
This paper will focus on travel accounts held in the Rare Book Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. These accounts deal with the European discovery, colonization, and exploration of America beginning with Columbus’s voyage and ending in the late nineteenth century with westward expansion and Edward S. Curtis’s visual exploration of the American west. I anticipate that this paper will serve as a bibliographic guide to travel accounts and primary sources relating to the European exploration and discovery, both scientific and cultural, of America from its origins in the 1490s through to the late nineteenth-century.

Headings:

America-Discovery and exploration-Early works to 1800-Bibliography
America- Early accounts to 1600-Bibliography
United States-Description and travel-Early works to 1800-Bibliography
West (U. S.)-Description and travel-Bibliography
THE EUROPEAN DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION OF AMERICA FROM
COLUMBUS’S FIRST VOYAGE TO THE VISUAL EXPLORATION OF THE
AMERICAN WEST BY EDWARD S. CURTIS:
AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TRAVEL ACCOUNTS HELD IN THE
RARE BOOK COLLECTION

by
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Approved by

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David Carr
INTRODUCTION

This paper will focus on travel accounts from the Rare Book Collection dealing with the European discovery, colonization, and exploration of America. Accounts of geographic exploration will be included as well as works dealing with natural history and ethnography. This annotated bibliography is divided chronologically but also thematically beginning with one of the first published accounts of Christopher Columbus’s first voyage in 1492 and concluding at the end of the nineteenth century with the United States’ westward expansion. I anticipate that this paper will serve as an annotated bibliographic guide to primary sources relating to the travel accounts of European exploration and discovery, both geographic and cultural, of America from its beginnings in the 1490s through to the end of the nineteenth century.

Many significant European explorers are represented within the holdings of the Rare Book Collection and will be discussed within the introductory essays. Each of the three sections of this bibliography will begin with a brief background summary of the period in travel and exploration to place the primary sources in context as well as a discussion of the relevant special collections of travel accounts.
CONTEXT

The Rare Book Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill holds many important works dealing with the discovery and exploration of America. I have selected only primary sources or first-hand travel accounts to be included, although some works are of a later edition. Facsimiles are not included in this annotated bibliography because, although valuable as a secondary source, even the most detailed facsimile does not bring the reader into the world of the original volume. Fictional or spurious accounts have not been included on the basis of gathering a bibliography of authoritative and scientific accounts. It must be remembered that these works contain within them the biases, inaccuracies, and prejudices of their period; my attempt in annotating these works has been to provide a concise and objective explanation of the salient viewpoints that are pertinent to these three themes without drawing any conclusions about the author’s intent or motives.

This bibliography came into formation starting with the list of Early Americana works given to the University Library by Preston Davie in the 1950s. Beginning with titles from this list formed the second section of the bibliography: European Colonization from 1613 onwards. After annotating these key works and moving onto the two other sections of this bibliography: the Discovery of America, or the New World beginning in 1492, and European Exploration Westward, my research process relied heavily upon subject heading searches to cull works held in the Rare Book Collection that relating to these themes. This annotated bibliography is intended to introduce scholars interested in travel accounts relating to the European discovery, exploration and expansion westwards into America, to a selection of the valuable primary resources held in the Rare Book
Collection. Arranged chronologically and separated thematically, the interested scholar should be able to quickly discover through the annotations pertinent information relating to these travel accounts. My hope is that this bibliography will encourage readers to examine these works for themselves and investigate their limitless possibilities for reference and research.
REFERENCE SOURCES

Accounts of travel and the European exploration of the New World has been the subject of bibliographic research for over a century. Beginning with Joseph Sabin’s legendary work *Bibliotheca Americana*, first published in 1868, and continuing through to the twentieth-century with the recent publication of William D. Ilgen’s bibliography in 2005, of the Flatow Collection of Latin American Cronistas Collection held in the Rare Book Collection, bibliographers have continued to confirm the importance of these works to our collective history the space they have earned in our special collections libraries.

For the “Citations” section of the annotated bibliography I consulted the following four reference sources. Citation numbers are important details provided by bibliographies, helping the reader refer to the other reference sources in which the title in question has previously been noted. The word preceding the entry in bold is the abbreviation that will be used when referring to the appropriate reference numbers given in the “Citations” section description of the annotations in the bibliographies. If there is no citation or reference source number provided, that means the title in question did not appear in any of these bibliographies, and the word “none” will appear. The “RBC Holdings” information refers to the call number location of the reference work within the Rare Book Collection. Here are the reference sources along with a brief description:

**EuroA.**  
RBC Holdings: Reference Z1203 .E87

The most comprehensive bibliographic guide to works relating to America published in Europe from 1492 to 1750. Contains more that 30,000 entries in
chronological order. Each entry includes the locations of titles and provides bibliographic references.


RBC Holdings: Flatow Z1202 .H3 1868a

Provides more detailed information for each title in comparison with the other bibliographies. Although working within a much narrower period, Harisse includes collation description for each title.


RBC Holdings: Flatow E141 .I644 2005

Detailed bibliography of the seventy-six titles in the Flatow Collection held in the Rare Book Collection. I refer to Ilgen’s work as a detailed analysis for each of the works included in this bibliography. Includes a description of the collection’s history, donor, and acquisition by the library.


RBC Holdings: Flatow Z1201 .S2 1868a

The most well known, important, and comprehensive bibliography of works relating to America. Contains over 100,000 entries in alphabetical order.
STRUCTURE OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The three bibliographic sections are presented in chronological order with an introductory essay describing the period in order to better place the primary sources in context for the reader. Because I have chosen to incorporate in this bibliography only the titles held in the Rare Book Collection, I have personally inspected each title listed in the bibliographies and can confirm the appearance only of that particular copy. All of the call numbers that are supplied within this bibliography refer to the location of volumes held in the Rare Book Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The bibliographic entries are structured identically following this method:

The bibliographies are divided into three sections: the European Discovery of America, or the New World from its beginnings in 1492; European Colonization from 1613 onwards; and European Exploration Westward in the United States during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Within each section the entries are organized chronologically. A few authors appear more than once but their separate entries remain in the chronological format. Because this bibliography deals with the changing nature of the European discovery, travel and exploration throughout America with the passage of time, a chronological format seemed the ideal method of presentation.

The first portion of the entry is the bibliographic information including author (if known); title; place of publication; publisher(s); and date of publication. This information is gathered from the title page of the work, the University’s online cataloguing record, and the WorldCat record if necessary.

Immediately following the bibliographic heading is the annotation for that particular entry. The annotations vary in length depending upon the importance of the
title to the subject area as well as the size of the work. These descriptions are gathered from my direct observations and readings when handling each title. I have relied upon the resources mentioned in the “Citations” section for key information regarding pertinent subject matter.

The “RBC Holdings” information appears after the annotation description. This is the Library of Congress call number of the title held by the Rare Book Collection. The majority of the works do not have a special collections name preceding their call numbers except for two collections: the “Travel” and the “Flatow” collections. These two special collections are housed as a group separately from titles with only the Library of Congress call numbers.

The “Notes” section appears directly following the “RBC Holdings” record, providing a physical description of the copy held in the Rare Book Collection, based solely upon my personal observations of the specific title in question.

Finally the “Citations” line appears at the end of the entry. This line provides information pertaining to the bibliographic works listed in the “Reference Sources” section of this paper. These are scholarly bibliographies where the specific titles have been listed under item numbers; these appear following the standard abbreviation for the reference source. If the title does not appear in any of these works, then the word “none” is stated.
The European discovery of America historically begins with the famous voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492. For the next half-century, the Spanish would colonize large expanses of the southern hemisphere, reaching northwards into the present day United States as far as California, New Mexico, and Florida. Before the English or French had even successfully established a single colony in the New World, the Spanish dominions included the Caribbean islands, swaths of land from Colorado to Southern Chile, and land regions extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans by the end of the sixteenth-century.¹

The failures of the English and French to colonize Northern America until the seventeenth-century could possibly be blamed on the climate conditions, lower numbers of immigrating colonists and their failure to survive long enough to bear and raise children. The Spanish, simply by arriving first among the European nations in the New World, had a head start in claiming prosperous territories for exploration and expansion. Due to the Spanish preeminence during the fifteenth-century, the sources included in this bibliography for this period concern the Spanish conquests and territories.

