

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

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From Johann Abraham Albers

SIR

Bremen th. 16 Novbr 1803.

By this I have the Honour to send Your Excellency the third Volume of my American Annals, and as a proof of my profound respect, have taken the liberty of dedicating it to You.

At same time allow me to assure You of the sincere esteem, which the German Nation feels for the United States of America, and that the publication of my Annals, whose principal aim is the extension of one part of their Literature, has been received here in the most flattering manner.

I have the Honour to be Sir Your most obedient servant

J. A. ALBERS Dr.

RC (DLC); endorsed by TJ as received 9 July 1804 and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure: J. A. Albers, *Americanische Annalen der Arzneykunde, Naturgeschichte, Chemie und Physik*, vol. 3 (Bremen, 1803; Sowerby, No. 4728).

German physician Johann Abraham Albers (1772-1821) studied medicine at Jena, Vienna, London, and Edinburgh before returning to his hometown of Bremen in 1798, where he established a large and successful practice. Although an accomplished researcher in his own right, his primary contribution to medical science came from translating foreign research into German. His most ambitious work

in this realm was his *Americanische Annalen*, a short-lived serial published from 1802 to 1803 that included translations of writings by a number of prominent American physicians and scientists. Albers dedicated the third and final volume to “Seiner Exellenz dem Herrn Thomas Jefferson, Präsidenten der vereinigten Staaten von Amerika” (that is, to “His Excellency the Honorable Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States of America”) with deepest respect (William F. Bynum, “Johann Abraham Albers [1772-1821] and American Medicine,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 23 [1968], 50-62).

From Louis Alexis Hocquet de Caritat

SIR,

New York Nov. 16th. 1803

The important subject of Lousiana which has engaged your attention for sometime past, and the succes with which it has been crowned gives me hope that the enclosed prospectus relative to the Voyage of General Collot through that Country will appear to you worthy of some examen. My Partner in France has been induced by Mr Livingston and all the Americans in Paris to purchase the copy-right of the original work from the author, and he has devoted a large proportion of his fortune to the suitable expence for its appearance before the public of the United States. He has even done more, he left his family and all other business to come over and attend in person to that interesting object.

Its favourable reception and the number of subscribers depends entirely on your approbation, and the copies will be struck off in exact proportion to the encouragement obtained. We intend to offer the Original Charts Maps &c to Congress; Their Size (some being 12 & 13 feet long) and the elegance of their Style making them fit for the Archives of the United States as well as for those of France, where they should have been placed had that Republic remained in Possession of Lousiana. This offer will be without any condition and we shall be happy if accepted to feel consious of having done some thing useful to our adopted Country.

The favour of a word of answer will be received with the utmost gratefulness by

Sir Your most Obedient Servant

H. CARITAT
Book-seller

The translation of the Prospectus was not finished, or otherwise I should have sent it in English.

RC (DLC); at foot of first page: "Thomas Jefferson President of the United States"; endorsed by TJ as received 19 Nov. and so recorded in SJL. Enclosure not found, but see below.

Louis Alexis Hocquet de Caritat (b. 1752) emigrated to the United States in 1792, settling in New York City. There, he ran afoul of the Washington administration when he outfitted a French privateer, one of the incidents that led the administration to formalize its neutrality stance in 1793. After federal charges

against him were quashed, he returned to France, where he was declared an émigré, resulting in the revocation of his citizenship. He again moved to New York in 1797 and took over the operation of a circulating library and bookstore. He augmented its collection, which at one time numbered some 25,000 volumes, and also published books. In 1805, Caritat moved back to France, where he published a periodical devoted to the United States. He returned to the United States in 1816 but moved back to France the following year (*New York Diary, or Loudon's Register*,

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1 May 1797; New York *Republican Watch-Tower*, 26 June 1805; *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 2 Apr. 1806; New York *National Advocate*, 15 Oct. 1816; *New-York Columbian*, 23 June 1817; George Gates Raddin, Jr., *Caritat and the Genet Episode* [Dover, N.J., 1953], 10, 16-17, 41-6; George Gates Raddin, Jr., *Hocquet Caritat and the Early New York Literary Scene* [Dover, N.J., 1953], 30; Vol. 26:259-60, 282n).

A translation of the enclosed PROSPECTUS appeared in newspapers, describing the proposed work as an account of the “travels through Louisiana” undertaken in 1796 by Victor COLLOT. It would consist of two volumes in quarto with 30 engraved plates and maps and encompass observations on the climate, topography, rivers, population, commerce, and natural productions of the North American interior. Caritat explained that the French government had been prepared to publish the work, but the sale of Louisiana to the United States suspended that plan, and now the work enjoyed the patronage of Robert R. Livingston, James Monroe, and Joel Barlow, among other prominent Americans in Paris. Collot’s journey had been a reconnaissance mission seeking

information on a region that France expected to regain and, if necessary, to fortify against American and British encroachments. Although Caritat filed for copyright under the title *Journey of Gen. Victor Collot*, he apparently did not attract enough subscribers. An English translation of the work was printed in 1826 in Paris as *A Journey in North America* (New York *Evening Post*, 2, 5 Dec. 1803; George W. Kyte, “A Spy on the Western Waters: The Military Intelligence Mission of General Collot in 1796,” *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, 34 [1947], 427-42; Durand Echevarria, “General Collot’s Plan for a Reconnaissance of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys, 1796,” *wmq*, 3d ser., 9 [1952], 512-20; Vol. 33:406n).

PARTNER IN FRANCE: during a visit to Paris in the winter of 1801 and 1802, Caritat joined the English Press, a publishing consortium. Other principals included John Hurford Stone, Helen Maria Williams, and the Levraud brothers, who were printers (Raddin, *Hocquet Caritat and the Early New York Literary Scene*, 96-101, 137-8; Vol. 40:98n; Vol. 41:397, 398n).

From Henry Dearborn

War Department 16. Nov. 1803.—

The Secretary of War has the honor to propose to the President of the United States, that,

Robert Richie and Richard Smith both of the State of Maryland, be appointed 2d. Lieutenants respectively in the Regiment of Artillerists.

That, Alpha Kingsley and Gideon Warner, both of the State of Vermont, be appointed Ensigns respectively, in the 1st. Regiment of Infantry.

That, Samuel Williamson of the State of Pennsylvania, be appointed an Ensign in the 2d. Regiment of Infantry.¹

That, John Watson of the State of New York and John Griffen of the State of North Carolina, be respectively appointed Surgeons² Mates in the Army of the United States; and,

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That Morris Jones of the State of North Carolina be appointed a Cadet in the Regt. of Artillerists, and Prentiss Willard be appointed a Cadet in the Regiment of Artillerists.

RC (DLC); in a clerk's hand, with an addition by TJ (see note 1 below); endorsed by TJ as received from the War Department on 17 Nov. and "Nominations Military" and so recorded in SJL. FC (Lb in DNA: RG 107, LSP).

TJ included the names listed above in his military nominations sent to the Sen-

ate on 18 Nov. 1803, except for MORRIS JONES and PRENTISS WILLARD, whose appointments as cadets did not require Senate approval.

¹ Below this paragraph TJ interlined in pencil "Gilbert C Russel" (see Dearborn to TJ, [17 Nov.]).

² MS: "Sugeons."

From John Goulding

SIR

Georgetown 16 Novr. 1803

I have heretofore had the honor & the pleasure to know your gentle & amiable handwriting; of course I must feel on the present sudden occasion, the sensations of delight & surprize at once, upon seeing my name written by you, on any occasion: This being for some flour from Mr. Thomas, I have promptly pointed out to the bearer how the matter stood. It is not in words to express how much I wish for opportunity to shew, in any measure, the sincerity, the respect and the esteem, with which,

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most Obedient And most Hume.
Servt.

JOHN GOULDING

RC (MHi); endorsed by TJ as received 16 Nov. and so recorded in SJL.

Georgetown (*Washington Federalist*, 27 Jan. and 20 Mch. 1802; *Washington Federal Republican*, 10 Nov. 1815; *Gallatin, Papers*, 47:337).

John Goulding was a notary public, broker, and commission merchant in

To Meriwether Lewis

DEAR SIR

Washington Nov. 16. 1803.

I have not written to you since the 11th. & 15th. of July, since which yours of July 15. 22. 25. Sep. 8. 13. & Oct. 3. have been received. the present has been long delayed by an expectation daily of getting the inclosed 'account of Louisiana' through the press. the materials are received from different persons, of good authority. I inclose you also copies of the Treaties for Louisiana, the act for taking possession, a letter from Dr. Wistar, & some information col-

