

extensive footnotes that include numerous references to both primary and secondary sources on appropriate topics. In short, they have done a highly professional job of editing the papers of this important national founder.

By the spring of 1782, Morris had established himself as the leader of the Continental Congress; no other person so dominated its policies. He personally directed the national bureaucracy and struggled to build a solvent administration amid the shambles of Continental finance. His major objective was to sustain national unity by restoring public confidence in the financial integrity of the central government. The first step was to fund the Revolutionary debt, and in February 1782 commissioners were appointed to review claims of individuals and to issue government securities to settle them. Soon the commissioners also took responsibility for settling the accounts of the states. Morris also established the Bank of North America, a vehicle to provide an acceptable currency to substitute for the worthless Continental currency. The bank attracted private funds and credit, which Morris exploited to the advantage of the national government. The "Morris notes" were similarly important in bolstering faith in the public credit through the use of private credit.

While Morris's administrative record emerges clearly from the documents in this well-edited collection, the personality of the man remains pretty much a mystery. There is an extensive commercial correspondence, but very few personal letters or statements to give insight into the financier's character. Readers will likely achieve new insight, however, regarding Morris as a statesman who consciously pursued a course of action that eventually resulted in the Constitution and a strong United States.

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*The Journals of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, 1799-1820: From Philadelphia to New Orleans.* Volume 3. Edited by EDWARD C. CARTER II, JOHN C. VAN HORNE, and LEE W. FORMWALT. (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press for the Maryland Historical Society, 1980. Pp. xxxiv, 351. Introduction, acknowledgments, illustrations, index. \$65.00.)

Despite the important contributions he made to the progress of

science and technology in the United States during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Benjamin Henry Latrobe has not received until recently the scholarly attention he deserves. Cofounder with Thomas Jefferson of the American architectural profession, he was for nearly a quarter of a century the young nation's foremost architect and engineer. While he is perhaps best known as the architect of the national Capitol, his innovations in structural engineering, his introduction of steam power systems to public works, and his influence on American architecture through such designs as the Bank of Pennsylvania and the Baltimore Catholic Cathedral are no less noteworthy. All attest to his practical and creative genius. But Latrobe was more than an architect and engineer. He was a naturalist, an astute observer and recorder of social customs, and a skilled watercolor artist whose journals and sketchbooks provide an invaluable documentary record of his adopted country's topography and geology, its flora and fauna, and its life and manners.

This volume is part of a larger project sponsored by the Maryland Historical Society that will make the massive Latrobe archive, consisting of more than eight thousand individual documents, accessible to scholars. This in turn will make possible a more serious study of the man and his work. The entire collection has already been published in microfiche (12,700 pages), and this is part of a selective letterpress edition to be published in four series. Series One, of which this is the third and last volume, consists of Latrobe's journals written between the years 1795 and 1820. Series Two will consist of two volumes of his engineering and architectural drawings. Series Three will be a single folio of examples of sketches and watercolors from his sketchbooks, together with an essay on him as a watercolorist. The final series will consist of four to six volumes of miscellaneous papers and correspondence pertaining to his work and achievements.

Latrobe wrote the journals included in this volume during the span of two decades, 1799-1820, a period when he was so busy professionally that he neglected his journals for long stretches of time. This volume, unlike the two earlier ones that give such a comprehensive and incisive view of Virginian society, is fragmentary. It covers, briefly and incompletely, segments of time when Latrobe lived and worked in Philadelphia (1799-1801), Washington (1806-1809), and New Orleans (1819-1820). With a few notable exceptions, such as his description of a Methodist camp meeting in 1809, the author's post-1798 journals are disappointing, at least until 1819 when he

moved to New Orleans. In describing that city's culture and society, which were different from anything he had seen in America, Latrobe showed once again the brilliant powers of observation and analysis that characterized his social commentary on Virginia twenty-three years earlier.

Captivated by New Orleans, Latrobe resumed his journalizing and, with renewed seriousness of purpose, recorded his impressions of all kinds of people, events, and things. He observed and analyzed dynamics of the society most visitors overlooked. His vivid description of its heterogeneous populace, of its busy open markets frequented by people of every hue and dress, of the unforgettable slave dances at Congo Square, and his analysis of the interplay of French, Spanish, African, and American cultures, combine to make this one of the most valuable of all the contemporary accounts of New Orleans society.

The editors have maintained in this volume the same high standard of scholarship set in the first two published volumes. The editing has been judicious and meticulous. All entries have been carefully annotated, and the volume, profusely illustrated with drawings that retain much of the color and warmth of the originals, has been consummately produced. The task has been a laborious one, and much remains before it will be completed. But those engaged in it will do more than make possible a reassessment of Benjamin Latrobe — they will make accessible to scholars a body of documents that should shed much additional light on the development of architecture, technology, and science in nineteenth-century America.

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*Light Horse Harry Lee and the Legacy of the American Revolution.*

By CHARLES ROYSTER. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. Pp. xiii, 301. Illustrations, preface, prologue, notes, bibliographical essay, acknowledgments, index. \$15.00.)

This study of a Revolutionary War cavalry leader, governor, land speculator, bankrupt, mob victim, exile, and father of Robert E. Lee has a contemporary purpose. It once was enough to study a man's life for its own sake but it is now fashionable to study a life in order to discover how it "exemplifies" a period. It is Royster's belief that