It has been argued by contemporary scholars of American history that these European explorers/conquerors viewed and judged the culture of Native Americans only through the prism of their own experiences. Therefore they failed to comprehend the “sophisticated complexities and richness of the Indian cultures and ignored or condemned

as inferior, savage, and barbaric much of what they did not understand…” The violent Spanish conquest and enslavement of the Indians eventually provoked outrage from fellow Spanish cleric Bartolomé de las Casas, whose 1552 treatise *Brevissima Relacion de la Destruycion de las Indias*, was translated many times over and widely read throughout Europe.

The Bernard J. Flatow Collection of Latin American Cronistas, named for its original owner, contains seventy-six titles relating to the Spanish discovery and settlement of North and South America. Acquired by the University Library in 1985 and placed within the Rare Book Collection, the Flatow Collection brings together some of the earliest histories of European exploration of the New World. This collection includes a chronicle from 1503 (Foresti), containing one of the first written descriptions of Christopher Columbus’ famous voyage in 1492.

While the majority of these works relate to exploration of South America, several concern American territories specifically. These are the titles that I have chosen for inclusion within this bibliography. In 2005, William D. Ilgen wrote an annotated catalogue of the complete collection of Flatow Cronistas. I refer the reader to his work as a reference for a comprehensive and detailed analysis of each title in this collection. Ilgen’s bibliographic numbers are included in each of the “Citations” sections for the relevant works.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRIES: THE EUROPEAN DISCOVERY OF AMERICA


Medieval chronicle of the history of the world begins with the Biblical story of Adam and Eve. Illustrations include woodcuts of biblical stories and important and historical cities such as Venice and Jerusalem. The 1492 voyage of Columbus appears on 442r: “Christoforum Columbum,” is mentioned as the navigator to the “four great islands recently discovered.” Index of important persons and places.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio D17 .F75 1503
Notes: Bound in early wooden boards, leather spine.
Citations: EuroA 503/2; Harisse 42; Ilgen 30; Sabin 25083


Of the six books, volumes four and five relate to the European discovery and exploration of the New World. These books are of interest in describing the voyages of two explorers: Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. Table of contents.

RBC Holdings: Flatow E101 .F8
Notes: Modern limp vellum binding
Citations: EuroA 507/4; Harisse 48; Ilgen 31; Sabin 50050


Anghiera’s history of the New World, covering in detail the voyages and explorations of Columbus. Description of conquered lands. “Vocabula Barbara” included, an attempt to record the language of the Native Americans.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio E141 .A5 1516 supervised use only
Notes: Brown calf binding, gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: EuroA 516/1; Ilgen 5; Sabin 1550

Although Solinus’ Polyhistor was first printed in Venice in 1497, this edition from 1520 is the first to have an American interest. It contains a woodcut map of the world by Petrus Apianus, which is one of the first published maps upon which the name ‘AMERICA’ appears. North America is represented as a narrow strip of land labeled ‘terra incognita.’ South America is depicted as a much larger land mass, separated from the North by a channel. The inscription on South America reads, ‘Anno 1497 haec terra cum adiacetibus insulis inuenta est per Columbun Ianuensem ex mandato Regis castellae America provincia.’

RBC Holdings: Folio G113 .S7 1520
Notes: Calf binding with gilt tooling.
Citations: EuroA 520/25; Harisse 108; Sabin 86390

Cortés, Hernán. *La preclara narratione de Ferdinando Cortese della Nuoua Hispagna del Mare Oceano.* Venetia: Per Bernardino de Viano de Lexona Vercellese, 1524.

Narrative of Cortés’s exploration of the New World. Translated into the Italian.

RBC Holdings: Flatow F1230 .C8516 1524
Notes: Brown calf, embossed designs on cover.
Citations: EuroA 524/6; Harisse 129; Ilgen 18; Sabin 16951

Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés, Gonzalo. *Coronica delas Indias. La hystoria general de las Indias agora nueuamente impressa, corregida y emendada.* [Salamanca: En casa de Juan de Junta, 1547]

Profusely illustrated with woodcuts: hammock tied between two palm trees, various types of dwellings are illustrated, weapons, Native Americans shown rowing a canoe, fishing and gathering water; types of palm leaves, pineapple fruit, plants and leaves from native species, cacti, animals including sea mammals. Table of contents.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio E141 .O93
Notes: Brown calf binding, gilt tooling on spine with slipcase.
Citations: EuroA 547/15; Harisse 278; Ilgen 26a; Sabin 57989

Extremely rare volume. This work is the first printed account of the oppression and enslavement of the American Indians by the Spanish colonists. Widely read throughout Europe and translated in several different languages.

RBC Holdings: Flatow F1411 .C25 supervised use only.
Notes: Red morocco binding with red slipcase
Citations: EuroA 552/8; Ilgen 11a.; Sabin 11227


Account of the first fifty years of Spanish explorations and conquests of the New World, particularly those of Cortés, for whom Gómora was chaplain.

RBC Holdings: Flatow E141 .L66 1554
Notes: Two volumes, vellum binding in brown leather slipcase
Citations: EuroA 554/28-32; Ilgen 45; Sabin 27727, 27728

Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Álvar. *La relacion y comentarios del gouernador...de lo acaescido en las dos jornadas que hizo a las Indias*. [Valladolid: Por Francisco Fernandez de Cordoua, 1555]

Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca’s journey through today’s south-western United States and Mexico. Secound voyage to Florida provides a glimpse of the natural history of the region including flora and fauna descriptions.

RBC Holdings: Flatow E125 .N 9 N8 supervised use only
Notes: Mottled brown calf binding
Citations: EuroA 555/43; Ilgen 51; Sabin 9768


Discusses voyages and life of Christopher Columbus. Narrative includes a discussion of the conquests of the Spanish in South America, and Caribbean. Details the costumes and cultures of the Native Americans. Table of contents.

RBC Holdings: E141 .G67 1576
Notes: Limp vellum binding
Citations: EuroA 576/19; Sabin 13054


RBC Holdings: Flatow E141 .B47
Notes: Limp vellum, title written in brown ink on spine, fragile binding
Citations: EuroA 578/3; Ilgen 9; Sabin 4792

Casas, Bartolomé de las. *Spieghel der Spaenscher Tyrannye in West Indien*… Amsterdam: Nicolaes Biestkens de Jonge, 1596.

First Dutch edition of De las Casas’ celebrated work. Title page presents an engraved map of North and South America. The details include the specific identification of “Virginia, Florida, Nova Francia, Nova Hispani, and California.” America is clearly labeled and inscribed beneath reads “An. 1492 Christoph. Columbo.”

RBC Holdings: F1411 .C414 1596
Notes: Modern brown morocco binding with gilt tooling.
Citations: EuroA 596/26; Sabin 11251

Pérez de Ribas, Anres. *Historia de los triumphos de nuestra santa fee entre gentes las mas barbaras*. Madrid: Por Alonso de Paredes, 1645.

Jesuit missionary and chronicler, Pérez de Ribas describes life in northern Mexico and the attempts to convert the Native Americans to Christianity. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio F1231 .P47 1645
Notes: Limp vellum binding, broken ties. Title written on spine
Citations: EuroA 645/96; Ilgen 57; Sabin 60895


Interesting to note for the illustrations. Extremely graphic scenes of the Spanish torturing and murdering the Native American Indians. Slaughtering infants, cutting off hands, torture by fire. Clerics shown burning Indians who
would not accept the gospel. Enslavement of Indians shown. Brutal scenes of torture, stabbings, murder. Imperfect copy.

RBC Holdings: F1411 .C465
Notes: Blue paper boards
Citations: EuroA 664/39; Sabin 11285


Chronicles Ferdinand de Soto’s expeditions to Florida and the southeastern United States. Important for the detailed description of Florida.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio F3442 .G25 1723 pte 1
Notes: Brown calf binding, embossed design on cover
Citations: EuroA 723/57; Ilgen 34a; Sabin 98745


Serves as a supplement to *La Florida del Inca*. Continues with description of Florida including the Spanish settlement at St. Augustines. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio F3442 .G25 1723 pte. 2
Notes: Brown calf binding, embossed design on cover
Citations: EuroA 723/57; Ilgen 34b; Sabin 98745

Venegas, Miguel. *Noticia de la California, y de su conquista temporal, y spiritual hasta el tiempo presente*. Madrid: En la imprenta de la Viuda de Manuel Fernandez, 1757.

Volume one contains a fold-out map, surrounded by woodcut illustrations of native animals: pelicans, coyote, ram, and beaver; and illustrations of native Californians. Fold out map of California and portion of Mexico. Volume three has fold-out map of the body of water between California and Mexico; the coastline of California and the Pacific; map showing Russia and Asia to the West, the Pacific Ocean and North America and Mexico.

RBC Holdings: Flatow F864 .V3
Notes: Three volumes, brown calf binding, gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: Ilgen 71

Alphabetical entries. Volume one has a fold-out map of North and South America. Much of what is today the Eastern and southern United States is clearly indicated including: Maryland, Cape Hatteras, Williamsburg, Savannah, St. Augustine, New Orleans, Mississippi River, and California. Woodcut illustrations depict birds of prey, map of port of St. Augustine, map of the Amazon River, pelicans, opossums, hummingbirds. Volume two contains map of southern United States and Mexico and Caribbean. Native animals illustrated include herons, large crane from the Hudson Bay, hummingbirds, map of the great lakes, fold-out illustration of the settlement of New Mexico. Volume three includes an illustration of the Niagara falls, natives processing fish, and tobacco, squirrel, port of New York.

RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio E14 .A54
Notes: Three volumes, bound in mottled brown sheep.
Citations: Sabin 26814; Ilgen 39


Profusely illustrated with engravings depicting scenery and native peoples. Fold-out maps of South America and North America. Towns, cities and territories clearly marked. Illustrated scenes from the voyage and travels, illustration of native plants and wildlife such as Condors, armadillos, ant eaters, costumes and jewelry of the Native Americans, religious processions, and cultures of native Indians described and illustrated. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: Flatow E27 .O63
Notes: Leather spine with mottle paper boards.
Citations: Ilgen 52


Plates at conclusion of volume one: illustrations of hammocks, native dwellings, natives rowing and fishing specimens of native plants and animals such as cacti, pineapple, manatees, armadillos. Pte. 2: t. 1 has illustration of native family scene, maps. pte. 3: vocabulary "Voces americanas empleadas por Oviedo", bibliography used by Oviedo. Plates illustrating volcano eruption, snake, types of native dwellings, natives playing games—see saw, and dancing. Weapons illustrated. Indexed.
RBC Holdings: Flatow Folio E141 .O96
Notes: Three parts in four volumes: pte. 1; pte. 2: t.1; pte.2: t.2; pte. 3. Modern brown calf, gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: Ilgen 27
EUROPEAN COLONIZATION FROM 1613 ONWARDS AND THE PRESTON DAVIE COLLECTION OF EARLY AMERICANA.

As one of the first important colonial founders of North America, Samuel de Champlain is not only well-known as an explorer and colonist, but as the cartographer of the New World. The maps he drew up of the New England coastline in the early seventeenth-century would remain in current use for over fifty years without update. In 1606, his voyage from Port-Royal to Cape Cod, Massachusetts marks the first time an explorer attempted to record the coordinates for the New England coastline. Although this journey was Champlain’s third into the New England coastline, he recorded his observations of the natural flora, fauna, and Native American Indians. As this was the last voyage through New England by Champlain, he never made it further south to Rhode Island or Manhattan Island.

Written travel accounts from early North American explorers such as Champlain, are included in this second portion of the bibliography which focuses on explorations in both geographical and natural history spheres. During the mid-eighteenth century, travel narratives were written by William Bartram, Thomas Jefferson, and Crèvecoeur, who approached the study of natural history as a branch of scientific learning. This included the “present-day disciplines of meteorology, geology, botany, zoology, and ethnology.” Works by these three great natural historians are included within this portion of the bibliography, as well as numerous other writers’ travel accounts through the first thirteen colonies before the Revolution.

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The Preston Davie Collection of Early Americana contains eighty-five works relating to the discovery, colonization, and exploration of the United States during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The volumes are currently divided between the Rare Book Collection and the North Carolina Collection. There is a list of these works held in the “Davie” bibliographic file of the Rare Book Collection. Preston Davie, a descendent of University founder William R. Davie, began donating books to the University Library in the 1925. Three decades later, in 1956, he donated a substantial portion of the Early Americana collection, adding twenty-three volumes predominantly concerning the discovery of the New World. The fundamental importance of donors such as Davie to the establishment and growth of collections of rare materials in the University’s Rare Book Collection cannot be underestimated. All of the following works included in this Early Americana portion of the bibliography are gifts of Preston Davie.

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6 For description of Davie’s donations see: The Bookmark. Chapel Hill, NC: The Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1944-1960. For Davie descriptions see: numbers 22 (December 1954); 24 (December 1955); 30 (September 1960).
BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRIES: EUROPEAN COLONIZATION FROM 1613


Champlain, explorer, cartographer, and surveyor, conducted four voyages which are described in this volume, in 1604, 1610, 1611, and 1613. It is the first edition to contain descriptions of his voyages to America. Numerous illustrations depicting Native American Indian life, habitations, dress, and customs. Large fold-out illustration of the “Carte Geographique de la Nouvelle Franse Faictte par le Sieur de Champlain…pour le Roy en al Marine.” Created in 1612 from surveys conducted by Champlain in 1610 and 1614, this map depicts Canada’s southern Atlantic territories of New Brunswick, and Cape Breton down through New England to Maine and Massachusetts, ending at Cape Cod. The ocean waters are decorated with the native maritime mammals and fish such as whales, sturgeon, salmon, and seals. The coastline is illustrated with depictions of native Indian tribal locations along with the French settlements. This is the first map of the New England coast with any attempt to record the latitude and longitude coordinates.

RBC Holdings: F1030.1 .C43 1613
Notes: Red morocco binding with gilt tooling.
Citations: EuroA 613/30; Sabin 11835

Purchas, Samuel. *Purchas his Pilgrimage, or Relations of the World and the Religions Observed in All Ages and Places Discovered, from the Creation unto this Present. In Foure Partes. This First Containeth a Theologicall and Geographicall Historie of Asia, Africa, and America, with the Islands Adjacent.* London: Printed by William Stansby for Henrie Featherstone, 1613.

First edition of Contents lists America, the Eighth Booke, “Of New France, Virginia, Florida, New Spaine, with other Regions of America Mexicana, and of their Religions,” (pp. 601-689). In his introduction, Purchas discusses “the new world and why it is named America.” The birds, beasts, creatures and vegetation of America are described in detail as are the cultivation practices of the Native Americans. Chapter five is devoted to Virginian Powhatans and their religious beliefs. The colony of Florida is also described as is Mexico and New Spaine.

RBC Holdings: Folio G159 .P976
Notes: RBC holds the four subsequent editions of this work, 1614, 1617, 1619, 1626. Full calf, embossed ornamental designs, gilt tooling.
Citations: EuroA 613/106; Sabin 66678

Description of the World illustrated with over 200 reduced scale engraved maps. The Description of America (pp. 769-825). Copperplate engraving map (p. 770) of North and South America with Virginia and Florida indicated along with the colonies of Chesapeake and Saint Augustine. Detailed map of Virginia and Novo Francia reaching up into Canada on page 787 indicating both European colonies and the settlements of Native Americans.

RBC Holdings: G120 .B55
Notes: Full calf binding.
Citations: EuroA 616/13; Sabin 5014


America, or the Nieuwe Werelt, is described in the last chapter of the Blaeu’s Atlas beginning with contains fifteen double page American maps, the highlight of this work. Includes maps of North and South America; the West Indies, Honduras, Florida and the Gulf of Mexico; New-Netherlands and New England; Bermuda; and Virginia. The first map of America is surrounded with a large border illustrating the diverse costuming for Native American tribes, each map also illustrates the various animal species of the new world including rabbits, bears, beavers, storks, muskrats, flamingos, and deer.

RBC Holdings: Folio-2 G1015 .B53 dl. 2
Notes: Royal folio, original vellum embossed with gilt designs.
Citations: EuroA 642/23; Sabin 5721

Garciliaso de la Vega, el Inca. *Histoire de la Floride, ou Relation de ce qui s’est passé au voyage de Ferdinand de Soto, pour la Conqueste de ce Pays*. Paris: Gervais Clouzier, 1670.

French translation from the original by P. Richelet. Describes the voyage of Ferdinand de Soto to the new world and his conquest of Florida. Begins with a description of the native Floridians and their cultural practices, religion and clothing. The departure of de Soto and his arrival in Florida followed by the movement of Spanish troops and several battle scenes. Includes an account of their reception by the Native Americans of this region.
RBC Holdings: E125 .S7 G31
Notes: RBC also holds third French edition, 1709. Two volumes, Original calf, gilt tooling.
Citations: EuroA 670/87; Sabin 98749


Account of the Spanish expedition into California in 1683 on pages 282 to 295. Their voyage endured for fifty-two days until they reached the River of Panico and the author describes the view of the mountains and the ocean of the west coast.

RBC Holdings: E125 .S7 R63
Notes: Full calf binding, gilt tooling
Citations: EuroA 685/90; Sabin 24864

[Beverly, Robert.] *Histoire de la Virginie*. Amsterdam: Chez Thomas Lombrail, 1707.

Describes the establishment of the English colony in Virginia as well as the religion, laws and costumes of the Native Americans. Illustrations of the tribes fishing, hunting, performing religious rituals, smoking a peace pipe, dwellings and fortifications, cooking, curing the sick, and playing games. Includes a table dated 1703 listing all the names of the towns and villages of the colony with the number of English inhabitants, over 60,000, acreage, and the names and numbers of parishes in each county.

RBC Holdings: F229 .B602
Notes: Repaired buckram and calf binding
Citations: EuroA 707/18; Sabin 5116
Bellgarde, Jean Baptiste Morvande. (Monsieur Du Perier.) *A General History of all Voyages and Travels throughout the Old and New World, from the first ages to this present time. Illustrating both the Ancient and Modern Geography.* London: Edmund Curll, 1708.

Begins with a description of Columbus’ voyage and the discovery of the Caribbean Islands and the West Indies. Illustrations of the Native peoples and wildlife to the regions are a point of interest for this volume. Main focus of this work concerns the natural history including the flora and fauna of the new world. Also describes the early European settlements and relations between them and the Native Americans. Index of important names and places.

RBC Holdings: E123 .B44  
Notes: Calf binding  
Citations: EuroA 708/5; Sabin 21351

Wells, Edward. *A New Sett of Maps, Both of Antient and Present Geography...Together with a geographical treatise particularly adapted to the use and design of these maps.* London: R. Bonwicke, J. Walthoe, R. Wilkin, and T. Ward., [1719].

Of particular interest within these 41 maps by Wells are the maps of the Present World including those of North America and the ‘English Plantations in America.’ Map number 39 depicts the territories of North America and its principal divisions including California, New Mexico, Florida, the Eastern Coastline, Mexico, and the Caribbean Islands. Interestingly the Northwest Territories of Canada are described as “Part of the Northern Unknown Continent.” Map 41 provides a detailed drawing of the English plantations in America from North Carolina up through the maritime states and New England.

RBC Holdings: Folio-2 G1015 .W45 1719  
Notes: Folio volume with original boards.  
Citations: EuroA 719/152


Beverly, self-described as a ‘native and inhabitant’ of Virginia, begins his description with the first attempts by the English to settle Virginia. Notable for its engraved illustrations of the culture and customs of the American Indians. Of particular interest is Book II: “Of the Natural Product and Conveniences of Virginia in its Unimprov’d State, before the English went thither. Beverly described the boundaries and coastline of the state. The land, rivers, vegetation,
and fruits are all detailed. Fish, wild fowl, and game are also chronicled. First account of Virginia to be written by a American. Second English edition.

RBC Holdings: F229 .B585
Notes: Repaired binding with decorated boards, leather spine and corners.
Citations: EuroA 722/17; Sabin 5113

Lorenzana, Francisco Antonio. Historia de Neuva-Espana, escrita por su esclarecido conquistador Hernán Cortés... Mexico City: J. A. de Hogal, 1770.

Bishop Lorenzana begins with a map of Cortés’ journey depicting his travels through Mexico, California, and the American Southwest. Volume includes detailed map of southern California. Illustrations of religious practices of the Native Americans in these regions as well as 32 detailed drawings of their costumes, headdresses, ornamentations, and dwellings. Concludes with index to detailed timeline of Cortés’ voyage.

RBC Holdings: F1230 .C82
Notes: Modern half morocco
Citations: Sabin 42065


An abridged history of North America from its beginnings in 1492 through to the French and Indian wars and concluding with the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1776. Related from the French viewpoint, this work is important in providing a chronological re-telling of the principal events in the history of the ‘nouveau-monde.’ The events described within are primarily the exploration and discovery of new territories which are carefully described. Includes a detailed indexing of the major sites concerned in this history as well as names of notable individuals.

RBC Holdings: E143 .H81
Notes: Calf binding with gilt tooling.
Citations: Sabin 33039


Carver, a captain in the provincial army during the war with France, describes his travels through the interior territories of North America during his service. This
third edition includes a biographical sketch of Carver and his career. Includes as a color copperplate illustration a detailed map of Carver’s travels through the northern Midwest including lakes Michigan and Superior. Indian territories are clearly marked and labeled. Carver provides great detail in his records of observing the native American Indians’ culture. Flora and fauna descriptions of ‘beasts, birds, fishes, serpents, lizards, and insects’ are also included in his natural history portion of the narrative. In this third and final section, Carver described the ‘trees, nut trees, fruit trees, shrubs, roots and plants, herbs, flowers, and legumes’ that are native to North America. Carver provides a short vocabulary of the Chipewey, and Naudoweffie languages translated into English. This third edition is particular for the additional appendix in which Carver discusses the likelihood of the interior portions of North America becoming colonies; the discovery of a north-west passage and its importance for trade and exploration purposes. Includes index.

RBC Holdings: F597 .C35
Notes: Modern nineteenth-century binding.
Citations: Sabin 11184


Manrillon provides another French perspective on the republic of the contemporary United States and the discovery of the ‘nouveau-monde.’ Folded table inserted into the first section indicates the balance of imports and exports between Great Britain and the United States from 1697 to 1773. Particular to this work, Manrillon delves beyond a simple description of the voyages and discovery of the new world and conducts a debate concerning the reasons behind this discovery and the impact that it created for contemporary late-eighteenth century life in Europe. Large folded map of the thirteen states concludes this work.

RBC Holdings: E164 .M26
Notes: Contemporary calf with gilt tooling.
Citations: none


Important volume for its description of Virginia’s natural history, much as D. Ramsay described for South Carolina. Work includes folded map detailing Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Jefferson provides a table of the settlements and populations of American Indian tribes located in Virginia and its environs between 1607 and 1699.

Throughout the first half of this work, Jefferson describes all of the natural characteristics of Virginia including rivers, ports, and mountains. Native animals, vegetation, and minerals are also described. Jefferson provides a detailed listing of the native plants represented into four classifications: “Medicinal, Esculent, Ornamental, and Useful for fabrication” (p. 35). When describing the presence of native animals, there is a table provided which delineates a “Comparative view of the Quadrupeds of Europe and of America,” (pp. 49-52) both wild and domesticated. The location, branches, and settlement of American Indian tribes Mannahoacs, Monacans, and Powhatans and given in a folded table.


Anbury, an officer in the Army, includes a large folded ‘Map for the Interior Travels through America, delineating the March of the Army.’ This map, in near perfect condition, depicts the coastline of the United States from Virginia through to New England in great detail. Illustrations are numerous in this work. A folded copperplate engraving illustrates a view of the St. John’s settlement on the River Sorell in Canada, drawn in the year 1776. The plan of a blockhouse is diagrammed in detail demonstrating the necessary features for protection of the soldiers, another copperplate illustration depicts a second blockhouse. A large folded plate illustrates the west bank of the Hudson River. Another plate depicts the encampment of the Convention Army at Charlottesville, Virginia.

Bartram, William. *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, the Cherokee country, the Extensive territories of the Muscogulges, or*
Creek Confederacy, and the country of the Chactaws; containing an account of the soil and natural production of those regions, together with observations on the manners of the Indians. Philadelphia: James and Johnson, 1791.

Frontispiece engraved illustration depicting “Mico Chlucco the Long Warrior or King of the Siminoles.” Includes numerous copperplate illustrations. Map of the coast of east Florida (partially torn). Importance of natural history, engravings of native plants, fishes, and animals. Bartram includes a several page study (pp. 289-296) of the migration habit of bird species as they fly south arriving in the spring in Carolina and Florida. Observations on the cultures and customs of the American Indians of the region including a list of tribes and their locations, alliances and their common languages.

RBC Holdings: F213 .B28
Notes: Calf binding, fragile. Preston Davie’s copy, the first French edition, is held by the North Carolina Collection [VC917 B29.4]
Citations: Sabin 3870

New and Elegant Imperial Sheet Atlas, Comprehending General and Particular Maps of Every part of the World. Principally compiled from the great French atlas, and others of the most distinguished geographers in Europe; forming the completest collection of single sheet maps hitherto published...London: Robert Laurie and James Whittle, 1807.

Fifty-five double folio maps in color, nine of which concern America. Maps numbering forty-seven through fifty-five depict the Americas. The maps include a rendering of the entire North and South American continents, with the map of the United States becoming blank westwards of the Mississippi River as well as large portions of Canada and the Northwest Territories and what is today Alaska. Followed by a detail map of the Eastern coast of the United States from northern Florida into New England and the eastern territories of Canada including Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. European settlements are interspersed with the locations of American Indian tribe populations. Map depicting the British Colonies in North America encompassing the northern states in New England, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The detail map of the mid-Atlantic states of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware show the extent of exploration and cartography westwards. A large map of the southern regions of the then United States portrays North Carolina and South Carolina clearly divided along with the states of Georgia and Florida. The settlements of the American Indian are shown including the Cherokee, Choctaws, and Muskogee nations. Florida is shown extending into present day Louisiana. The ‘West Indies’ and Caribbean Islands are depicted in a large folded map including the region of Mexico. The subsequent maps relating to America include the islands of Jamaica and Trinidad, concluding with a map of South America.

This work’s importance in travel accounts derives in part from the inclusion of a map of the plan of the 1704 settlement of Charleston. The second volume provides a substantial chapter describing South Carolina’s natural history. Forests, fields, wildlife are all detailed in this work providing an insight into the discovery of life during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century of a southern state. The appendices describe in detail the discovery and exploration of the diverse regions of South Carolina including Edisto Island, the districts of St. Stephens and Camden, Beaufort, and Georgetown.


Elaborately decorated and illustrated maps are an important feature of this travel account. A detailed map of ‘Ould Virginia’ begins the second book of Smith’s sixth voyage in 1606, illustrations surround the small map of Virginia depicting Smith’s near-death experience and his subsequent saving by Pocahantas. The natural history found by these European explorers during the sixteenth and seventeenth century is described in great detail. The habitats and customs of the American Indians of the region are described along with a brief vocabulary of the Powhatan language. A beautiful large folded map of the English colony in Virginia is supplied in this work. This map is drawn in exquisite detail, the settlements and habitations of the English settlers along with the locations of all the American Indian tribes native to the region including the Monacans, Mannahoacks, and Powhatans. Frontispiece depicts half-length portrait engraving of Captaine Smith.

Derives its importance from the detailed description of the earliest European explorers and settlements in this region of Virginia. Also describes in detail the customs, language and habitats of the American Indians native to this region. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: F232 .S5 K3
Notes: Bound in red morocco with gilt tooling.
Citations: Sabin 37811

Force, Peter, compiler. *Tracts and Other papers, relating principally to the origin, settlement, and progress of the colonies in North America, from the discovery of the country to the year 1776*. Washington: Printed by Peter Force, 1836 to 1846.

Force compiled these historical narratives concerning the establishments of European colonies in North America, particularly of South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. An engraving of a detailed settlement plans is included. For the description of Virginia, one of the main focuses in this work, the native mammals, birds, fish, trees and fruits are listed. Maryland and New England are also dealt with in the second volume. Finally, the exploration and colonization by the Europeans of Florida and Bermuda are discussed in the fourth volume.

RBC Holdings: E187 .F69
Notes: Four volumes. Contemporary marbled boards, half black morocco.
Citations: Sabin 25059


Thacher’s inquiry into the naming of America opens with a frontispiece photograph depicting a statue of Amerigo Vespucci. This work follows the first voyage of Columbus and the first voyage of Vespucci, and attempts to determine the point of landfall for each explorer. In his preface, Thacher clearly asserts the right of Amerigo to be named the ‘discove rer of the continent.’ (vii) Folded map charts the course of the first voyage made by Columbus and the voyages of Vespucci. These voyages of exploration of the new world are described in detail in Italian, Latin, and English. Thacher also discusses the science of cosmography and mapping techniques.

RBC Holdings: Folio E125 .V6 T3
Notes: Folio volume, red buckram binding with vellum spine, association copy.
Citations: none
AMERICAN EXPLORATION WESTWARD FROM THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ONWARDS, AND THE PHOTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION OF AMERICAN INDIANS BY EDWARD S. CURTIS.

Exploration westwards of the United States sparked interest in government-sponsored expeditions which are annotated in this portion of the bibliography. Unlike the personal narratives provided by explorers of early Americana, these accounts are often devoid of personal observation or sentiment. Also included in this section is the first authentic account published in 1814 of Lewis and Clark’s expeditions to the sources of the Mississippi River and across the Rocky Mountains. Some explorers, such as Caitlin and Schoolcraft were sent westwards to observe and record, visually and statistically, the lives and cultures of the Native American populations. Also the territories to the west inspired many Americans to immigrate and become frontiersmen.

Edward S. Curtis was a photographer working at the turn of the twentieth-century, achieving national acclaim after having completed his service as Official Photographer to the Harriman Alaska Expedition in 1899. Arguably his most important project became his expedition all over Western United States documenting the lives of Native Americans, culminating in *The North American Indian* (1907-1930). This publication, supported by J. Pierpont Morgan and Theodore Roosevelt, resulted in twenty volumes of text and twenty portfolios of photogravures. The description of Curtis’ seminal achievement is the point at which I have chosen to conclude this annotated bibliography.

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Lavishly illustrated with full page engravings, this work begins with a map of North and South America indicating the locations of the various regional American Indian tribes including the nations of Iroquois, Algonquin, and the Sioux. The map’s details spread beyond the eastern coastlines of Virginia and Florida and heads westward to the Mississippi River and California, which are both clearly labeled. The lands north and west of California however (present day Alaska and British Columbia) are marked as “terres inconnues.” Lafitau, a French Jesuit missionary and one of the first cultural anthropologists, begins this work with a discussion of “l’origine des peuples de l’Amerique.” In this work, Lafitau was attempting to compare the practices of the contemporary American Indian tribes with those of ancient civilizations hoping to trace the evolution and development of civilizations. Accordingly, many of the illustrations depict cultural and religious practices of these diverse nations. The Indians are also shown cooking, hunting, playing games, dancing, holding meetings, as well as constructing their dwellings. An important work in the development of the anthropological field. There are over forty engravings between the two volumes. Includes a detailed index.

RBC Holdings: E58 .L16 1724
Notes: Two volumes, brown leather binding, fragile.
Citations: EuroA 724/97; Sabin 38596

Kalm, Peter. *Travels into North America; containing its natural history, and a circumstantial account of its plantations and agriculture in general, with the civil, ecclesiastical and commercial state of the country*…London: the Editor, 1770.

This work is valuable for its detailed natural history descriptions, Kalm’s voyage taking place from August 1748 to October 1749. Oversize fold-out map of North America depicts New England and the coastline down through Virginia. There are several engraved illustrations of animals native to the region including the raccoon and American pole-cat, the flying squirrel and the ground squirrel. Volume two contains a record made by Kalm’s friend John Bartram, recording meteorological observations for Pennsylvania, on a farm near Philadelphia, during each day of his journey. Indexed separately by volume.

RBC Holdings: E162 .K16
Notes: Three volumes, volume one repaired library buckram on spine, volumes two and three brown calf binding with gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: Sabin 36989
[St John de Crèvecoeur.] Letters from an American Farmer; describing certain provincial situations, manners, and customs, not generally known; and conveying some idea of the late and present interior circumstances of the British Colonies in North America. London: Printed for Thomas Davies, 1782.

Focuses on Massachusetts, including maps of Nantucket Island and Martha’s Vineyard. Interesting section on native animals and plants.

RBC Holdings: E163 .C82
Notes: Fragile, paper boards.
Citations: Sabin 17496


Here is a personal travelogue by Smyth, an Englishman, traveling through the United States a few years after the American Revolution from Britain. Accounts by foreigners visiting America were popular during the late eighteenth century. Beginning with the East Coast and traveling south, Smyth describes visiting both Virginia and North Carolina and traveling down through Florida. Devotes several chapters to the native animal and plant species, as well as descriptions of the land and climate. Heading west through Kentucky, he crosses the Allegheny Mountains, and the Ohio River. Smyth sails down the Mississippi River and through to New Orleans and the Gulf coast and encounters several of the Indian nations. Concludes with a chapter devoted to the outcome of the Revolutionary war and its future disastrous affects on Americans, who have in Smyth’s opinion “shackled themselves in fetters.” (pp. 446-447, v. 2)

RBC Holdings: E164 .S66
Notes: Two volumes, leather spine and corners with marbleized paper board covers.
Citations: Sabin 85254

Morse, Jedidiah. The American Geography; or, a View of the Present Situation of the United States of America. Elizabethtown: printed by Shepard Kollock, 1789.

Begins with an overview of the general geography of the United States including boundaries, known lands, population, climate and soil, native animal and plant life, and a brief history of the former colonies. Includes a large engraved fold-out
map detailing the south-eastern coast and Florida, moving westwards to cover the Mississippi River and Louisiana. The territories of the American Indian nations are marked, as well as the towns and villages. A valuable resource for the geography of the United States shortly after the Revolution. A second and equally important fold-out map depicts the British Dominions of Canada, and the northern and middle states including New England down through Maryland, the Great Lakes, and the Western territories of the present day mid-west states. Noteworthy for its very detailed survey of the land west of the Ohio River and the textual description of its features.

RBC Holdings: E164 .M88
Notes: Modern brown leather.
Citations: Sabin 50924


The Duke de la Rochefoucault is described by the English translator as a “philosophic observer.” Large fold-out map (extremely fragile) at the beginning of the first volume, includes New England, New York, Pennsylvania, lower Canada, and Lake Ontario. Rochefoucault is a detailed observer on his travels remarking on the peoples and places he visits, interspersed with historical commentary. Written chronologically as a personal travelogue, he begins by exploring the north-east of the United States and the British dominions of Canada. Volume two of his travels begin with a larger fold-out map comprehending the Western Territories, Canada and the great lakes, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and the south-eastern states. Volume three includes a detailed map of the southern states as far west to show Kentucky and Tennessee. Volume four deals primarily with the government and economy of the American states, including several fold-out tables detailing this information by state. Indexed separately by volume.

RBC Holdings: E164 .L33
Notes: Four volumes, repaired brown buckram spine, fragile leather boards.
Citations: none


Second work issued from the author of “Letters from an American Farmer.” The first volume concludes with a large fold-out map depicting the extent of Crevecoeur’s travels from Maine to Maryland and as far west as Pennsylvania and
the Ohio River. Engravings depict individualized portraits of Chief Kesketomah of the Onondaga nation and a warrior of the Oneida nation, Koohassen. Fold-out engravings also illustrate the natural wildlife of the regions, in particular a scene of bald eagles catching a fish. Volume two begins with detailed map of the Niagara Falls between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie along with an engraving showing the great spectacle of the Falls. Engraved map depicts Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and the Carolinas.

RBC Holdings: F153 .C92
Notes: Three volumes, fragile calf binding, gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: Sabin 17501

Pike, Zebulon M. *An Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi, and through the Western Parts of Louisiana, to the Sources of the Arkansaw, Kans, La Platte, and Pierre Jaun, Rivers; Performed by Order of the Government of the United States during the years 1805, 1806, and 1807 and a Tour through the Interior Parts of New Spain when conducted through these provinces by order of the Captain-General, in the Year 1807*. Philadelphia: C. & A. Conrad, & Co, 1810.

Major Pike was chosen to undertake this exploration to trace the source of the Mississippi River soon after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Pike describes his duties as encompassing “astronomer, surveyor, commanding officer, clerk, spy, guide, and hunter…” (p. 4). Pike’s record forms a chronological report of his journey and discoveries beginning in 1805. He kept a meteorological record for each day of his exploration recording the temperature three times a day, the precipitation or cloud cover, the course and force of the winds, latitude and longitude of each location, and the barometric pressure. Pike’s log records much description of hunting, and encounters with the Indian nations along the Mississippi. There is no natural history recorded. The appendices contain letters that Pike wrote to his supervising officers while on his journeys.

RBC Holdings: F592 .P63
Notes: Brown leather boards, fragile.
Citations: Sabin 62836

Pike, Zebulon M. *An Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi*…

These five maps and one leaf of plate accompany Pike’s Report.

*Falls of St Anthony*. Engraving of the Falls that includes information concerning the length, height, and width of the waterfall on the Mississippi.
RBC Holdings: Flatcase LC F592 .P63 plate 1
The First Part of Capt. Pike’s Chart of the Internal Part of Louisiana. Map depicts the connecting points of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansaw Rivers. Locations of Indian nations and American settlements are indicated. RBC Holdings: Flatcase LC F592 .P63 map 1

A Chart of the Internal Part of Louisiana. Depicts the previously unexplored areas of Louisiana including the Red River and Arkansaw River and indicates the path of Pike and his team of surveyors. RBC Holdings: Flatcase LC F592 .P63 map 2

A Map of the Internal Provinces of New Spain. Map covers the area of what are the modern day states of Western Texas, New Mexico and the peninsula of Baja California, which is labeled “Ancient California.” RBC Holdings: Flatcase LC F592 .P63 map 3

A Sketch of the Viceroyalty. Map depicting the provinces of New Spain or what is today northern Mexico. Indian towns and fortified villages are marked along with Spanish towns and villages. The Spanish administrative territories are also delineated. RBC Holdings: Flatcase LC F592 .P63 map 4

Map of the Mississippi River. Horizontal map showing the River from its mouth to the source compiled from the expeditions of Lieutenant Pike and Captain M. Lewis. RBC Holdings: Flatcase LC F592 .P63 map 5

Schultz, Christian. Travels on an Inland Voyage through the States of New-York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and through the Territories of Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New-Orleans; performed in the years 1807 and 1808; including a tour of nearly six thousand miles. New York: Isaac Riley, 1810.

Schultz, an independent American traveler, crosses further westwards into the territories of Indiana and Mississippi. Contains lengthy descriptions of the peoples and places he encounters. This work is valuable for the personal narrative rather than methodical observations. Here is the beginning of the early nineteenth century travel boom in the United States, and the starting traces of independent travel for pleasure. Although an interesting volume, unfortunately the four large fold-out maps included in this work are extremely fragile and cannot be opened.

RBC Holdings: E164 .S23
Notes: Two volumes bound in one. Modern blue leather and marbleized boards, fragile paper.
Citations: Sabin 78003
[Lewis, Meriwether.] *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark, to the Sources of the Missouri, thence Across the Rocky Mountains and down the River Columbia to the Pacific Ocean.* Philadelphia: Bradford and Inskeep, 1814.

This is the first authentic account of the Lewis and Clark expedition, compiled by Nicholas Biddle and prepared for publication by Paul Allen. There are a number of earlier spurious accounts of this expedition. Captains Lewis and Clark undertook this expedition in the years 1804-1806 by the order of the United States Government, the result of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. This chronological history is compiled from the detailed journals kept by Lewis and Clark for each day of the journey. Only Lewis’s death prevented him from publishing this narrative of his journey. Captain Clark was consulted in the make of this work and his direct reflections are included in the appendix concerning the relations between the United States government and the Indian nations living in the Louisiana territory. This text does not include the observed and collected objects of natural history or the alphabets of the Indian languages that were gathered. A “Life of Captain Lewis” written by Thomas Jefferson precedes the narrative. Records include numerous descriptions of interactions of the expedition party with the American Indians including the Osage, Pawnee, Shoshonees, Skilloot, Chayennes, and the Sioux. Appendix lists distances between the rivers, creeks, and places located on the journey. Appendix includes detailed description of the names of Indian nations and their places of residence as well as an estimate of the number of houses and populations. Meteorological records are also listed in the appendix as well as journal entries made by Captain Lewis from January 1804 until August 1806. Map of the journey inserted at the beginning of volume one damaged.

RBC Holdings: F592.4 1814
Notes: Two volumes, brown calf, gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: Sabin 40828

Ker, Henry. *Travels through the Western Interior of the United States, from the year 1808 up to the year 1816 with a particular description of a great part of Mexico, or New Spain.* Elizabethtown, NJ: printed for the author, 1816.

This work contains an account of the thirteen different American Indian tribes that were met by Ker on his journey. The author traveled to America from London arriving at Charlestown. Lengthy discussion of New Orleans and his travels westwards.

RBC Holdings: Travel F396 .K38
Notes: Brown leather boards.
Citations: Sabin 37599

English traveler through the western part of Pennsylvania, the states of Ohio, Indiana and the territory of Illinois. Birkbeck keeps a chronological travelogue which although providing closely observed descriptions of peoples and places, is in more of the tourist than naturalist vein.

