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## When the Eagle Screamed: The Romantic Horizon in American Diplomacy, 1800-1860 by William H. Goetzmann (review)

Elmer W. Flaccus

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*

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the Expedition of Stephen Watts Kearny which expected to "strike a blow" at the northern provinces of embattled Mexico.

Abert was not destined to see the "action" with Kearny, however, as the young officer fell ill on the prairie and had to convalesce for weeks at Bent's Fort; thus, he got left behind. When he finally reached Santa Fé, he found that Kearny had left him orders to map New Mexico, a large order to say the least. The resulting map, prepared by him and Lieutenant W. G. Peck, U. S. T. E., is reproduced as a handsome folded dividend at the back of the book. Also reproduced is a large, folded copy of the Second Edition of the Hutawa map of Mexico and California which Abert had with him, obviously expecting to see even more of the Southwest.

The text of this volume comes from Abert's field notebook of 1846-1847, in which he kept a journal of his adventures on the Leavenworth-Santa Fé trail and in New Mexico. The illustrations (watercolors) were taken from Abert's sketchbook. Both notebook and sketchbook are in the possession of the editor.

Those familiar with the approach to science followed by military explorers of the United States from Lewis and Clark on will recognize the "Jeffersonian" attitude toward recording precise details about the "fauna" and "flora" encountered, along with anthropological information about the Indians and Spanish elements along the way. Such reporting could be done dully but Abert keeps the reader's interest with a direct style and surprising philosophical asides. It must be remembered, of course, that he had served in 1845 on Fremont's third expedition as far as Bent's Fort. Fremont had then sent him back down the Canadian River to map and record his observations. This report was later published as a Congressional Document in 1846.

Abert's writing reflects his conscientious awareness of responsibility to his government and fellow citizens. Most of us are grateful for such people.

*Stephen F. Austin State College*

JAMES L. NICHOLS

*When the Eagle Screamed: The Romantic Horizon in American Diplomacy, 1800-1860.* By William H. Goetzmann. New York (The Wiley Press), 1966. Pp. xvii + 138. Maps, bibliography, index. \$1.95.

The series, *America in Crisis*, edited by Robert A. Divine of the University of Texas, has proven to be a fine addition to the litera-

ture dealing with American involvement in various aspects of our foreign policy. All the books have been well written, stimulating, scholarly, and helpful to professors who strive to make their lectures more meaningful.

*When the Eagle Screamed* meets all the qualifications of its predecessors and surpasses most of them in quality of writing and breadth of learning. Written by Pulitzer Prize winner, William H. Goetzmann, it portrays American expansionism in the first half of the nineteenth century and demonstrates that America has never been free from crises in foreign affairs.

Professor Goetzmann takes a fresh look at the old Manifest Destiny policy, emphasizing its European background and its romantic aspects. Romantic, that is, from the viewpoint of the Americans and not so glamorous to those who confronted our expanding nation. Throughout the book runs a strain of irony as our clear-eyed men of destiny moved steadfastly toward showdown after showdown. At times, one wonders how we escaped disaster. Perhaps there is considerable truth in Bismarck's later observation that there is a special providence that protects fools, drunkards, and the United States of America.

New interpretations and new ground broken characterize *When the Eagle Screamed*. John Quincy Adams receives a fresh treatment, James K. Polk gets his just dues, and the filibustering expeditions are given new life. Even the ladies, represented by Jane McManus, are shown to have wielded considerable influence on our manifest destiny.

Professor Goetzmann is more at home in Latin America and acknowledges his debt to Edward Wallace's *Destiny and Glory*. Consequently, his chapter on the Far East lacks the liveliness of other sections and his claims that the United States became a ruthless economic imperialist in the fashion of Britain and France (p. 102) can and should be challenged by other historians. Controversial statements like that one make the book all the more stimulating.

There is little to criticize and much to praise in *When the Eagle Screamed*. It is a welcome addition to a fine series.

*Pan American College*

ELMER W. FLACCUS

*Stagecoach West*. By Ralph Moody. New York (Thomas Y. Crowell Company), 1967. Pp. x+341. Acknowledgments, illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$6.95.

The trans-Missouri West is a land of distances, aridity, and rugged