in the early history of the American West can witness for themselves how this vast and varied land looked and felt when it was first seen by trained scientists and artists.

From *Library Journal* Maj. Stephen H. Long is remembered for labeling much of the Louisiana Purchase "The Great American Desert." However, as Evans (entomology, emeritus, Colorado State Univ.) describes Long, he should be commemorated for leading the first scientific exploration of the High Plains and Front Range of the Rockies to be accompanied by trained naturalists and artists. The Long Expedition, comprising 22 men, included naturalist Edwin James, zoologist Thomas Say, and artists Samuel Seymour and Titian Peale. Evans chronicles the 1820 expedition by using members' reports and journals and often quotes long, significant passages to enliven the saga. Hardships, both natural and manmade, abounded. Nonetheless, the expedition mapped new lands and described previously unknown birds, animals, and plants?its greatest achievements. Recommended for all libraries, especially those with Western Americana collections. ?Patricia Ann Owens, Wabash Valley Coll., Mt. Carmel, Ill. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. "There is hardly a sentence that is ungraceful."--Donald Worster, author of *Wealth of Nature and Under Western Skies* "There is hardly a sentence that is ungraceful."--Donald Worster, author of *Wealth of Nature and Under Western Skies* From the Back Cover A little over 170 years ago - hardly a moment on the clock of history - one half of the United States was empty of all but Indians and the plants and game on which they subsisted. Indeed, acquiring the Louisiana Territory approximately doubled the size of the United Sates, adding 800,000 square miles of land that had scarcely been explored or adequately mapped. In *The Natural History of the Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains (1819-1820)*, Howard E. Evans offers a colorful history of the expedition of Major Stephen H. Long - the first scientific exploration of the Louisiana Territory to be accomplished by trained naturalists and artists. Based primarily on the expedition members' reports and diaries, and often told in the participants' own words, this fascinating chronicle transports readers back to the near-virgin wilderness of 1820. We accompany naturalist Edwin James as he becomes the first man to climb Pike's Peak, and roam with him in his role as botanist, collecting a multitude of plant specimens, 140 of which were described by him and others as new. We sit with artist Samuel Seymour as he sketches in vivid detail the panorama of breathtaking peaks and prominent landforms, travel along with Titian Peale as he visits the homes of Native Americans and records with an artist's keen eye and gifted hand the striking features of this land's first inhabitants, and go exploring with zoologist Thomas Say as he describes indigenous

mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects.