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The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied, volume 3, September 1833-August 1834

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Book Reviews and Notices

The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied, volume 3, *September 1833–August 1834*, edited by Stephen S. Witte and Marsha V. Gallagher; translated by Dieter Karch. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012. xxvii, 512 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, supplements and addenda, bibliography, index of flora and fauna, general index. \$85.00 cloth, \$295.00 leather.

Reviewer Thomas D. Thiessen is retired from his position as archeologist with the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

This is the third published volume of the original journal kept by the German prince Maximilian Alexander Philipp of Wied-Neuwied, who, with the artist Karl Bodmer and huntsman David Dreidoppel, traveled through much of the United States in 1832–1834. A trained naturalist, Maximilian recorded extensive notes about the flora and fauna he observed, as well as the landscape through which he traveled and especially the native cultures he encountered west of the Mississippi River. The resulting daily journal was the basis for his famous book, *Reise in das Innere Nord-Amerika* (Koblenz, 1839–1841), published after his return to Germany. Later editions appeared in French and English, but all three versions are condensed from his original journal, which contains much information not available in the published works. The original journal, translated into English, has been published in three volumes over the past six years. This final volume details his brief visit to Fort Union on the Missouri River in western North Dakota, the winter spent among the Mandan Indians at Fort Clark, his rapid descent of the Missouri in the spring and early summer of 1834, and his subsequent travel through the eastern United States and return to Germany.

The skillfully edited book contains hundreds of editorial footnotes that identify persons and places and the zoological, botanical, and other natural features Maximilian encountered. Also presented are the marginal and interlineated notes that the prince wrote in his journal. The prince's numerous drawings from the journal are reproduced as facsimiles, often in color. Persons with professional or avocational interests in the flora, fauna, and native cultures of the northern and central plains region, in particular, will find much of value in this final volume of Prince Maximilian's journals.