RBC Holdings: F518 .B6
Notes: Cloth covered boards.
Citations: Sabin 5569

Palmer, John. *Journal of Travels in the United States of North America, and in Lower Canada, performed in the year 1817; containing particulars relating to the prices of land and provisions, remarks on the country and people, interesting anecdotes…to which are added a description of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, and a Variety of other useful information.* London: Printed for Sherwood, Neely, and Jones, 1818.

Large folded map drawn by John Melish depicting in color the United States from the east coast westwards through to the Illinois Territories, the Missouri Territories, and southwards to the state of Louisiana. Another personal travelogue, presented chronologically from Palmer’s journal entries. This work is of particular interest for his description of Ohio and the western territories. Palmer restricts his observations pertaining to villages and settlements, which also include descriptions of the soil and the region’s natural history. Includes topographical tables divided by state, and price lists for various goods and foodstuffs such as candles, coffee, molasses, and tobacco.

RBC Holdings: E165 .P17
Notes: Brown leather spine and corners, marbleized paper boards.
Citations: Sabin 58360

Melish, John. *A Geographical Description of the United States, with the contiguous countries, including Mexico and the West Indies.* Philadelphia: published by the author, 1822.

Map of the national road between Cumberland and Wheeling, Pennsylvania. Detailed descriptions devoted to western states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas territory not found in previous travel guides. Describes principle townships and boundaries of the territories as well as native regional features of rivers, wildlife and land. Attempts a methodical representation of the
region, includes engravings depicting the town of St. Louis and the Columbia River. Includes index.

Notes: Fragile, leather spine and marbleized paper boards.
Citations: Sabin 47431

James, Edwin. *Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains, performed in the years 1819 and ’20*. Philadelphia: H. C. Carey and I. Lea, 1823.

James, the Botanist and Geologist for this expedition from the east coast to the Rocky Mountains, compiled this record under orders from the United States government. Valuable resource for its focus on natural sciences in exploring the western territories. There are entire chapters devoted to the observation of native wildlife including wolves, burrowing owls, wild horses, some new species of toads, honey bees, hawks and songbirds. James also includes lengthy discussions of the soil and climate of the newly explored terrain. Plants are described in detail and classified and are included with the astronomical and meteorological records. A vocabulary of the Indian languages of the Omawhah, Shoshone, and Upsaroka are included. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: F592 .J3 v. 2
Notes: Brown paper boards, buckram spine.
Citations: Sabin 35683


Written anonymously by an “English Gentleman.” This work consists of a personal travelogue through the United States from Maine to Missouri. Large fold-out map in color of the United States of America, from 1820 by John Melish, depicts territories further westward including the entire Missouri territory, Arkansas territory, and Texas. The rivers Yellowstone and the Rio Bravo are both included as well as the town of Santa Fe. Also includes a detail map of the straits of Niagara. Blame devotes a chapter to the observations of the American Indians of the region.

RBC Holdings: E165 .B64
Notes: Modern brown cloth binding and leather spine.
Citations: none

Volume one begins with a fold-out plan of an ancient fortification on the Little Miami River in Warren County, Ohio, about 33 miles northeast of Cincinnati. Hodgson, an Englishman engaged in American trade, spent sixteen months in the United States and during the course work, he traveled over 8,000 miles as far west as Mississippi and Louisiana, professing to attempt a “study of man rather than of nature, and especially to the manners, customs, and institutions of a country…” (p. viii) Hodgson concerns himself with touring pleasures and most of the interest lies in his observation of societal customs.

RBC Holdings: E165 .H69 L4
Notes: Two volumes, green cloth binding, fragile paper.
Citations: Sabin 32357


Includes historical and biographical descriptions of the Native American Indian tribes. From each tribe a few persons are chosen and named individually for the biographical sketches. Their portraits, mostly bust length, are large colored illustrations, which precede the biographies. Predominately consisting of male Native Americans, a few women are included. The portraits are individualized and some are dressed in traditional costumes, others in European contemporary dress and the rest in a mixture of the two cultures. The portraits are the real interest of this work as they have such variation in costume, headdress, makeup, ornament and jewelry, and tattoos as to indicate a wide variety of traditional costuming throughout the tribal nations.

RBC Holdings: Folio-2 E77 .M1303 supervised use only
Notes: Three volumes: one and two in brown library buckram; third bound in original leather spine and corners and brown cloth covers.
Citations: Sabin 43410a

Caitlin, George. The Manners, Customs, and Condition of the North American Indians. London: Published by the Author, 1841.

Caitlin declares that this work was “written during eight years’ travel amongst the wildest tribes of Indians in North America, 1832-39.” There are four hundred colored illustrations, engraved from paintings by the author. Fold-out map in color of the Indian locations in 1833 where Caitlin traveled. The map covers the entire United States territories, reaching California. Each tribe is clearly indicated along with the land’s terrain, buffalo ranges, and rivers. The eastern edge of the
Rocky Mountains is marked “hostile ground.” Map from 1840 depicts the Indian frontier of the United States and the position of eastern tribes that had been removed west of the Mississippi. Caitlin clearly states his modest goals for undertaking this work: “the history and customs of such a people, preserved by pictorial illustrations, are themes worthy the lifetime of one man, and nothing short of the loss of my life, shall prevent me from visiting their country, and of becoming their historian,” (p. 2). Caitlin attempts to record the present state of the American Indians of the west, discovering and recording how they lived, worshipped, and their customs, and practices. Caitlin’s work is of great interest for the details he recorded in illustrations of the Indian’s dress and costume, their tattoos and make-up, and their tools and weapons and many scenes illustrate their various practices, such as dancing. Scenes of the western landscape are also plentiful. His commentary is certainly prejudiced in regards to the “un-Christianized” and “un-civilized” Indian tribes.

RBC Holdings: E77 .C38
Notes: Two volumes, light brown calf, with gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: none

Fremont, J. C. Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842 and to Oregon and North California in the years 1843-’44. Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1845.

Fremont, a topographical engineer embarked on this journey under the orders of the United States Topographical Bureau, the resulting work being published under the order of the Senate. This is an instance of a United States government sponsored endeavor to explore the western states. Fremont compiled these observational reports in 1844 after having made two expeditions to record the meteorological, barometrical, and topographical conditions. Full page engravings complement this work, depicting the natural landscape. Native botanical lists and illustrations are provided as well as fold-out maps illustrating various parts of the terrain, such as Bear River, and the Rio de los Americanos in Nevada. The final third of this report consists of observation tables, astronomical to determine latitude and longitude of the explorers’ encampment, and the elevations of those encampments. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: F592 .F82
Notes: Brown cloth boards, embossed design on cover.
Citations: Sabin 25845

Following an Act of Congress in 1847, Schoolcraft was appointed to “collect and digest such statistics and materials as may illustrate the history, present condition and future prospects of the Indian tribes of the United States.” (page iv) Each volume is lavishly illustrated with colored plates depicting artifacts related to the history and present condition of the Native Indian tribes. Besides the detailed in-depth textual information, the key importance of these volumes is the colored plates transcribing Native American Indian life. Indian villages, surrounding locations, and the ways of life are all included in these illustrations. Much like the Caitlin volumes, the lives of the Indians are viewed solely in comparison to the European Americans. Antiquities form a major part of the second volume including many drawings of skulls, and fragments. The Indian languages are described at length including both vocabulary and grammar. Indian art, costume, and implements are illustrated and discussed in volume three. Ethnology, medical knowledge, and literature are discussed and a census of the contemporary tribes and their locations is included. Religion and spiritual beliefs are treated in volume five.

RBC Holdings: Folio E77 .S381 volumes 1-5, Index bound separately.  
Notes: Five volumes and index: volumes one, five and the index are bound in black library buckram, volumes 2-4 are bound in modern cream cloth. Original bindings are shelved with the volumes.  
Citations: Sabin 77849


Stansbury, a topographical engineer for the United States army, recorded this expedition sponsored by the United States government in 1851. Although predominately a scientific report, Stansbury also discusses the Mormon territory in Utah and their religious practices, such as plural marriage. Includes tables of measured distances, the calculations of latitudes and longitudes as well as a section on zoology including mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects. Appendices gather information concerning botany, geology, paleontology, and chemical analyses. Profusely illustrated with views, several of them panoramic, of the western landscape such as Great Salt Lake Valley, Fort Utah, the hot springs, and Flat Rock Point. The appendices are all illustrated with drawings. Indexed.