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lected by myself from Truteau's journal in MS. all of which may be useful to you. the act for taking possession passes with only some small verbal variations from that inclosed, of no consequence. orders went from hence, signed by the king of Spain & the first Consul of France, so as to arrive at Natchez yesterday evening, and we expect the delivery of the province at New Orleans will take place about the close of the ensuing week, say about the 26th. inst. Govr. Claiborne is appointed to execute the powers of Commandant & Intendant, until a regular government shall be organised here. at the moment of delivering over the posts in the vicinity of N. Orleans, orders will be dispatched from thence to those in Upper Louisiana to evacuate & deliver them immediately. you can judge better than I can when they may be expected to arrive at these posts. considering how much you have been detained by the low waters, how late it will be before you can leave Cahokia, how little progress up the Missouri you can make before the freezing of the river; that your winter might be passed in gaining much information by making Cahokia or Kaskaskia your head quarters, & going to St. Louis & the other Spanish forts, that your stores &c. would thereby be spared for the winter as your men would draw their military rations,¹ all danger of Spanish opposition avoided, we are strongly of opinion here that you had better not enter the Missouri till the spring. but as you have a view of all circumstances on the spot, we do not pretend to enjoin it, but leave it to your own judgment in which we have entire confidence. one thing however we are decided in: that you must not undertake the winter excursion which you propose in yours of Oct. 3. such an excursion will be more dangerous than the main expedition up the Missouri, & would, by an accident to you, hazard our main object, which, since the acquisition of Louisiana, interests every body in the highest degree. The object of your mission is single, the direct water communication from sea to sea formed by the bed of the Missouri & perhaps the Oregon: by having mr Clarke with you we consider the expedition as double manned, & therefore the less liable to failure: for which reason neither of you should be exposed to risques by going off of your line. I have proposed in conversation, & it seems generally to be assented to, that Congress shall appropriate 10. or 12.000 D. for exploring the principal waters of the Misipi & Missouri. in that case I should send a party up the Red river to it's head, then to cross over to the head of the Arcansa, & come down that. a 2d party for the Pani & Padouca rivers, & a 3d perhaps for the Moingona & St. Peters. as the boundaries of interior² Louisiana are *the high lands inclosing all the waters which run into the Misipi or Missouri directly or indirectly,*

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with a greater breadth on the gulph of Mexico, it becomes interesting to fix with precision by celestial observations the longitude & latitude of the sources of these rivers, as furnishing points in the contour of our new limits. this will be attempted distinctly from your mission, which we consider as of major importance, & therefore not to be delayed or hazarded by any episodes whatever.

The votes of both houses on ratifying & carrying the treaties into execution have been precisely party votes, except that Genl. Dayton has separated from his friends on these questions & voted for the treaties. I will direct the Aurora & National Intelligencer to be forwarded to you for 6. months at Cahokia or Kaskaskia, on the presumption you will be there. your friends & acquaintances here & in Albemarle are all well as far as I have heard: and I recollect no other small news worth communicating; present my friendly salutations to mr Clarke, & accept them affectionately yourself.

TH: JEFFERSON

PrC (DLC); at foot of first page: "Capt Lewis." Enclosures: (1) *An Account of Louisiana, Being an Abstract of Documents, in the Offices of the Departments of State, and of the Treasury* (see Vol. 41:721). (2) Treaty and conventions between the United States and France, 30 Apr., for the sale of Louisiana. (3) "An Act to enable the President of the United States to take possession of the territories ceded by France to the United States, by the treaty concluded at Paris, on the thirtieth of April last; and for the temporary government thereof" (see Vol. 41:583-4). (4) Caspar Wistar's communication to Lewis not found, but see Wistar to TJ, 18 July.

YOURS OF JULY: TJ recorded Lewis's letter of 26 July as one of 25 July.

PANI & PADOUCA RIVERS: TJ probably derived his names for rivers from the map of North America executed by John Mitchell in 1755. On that map, the river labeled Pani corresponds with the Platte

River, and the river labeled the Padoucas corresponds with the Kansas River, both major tributaries of the Missouri. The map also included the MOINGONA River, which corresponds with the Des Moines River, and the ST. PETERS, now known as the Minnesota River (John Mitchell, *A Map of the British and French Dominions in North America* [London, 1755]; Michael Dickey, *The People of the River's Mouth: In Search of the Missouria Indians* [Columbia, Mo., 2011], 46; *Congressional Globe*, 32d Cong., 1st sess., 1852, 24, pt. 2:1376).

In the Senate on 20 Oct., Jonathan DAYTON voted with the majority to ratify the treaty and conventions for the purchase of Louisiana. The votes against ratification were cast by James Hillhouse, Simeon Olcott, Timothy Pickering, William Plumer, Uriah Tracy, William H. Wells, and Samuel White (JEP, 1:450).

¹Preceding eight words interlined.

²Word interlined.