

In general, Clay's legal career, like his political one, was marked by inconsistencies and compromises of principle. His flipflops on the central question of states' rights during the early nineteenth century is one of many examples cited by the author. Throughout his life, Clay often declared his allegiance to the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798, which called for strict interpretation of the Constitution and limited government and affirmed the coequal right of the states to expound the Constitution and challenge the constitutionality of federal laws. Clay was nevertheless the chief architect of the American System that relied upon a broad interpretation of the commerce clause and advocated internal improvements, protective tariffs, and national banks. In the *Osborn* case, which involved the question whether Ohio could tax branches of the United States Bank, the Ohio legislature, supported by Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Georgia repudiated the Supreme Court's famous ruling in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) forbidding such taxes, and cited the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions as authority. Clay, later joined by Daniel Webster, represented the Bank of the United States to defeat Ohio's claim that it had a coequal right to interpret the fundamental law.

Though repetitive at times, the author has given us a readable and informative account of Clay's law practice. It is unfortunate, however, that he did not integrate Clay's legal activities more fully into the broader spectrum of his political and constitutional policies as a member of Congress. This would have added interest and meaning to the subject.

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*Charles-Alexandre Lesueur: Premier Naturalist and Artist.* By Josephine Mirabella Elliott and Jane Thompson Johansen. ([New Harmony, Ind.]: the authors, 1999. [Pp. 123]. Notes, illustrations, selected bibliography. Paperbound, \$29.95. Order from the Red Geranium Bookstore, 531 Church Street, New Harmony, Indiana 47631.)

Robert Owen's communitarian experiment at New Harmony, Indiana, (1824–1828) attracted a wide variety of participants. Most historically significant were the scientists and educators led by William Maclure, an early nineteenth-century philanthropist and pioneer in natural science and education. Among Maclure's scientists were Thomas Say, Gerard Troost, and Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. Currently, these individuals have been relegated to secondary or minor roles in mainstream American history. Lesueur deserves more than a brief historical notation. His work in archaeology and natu-

ral science, extending well beyond New Harmony, helped to lay the foundations of scientific research in both Europe and America.

Josephine Mirabella Elliott and Jane Thompson Johansen examine the life and work of Lesueur (1778–1846), a many-faceted archaeologist, geologist, zoologist, ichthyologist, ornithologist, lithographer, and artist. They craft a narrative and visual portrait of Lesueur through biography, a summary of his work as a natural scientist, excerpts from his letters and notes, and very importantly, through his artistic sketches, drawings, and scientific plates. Their research has been truly trans-Atlantic, ranging from New Harmony to Le Havre, France, where Lesueur was curator of the natural history museum.

The book is divided into four sections. Part I, a biographical sketch, begins with Lesueur's first expedition, a voyage to Australia in 1800 commissioned by Napoleon, which resulted in an extensive collection of scientific specimens and a publication on Australian ethnography and natural science. In 1815 he accompanied Maclure on expeditions to the West Indies and the Great Lakes. Active in the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Lesueur joined Maclure's scientists and educators at Owen's community at New Harmony in 1825. He returned to France in 1837 and became curator of the museum at Le Havre in 1846.

Part II examines Lesueur as a pioneering archaeologist. His field studies unearthed collections of artifacts, many of which were sent to Le Havre. A skilled artist, Lesueur's sketches illustrated his archaeological discoveries in natural science, especially ichthyology. Resembling a museum catalog, this section provides a framework for further research on Lesueur as an archaeologist.

Excerpts from Lesueur's research notes and letters to Maclure and other associates, in Part III, offer insights into Lesueur's dedication to his work. A sensitive observer of the plight of the Native Americans, Lesueur observed that "Civilization should have made friends of them, but civilization is still enveloped in this mantle of barbarism . . ." (p. 19).

Part IV consists of forty-seven plates and illustrations, most of which are Lesueur's drawings and lithographs. An extensive bibliography lists important manuscript collections and sources on Lesueur.

Elliott and Johansen succeed in moving their subject into the mainstream, especially in the history of natural science. Indeed, Elliott, who is the definitive historian of the Maclure period at New Harmony, again accomplishes her objective of moving New Harmony's notables into a larger historical perspective. Elliott's and Johansen's well-designed and beautifully illustrated volume gives Lesueur a larger place in historical memory.

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