RBC Holdings: F826 .U557  
Notes: Brown cloth boards, embossed design on cover.  
Citations: Sabin 90372

Möllhausen, the topographical draughtsman and naturalist on the expedition in 1853 to the Rocky Mountains, under the direction of the United States government sponsored voyage. This work is lavishly illustrated with color chromo-lithograph plates. The western camps of several Indian tribes are depicted including the Kioway and the Ottoo as well as formations of sandstone near the Pueblo de Santo Domingo and the church located there. Includes a detailed map of the expedition beginning in Fort Smith, Arkansas, crossing through Texas, New Mexico, Utah and ending in California, just south of Los Angeles on the Pacific coast. Möllhausen’s route is clearly marked in red. As a naturalist, his record concerning mainly observations of the lands and native flora he encountered. Illustrations are one of the key elements of this work, presenting the San Francisco Mountains, the Colorado River, cacti, and the native Indian dwellings.

RBC Holdings: F593 .M69
Notes: Two volumes. Blue leather spine and corners, blue cloth boards.
Citations: Sabin 49915


Marcy, a Captain in the U. S. Army created this work under the authority of the War Department of the United States. This practical travel account begins by describing the diverse routes from the east coast to the western states. Profusely illustrated with engravings depicting hunting scenes and portions of the voyage, this work also includes a fold-out map of the states west of the Mississippi River, with a “sketch of different roads embraced in the itineraries.” Marcy describes the necessary items for this lengthy voyage such as supplies, canned good, camping equipment, and arms. Marcy states: “The allowance of provisions for each grown person, to make the journey from the Missouri River to California, should suffice for 110 days. The following is deemed requisite, viz: 150 lbs. of flour...25 lbs. of bacon...15 lbs. of coffee, and 25 lbs. of sugar...yeast...and salt and pepper.” The engravings primarily depict hunting scenes and (pp. 35-36) The volume concludes with a list of twenty-eight itineraries showing the distances between camp-sites on the principal routes from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, the condition of the roads, and the methods of obtaining wood, water, and grass on these roads.
Fremont, John Charles. *Memoirs of my Life, by John Charles Fremont, including in the Narrative five Journeys of Western Exploration, during the years 1842, 1843-44, 1845-6-7, 1848-9, 1853-4.* Chicago and New York: Belford, Clarke & Company, 1887.

Fremont’s memoirs include descriptions of his five journeys into the Western States on exploration ventures from 1842 through to 1854. Lavishly illustrated with over seventy-five engravings and seven maps detailing portions of the geography covered. Fremont was a topographical engineer working for the United States on the government sponsored expeditions. Unlike the technical and scientific reports issued by Fremont on the expeditions, his memoirs are composed as a narrative. The beautiful engravings are a highlight of this work and demonstrate the vast terrain of the west. The narrative is interspersed with portrait engravings of important members of the voyages. Portraits were also drawn of members of the Indian tribes such as the “Utah Indian,” who is described by his location, and not individually named. Scenes of interactions between the travelers and the Native Americans are vividly depicted as are the surrounding vistas. The work concludes with a fold-out map of the United States showing the areas and territories of the West that were acquired by the United States.


Ballou has written a personal narrative travel account describing the undertaking of a journey from Massachusetts to Alaska, the furthest distance traveled in any work contained within this bibliography. Ballou describes the scenery and peoples in great detail although this work is derived from strictly a personal description and not scientific or objective observations. There is little description of animals, plants and wildlife but the interest lies primarily in the description of the two Alaskan native tribes, the Aleuts and the Eskimos. There is also a comparison to the previous Russian territory of Alaska and the way of life in the contemporary American held territory.
Taylor, Joseph Henry. *Sketches of Frontier and Indian Life on the Upper Missouri and Great Plains*, embracing the Author’s personal recollections of noted frontier characters, and some studies and observations of wild Indian life, during a continuous residence in the Dakotas and adjoining states and territories during the years 1863 and 1889, corrected up to 1897. Bismarck, N. D.: Printed and Published by the Author, 1897.

This work traces the period Taylor lived in and around the Dakotas from 1863 to 1889. This illustrated work includes a frontispiece photograph of the Chief of the Aricarees, called Son of the Star. A self-published author, Taylor is the first resident of the Dakotas to describe his surroundings in detail. Also the author of “Twenty Years on the Trap Line,” “Kaleidoscopic Lives,” and “Beavers and Their Ways.” His interests are primarily in hunting, fishing, trapping, and the observation of natural wildlife especially wild birds. Taylor also includes descriptions of the Native American Indian tribes of the Dakotas and his interactions with them on the plains. Photographic illustrations include portraits of Sitting Bull the Sioux Chief, Red Cloud the Ogallalla Chief, White Bull the Chief of the Sans Arcs Sioux with his family, and the Chief of the Nez Perces.


A travel writer, Fountain describes his journeys through the eleven western states of America: California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. Written as a continuous narrative, this travel account differs from other personal narratives by not conforming to a diary or journal entry format. Fountain writes for the general reader interested in travel accounts and not for the natural scientist or specialist, although he does include detailed descriptions of the animals he encounters. Work belongs to the Murray Collection, RBC holds a portion of the British publishing company’s file copies. Indexed.

Bird, one of the first well-known female travel authors, wrote several works including “Unbeaten Tracks in Japan,” and “Six Months in the Sandwich Islands” detailing her widespread travels. Illustrated with many engravings and a frontispiece portrait of the author and her horse.

RBC Holdings: Murray 232
Notes: Embossed red cloth boards, dust-jacket. Murray Collection file copy.
Citations: none


Written, Illustrated and published by Edward Sheriff Curtis, this work spanning over two decades of his career is considered his finest accomplishment. President Theodore Roosevelt wrote the foreword declaring that “Mr. Curtis, because of the singular combination of qualities with which he has been blest, and because of his extraordinary success in making and using his opportunities, has been able to do what no other man has ever done…” This work treats each Native American tribe separately and in order of their geographic location as they headed westwards. Curtis’ volume is both a travelogue through textual description and also a pictorial record of the native tribes. Beginning with the Apache Indians of Arizona and New Mexico, Curtis traces the history, civilization, and culture of the Indian tribes. After a brief historical sketch of the tribe, their present way of life is described in detail from puberty rites, home customs, mythology and religion, hunting, costume and dancing and medical practices. The volumes of text also contain photographs interspersed lavishly throughout. The portfolios of large plates are meant to supplement the text with oversize illustrations. Each portfolio of plates contains a detailed numbered listing of the plates contained within.

RBC Holdings: Folio E77 C97 Text supervised use only
Notes: Twenty volumes. Brown leather spine and corners, brown cloth boards, gilt tooling on spine.
Citations: none

RBC Holdings: Folio-2 E77 .C97 Plates supervised use only
Notes: Twenty portfolio volumes with brown leather spine and corners each containing a set of unbound plates.
Citations: none
CONCLUSIONS

The travel accounts held in the Rare Book Collection hold an important place in American history. Exploration and observation of geography, natural history and ethnography of the New World are all included as subjects within these titles from its beginnings to the end of the nineteenth-century. Divided into three sections: Discovery of America, or the New World beginning in 1492; European Colonization from 1613 onwards; and European Exploration Westward; this annotated bibliography aims to demonstrate the depth of the holdings in the Rare Book Collection. Each of the significant European and American explorers and travelers is represented along with those who are not so famous.

The explorations covered within these works are not limited to strictly geographical subjects. Indeed, explorers from the fifteenth through the nineteenth-century did not hold such segregated and fixed notions of study. Many of these works combine elements of geography, natural history and ethnography, along with purely personal observations. By examining these sources in the original form, the reader is able to obtain a greater access into the European culture of exploration in relation to the New World. There reaches a point in scholarship where facsimiles and microfilms cease to prove effective tools of knowledge. As enlightening as they may be for the first steps of research, no technology is currently able to replace the original work’s format and design. By investigating European exploration and American history through the prism of the original artifact, new paths of thinking should be illuminated.

In creating this bibliography I intended to shed some light on collections of travel accounts and materials that are held in the Rare Book Collection. I hope that this paper
will serve as an annotated bibliographic guide to these selected travel accounts and primary sources relating to the European exploration and discovery, both scientific and cultural, of America.
WORKS CONSULTED


Harisse, Henry. *Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima: A Description of Works Relating to America Published Between the Years 1492 and 1551.* Madrid: Libreria General, 1958.


