



A PRINT OF KARL BODMER'S "CAVE-IN-ROCK, ON THE OHIO" (1832)

Courtesy Indiana Historical Society, Indianapolis.

ject and suggests some new ways of thinking about the relationships between waterways and their surroundings over time.

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Letters from New France: The Upper Country, 1686–1783. Translated and edited by Joseph L. Peyser. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1992. Pp. xv, 248. Maps, tables, figures, notes, illustrations, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$34.95.)

Joseph L. Peyser has collected and translated French manuscripts, mostly official, dealing with affairs in the *pays d'en haut*, the region surrounding the Great Lakes and upper Mississippi Valley. His twelve-year project began as a historical celebration of Fort St. Joseph (Niles, Mich.) but expanded into "a sequential picture of the struggles, growth and ultimate defeat of the French empire in North America" (p. xi). The book's contents have been selected from about two thousand manuscript pages relating to

Fort St. Joseph, supplemented by other prime sources. It was a "fascinating" job for Peyser, and it is very interesting for readers who usually approach the period through English sources.

Peyser's editing is thorough and conscientious. He does not gush about the romance of it all, nor does he slant materials in the too familiar manner of racial partisanship. His objectivity is especially plain in the documents regarding the Fox Wars that comprise about a fifth of the total. After carefully showing that Governor General Beaharnois "was attempting to secure New France, assure its economy, and maintain his own position," Peyser concludes that "Beaharnois's treatment of the Foxes is a dark chapter in the history of French and Indian relations in colonial North America" (pp. 132, 133). Peyser's French did not "embrace" the Indians.

For a reader there is a lesson on strategy in the different fates of the Foxes and the farther south Chickasaws. French troops and allied Indians stood between the Foxes and their Iroquois allies, blocking access to firearms and reinforcements, so that the Foxes suffered almost total massacre. For the Chickasaws, however, English South Carolinians provided arms and other help. When the French launched a campaign to repeat their Fox triumph, "Bienville's forces were cut to pieces by their enemy's crossfire, planned and directed by the English" (p. 160).

Except for such indirect references to English colonials, they remain unnoticed until George Washington appears. It should be repeated that the book's contents are not only French, but almost entirely official French. If there is a serious fault, it lies in the lack of attention to *coureurs de bois* and those other Frenchmen who did "embrace" the Indians, the missionaries, and métis.

Appendixes contain useful and otherwise hard-to-find data: chronologically listed officials and Jesuit missionaries; terms for money; and equivalents for weights and measures current at the time.

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"Yours for the Revolution": The Appeal to Reason, 1895–1922. Edited by John Graham. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990. Pp. xii, 332. Illustrations, notes, index. \$45.00.)

Given Indiana's generally conservative reputation, it is ironic that the Hoosier state has played a significant role in the history of American socialism. Eugene V. Debs and Robert Dale Owen are well known, but the more obscure Julius Augustus Wayland of Versailles, Indiana, founder of the *Appeal to Reason*, the premier socialist newspaper in the United States, is arguably just as influ-