sounds and smells of this early 1900 period is to read for oneself Isabel Gardner Malone's charming little book of her childhood.

*Pittsburgh*  

**MARGARET D. JACKSON**


Da Capo Press should be applauded for this timely reprint of the proceedings in the treason trial of Aaron Burr in the United States Circuit Court at Richmond, Virginia, in 1807. This two-volume document covers the proceedings in the commitment, grand jury indictments, jury trial and acquittal of Burr on the twin charges of treason against the United States and misdemeanor in preparing a hostile expedition against Mexico, the territory of a sovereign state (Spain) with which the United States was at peace. We are indebted to David Robertson, a contemporary counsellor-at-law, for this verbatim report of major motions, arguments by counsel, rulings of the presiding judge and trial testimony, all of which he took down in shorthand.

This two-volume document is of interest not only to scholars specializing in this era of American history, or probing the life and motivations of Aaron Burr, or perhaps seeking to place in their true light Burr's mysterious exploits which served as the basis for the legal charges. It is of vital interest, also, to all those concerned with the administration of justice, with the role of the judge and indeed of the judicial process itself in protecting the rights of the accused to a fair trial. Here was a trial involving the former Vice-President accused of treason, who had been publicly denounced as a traitor by President Jefferson and had been "tried" and condemned already by a hostile press. Defense attorneys expressed fear that popular clamor would prejudice proceedings in this "political trial." But the reader of the proceedings painstakingly preserved for us by Mr. Robertson cannot come away from the pages of these volumes without a renewed respect for our judicial processes. Significantly, the presiding judge at the examination of Burr for the purpose of commitment was none other than Chief Justice John Marshall, and it was he sitting as judge in the Circuit Court who presided jointly with circuit judge Cyrus Griffin
over the proceedings at Richmond. Here we see the Chief Justice in action, making his rulings in the course of the trial. His cool, cogent arguments stand out in contrast to the eloquent, sometimes emotional arguments of opposing counsel. The reader, whether lawyer or layman, cannot fail to perceive the importance of Marshall’s strict interpretation of the constitutional clause defining treason and limiting acceptable procedural proof. Impressive also is the decorum of defense counsel in their nonetheless vigilant defense of their client’s rights in this political trial.

The use of the offset process in this publication preserves the format and all the charm of handset type used in the original edition published at Philadelphia in 1808.

*University of Pittsburgh*  
Rosalind L. Branning


This stout, solid, and substantial volume of well over one thousand pages is offered as a corollary to Professor Peterson’s earlier analytic study, *The Jefferson in the American Mind.* To write a definitive biography of “The Sage of Monticello” was not the author’s aim. Indeed this task has been brilliantly executed so far up to 1805 in the multi-volume effort by Dumas Malone and substantiated by the outpouring of the great editorial project of Julian Boyd, *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson,* which is scheduled eventually to comprise fifty-two volumes.

Peterson rather seeks to present an overview of the elusive personality of Jefferson and finds it is impossible to separate his public career from his private affairs. On this basis he lays down a carefully followed plan of organization, beginning with a “prologue of fame” then on to “philosopher of revolution,” followed by sections on Jefferson as a Virginia reformer and war governor, congressman, minister to France, Secretary of State, Vice-President, and ultimately, President for two terms. His last seventeen years in retirement as an elder statesman and founder of the University of Virginia are aptly entitled “The Sage of Monticello.” All these events are underscored throughout the book by what Peterson considers are three dominant