phenomena as cases that “can be neither proved nor falsified” (253). For example, archaeological research in the Southwest has delineated “roads” with far less impact on the landscape than many “traces” in the East. To find archaeological evidence for paths in the forested East, it is first necessary to look for them. Research on historical trails shows that it is not impossible to do so. The section ends with an important paper by Ann Ramenofsky and the editor on the possible role of the expedition in introducing Old World diseases to the East.

Although details of Galloway’s treatment of the “Direct Historical Approach” in the paper opening the third section might be debated, she usefully draws attention to problems in using sources naively, in either the direct-historical or the *Annales* approaches. Jay Johnson’s paper follows the traditional interpretation that the aftermath of the de Soto expedition was the devolution of political forms from “chiefdoms” to “tribes.” Since I challenged this argument in *Mississippian Political Economy* (New York, 1997), I will merely note the contrary view that sees historical Native American formation of “secondary states” under European military pressure. The section closes with Charles Hudson’s paper detailing recent efforts to redefine the route followed by the expedition.

The last section of essays begins with the issues of justice and cruelty in Spanish exploration. It then discusses the legal struggle over Soto’s will, Oviedo, and the representation of violence in the accounts. It closes with an essay by the editor about commemorative history.

This volume contains a diverse range of opinion and scholarship. As the editor hoped in her preface, it provides a useful “jumping off place for the next round of Soto scholarship.” Even though it is not yet an “archaeology” of the sources, it is a necessary step toward that a deeper and more critical investigation of what happened in the mid-sixteenth-century Southeast.

Jon Muller
Southern Illinois University

*North American Exploration. II. A Continent Defined.* By John Logan Allen (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1997) 472 pp. $75.00

This collection of six essays surveys the European exploration of North America from the mid-sixteenth century to the close of the eighteenth century. The editor explains that this spread covers “the second critical period of the exploration of the continent, the time when the various regions of North America were brought to the light of European science and the time when that science began to understand the continent in ways very different from those of the sixteenth century” (1). To understand the goals of the three-volume project, however, one needs to examine the first volume in which Allen explains that “a collaborative, comprehensive study and overview devoted exclusively to the topic of
North American exploration” has not been published since the late nineteenth century. More specifically, the project aims to put discovery in context as a “process of exploration” and move beyond the current scholarly “conquest model,” as well as the “cynical . . . politically correct Columbus-bashing” that emerged during the Columbian Quincentennial. Rather than glorify or damn key explorers as solitary individuals, the book presents Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, Samuel de Champlain, Alexander Mackenzie, and James Cook among a multitudinous cast.

All six authors (equally divided between historians and geographers) in this book are experts in their areas and offer sweeping syntheses grounded in original research. They conform to no particular methodology, other than historical geography broadly understood. All comment, consistently, on the motives behind exploration: to claim territory versus other European powers, to find a transcontinental passage, to exploit natural resources (especially the fur trade), and, for the Spanish and French, to missionize the Indians. The major unifying element is an exhaustive discussion of numerous expeditions. This rigorous contextualization lends these essays an authoritative and encyclopedic quality; unfortunately, it also saps them of argumentative purpose.

Oakah L. Jones, Jr.’s sweeping opening essay covers Spanish penetrations north of New Spain throughout two and a half centuries in six regions from Florida to California. Two distinctive qualities emerge. First, due to an official policy of secrecy that prohibited publication, Spanish exploration was a “continued rediscovery”; previous findings were “buried in the archives” (9, 40). Second, the Spanish missionary impulse was more important and longer-lasting than for other European powers.

Exploration from New France is treated in two chapters. Conrad Heidenreich bases his examination of the vast scope of seventeenth-century exploration of the continental interior on extraordinary French records wherein “some information, perhaps most of it, has survived, permitting one to piece together a fairly complete account of at least primary exploration” (68). Heidenreich’s three basic periods hinge on the changing balance of power, especially with the powerful Iroquois. The adaptability of the French to native conditions leads him to comment that, “[f]or those French who knew the natives well, there were no major physical or mental differences between the two groups” (148). This remarkable cooperation is also noted by W. J. Eccles concerning eighteenth-century French exploration, in which “[t]he legendary voyageurs . . . were barely distinguishable from the Indians.” To this point he adds the crucial factor that Indian dominance “called the tune to which the French had to dance” (152). Eccles’ well-crafted essay distinguishes itself by offering a welcome degree of interpretive engagement.

British exploration also is discussed in two chapters: Alan V. Briceland covers the exploration of the United States interior, and

2 Ibid., 2.
Richard I. Ruggles discusses Rupert’s Land, the immense sweep of territory from Hudson Bay to the Pacific. Briceland acknowledges that Anglo-Americans are often dismissed as mediocre explorers, but still uncovers many “remarkable journeys of discovery” from 1607 to 1804 (269). Before tracing English exploration from a regional perspective, Briceland notes that its leaders were often non-English ethnics whose journeys moved “from one native village to another” rather than blazing new trails (271). Ruggles’ assessment of northernmost British exploration, starting in 1668, places commerce and the fur trade at the center. In his essay, as in all the others, the drive to find a transcontinental passageway remained significant through the end of the eighteenth century. Although Ruggles organizes his chapter into geographical thrusts pushing out from Hudson Bay, his main focus concerns competition between the “factory” trading system of the Hudson’s Bay Company and the French long-distance traders and their Northwest Company successors after New France fell to the British in the 1760s.

The final essay, by James R. Gibson, examines varied maritime explorations of the northern Pacific coast beginning in the mid-eighteenth century. Striking among the early Russian efforts were “Tartar-inspired measures” that “enslaved” Aleut and Kodiak sea otter hunters (340). Although the Russian presence sparked renewed Spanish interest, in the end, the British played the most notable part as a “Pacific craze” helped make “naval explorers and itinerant scientists . . . a new type of national hero” (374). George Vancouver’s “superb undertaking” to map the coast from 1791 to 1795, which definitively established the external boundaries of the continent, brings the volume to a close (391).

This scholarly overview overflows with details about expeditions that dramatically expanded Western geographical knowledge of North America. However, it rarely offers strong conclusions and never tackles methodological or historiographical issues, despite the editor’s embattled characterization of the field. Those beginning research on North American exploration from 1550 to 1800 will find this volume a useful reference source due to its close attention to routes and dates of exploration, as well as its identification of published primary sources.

Liam Riordan
University of Maine, Orono

Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America.
512 pp. $29.95

Our understanding of American slavery has been radically altered during the course of the last two generations through hundreds of monographs and by such gifted historians as Kenneth Stampp, Eugene Genovese, Herbert Gutman, Nathan Huggins, and John Hope Franklin, to each of whom Berlin makes a respectful bow in his acknowledgments. With
North American exploration occurred from the 15th to 19th centuries by non-native people wishing to discover the continent. French and English exploration had as an incentive the necessity of reaching the Pacific via North America. An efficient trade route was at the heart of the travel. Juan Ponce de Leon, from the Hispanola colony, was sent by King Ferdinand II of Aragon to verify that land had been discovered to the northwest. He arrived at the Northeast coast, naming the place Florida. Librarian's tip: This volume, A Continent Defined, covers the exploration of North America from the Spanish entrada of the sixteenth century to the British and Russian explorations of the Pacific coastal regions in the closing years of the eighteenth century. Read preview Overview. The Annals of Iowa. North American Exploration, Volume 2, a Continent Defined. tmp.1422293080.pdf.ZUrcA. Students of North American exploration, scholars and laypersons alike, can await its appearance with the reasonable expectation that it will be as rewarding as the first two. Thomas Jefferson and the Changing West: From Conquest to Conservation, edited by James P. Ronda. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press in cooperation with the Missouri Historical Society, 1997. xx, 224 pp. The story of North American exploration spans an entire millennium and involves a wide array of European powers and uniquely American characters. It began with John II of Portugal, however, believed Columbus had discovered islands in the Atlantic already claimed by Portugal and took the matter to Pope Alexander II. Twice the pope issued decrees supporting Spain's claim to Columbus's discoveries. But the territorial disputes between Portugal and Spain were not resolved until 1494 when they signed the Treaty of Tordesillas, which drew a line 370 leagues west of the Azores as the demarcation between the two empires.