Joslyn Art Museum Completes Historic Three-Part Publication

Omaha, NE – Joslyn Art Museum today announced the milestone publication of the third and final volume of the English translation of *The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied*, one of the most important documents of the nineteenth-century American West. Volumes 1 and 2 were published in 2008 and 2010 respectively. In 2008, Volume 1 was named the “Outstanding Nonfiction Book” of the year by National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. In the fall of 2011, Volume 1 received the Western History Association’s Dwight L. Smith Award, a biennial award recognizing outstanding bibliographic or research work. Earlier in 2011, Volumes 1 and 2 were reviewed by Stuart Ferguson of *The Wall Street Journal*, who called the works a "magnificent chronicle."

In 1832–34, Prince Alexander Philipp Maximilian, a distinguished explorer, naturalist, and ethnologist from Wied-Neuwied, Germany, embarked on a voyage into the furthest reaches of the American Interior. Accompanied by the Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, Maximilian set forth from St. Louis in April 1833 on a 2,500 mile journey by steamship and keelboat up the Missouri River, traveling as far as Fort McKenzie, Montana. Wintering at the Mandan village near Fort Clark, they returned downriver the following spring, having spent over a year amongst the tribes of the Upper Missouri. The watercolors that Bodmer produced on this journey remain one of the most perceptive and compelling visual accounts of the West ever created. Meanwhile, his patron, Maximilian, was equally hard at work on a journal documenting his scientific and anthropologic observations. Few historical chronicles

PICTURED: Volume 1 of Maximilian's original journals, open to pages 224–225, showing the prince's colorful depictions of the Sauk and Meskwaki Indians he met in St. Louis in March 1833. All of Maximilian's drawings are reproduced at nearly original size and placement in the new publication.
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_The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied_

are as informative and eloquent, describing the topography, Native peoples, natural history, and the burgeoning fur trade of the High Plains. Today, Maximilian's journal (in three volumes, each about 300 pages in length, and comprising about a half million words) is a centerpiece of Joslyn Art Museum's collection, accompanied by his collection of over 350 watercolors and drawings by Karl Bodmer.

Illustrated with Maximilian's ink and watercolor drawings, the journals offer an invaluable record of this critical period in the exploration of the American West. The three volumes of _The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied_ have been completely translated into modern English, are fully annotated to aid the modern reader, and faithfully reproduce Maximilian's drawings as well as his own notes, asides, and appendices. These meticulous publications are the result of a multiyear project carried out by Joslyn's Margre H. Durham Center for Western Studies and published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

**Support for the Journals**

Support for the Maximilian Journals Project has come from many sources. Robert Daugherty funded the completion of the translation in 2003. The Bodmer Society, Charles W. Durham, and Marlene and J. Joe Ricketts made timely contributions to support initial editing and production costs. Dorothy and Stanley M. Truhlsen, Arader Galleries, Ann and Steve Berzin, Judy and Terry Haney, Susan and Michael Lebens, Pinnacle Bank, and Phyllis and Del Toebben provided additional support. Joslyn was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the University of Oklahoma Press received funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Ultimately, however, it has been the extremely generous gifts of Howard L. and Rhonda A. Hawks and The Hawks Foundation that are making this important publication possible.

**Public Symposium Celebrates Completed Publication**

On Saturday, September 22, from 1–4 pm, Joslyn will host a symposium (free with regular Museum admission) celebrating the publication of the third and final volume of the translation of _The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied_. Reflecting and expanding upon Maximilian's interests, five speakers will address the artistic and natural history of the Missouri River Basin in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The afternoon will open with a presentation by Stephen S. Witte, co-editor of the Journals, "Prince Maximilian and the Transformation of the Upper Missouri Basin." Other speakers include Adam Harris, curator of art at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, regarding his upcoming exhibition _George Catlin's American Buffalo_, and Maureen Boyle, a Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University, who will discuss her research on Maximilian and the emergence of American zoology. Mace Hack, Nebraska state director of the Nature Conservancy, will talk about contemporary efforts to restore the Missouri in "Rebuilding the River," and Toby Jurovics, Joslyn's chief curator & Holland Curator of American Western Art, will conclude the event with a presentation on Robert Adam's influential photographic series, _From the Missouri West_.

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Purchasing the Journals

The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied — Volume 1: May 1832–April 1833 (published 2008); Volume 2: April–September 1833 (published 2010); and Volume 3: September 1833–August 1834 (published 2012) are available in bookstores nationwide, including Joslyn Art Museum’s Hitchcock Museum Shop, for $85 per volume. A special, limited collector’s edition, bound in leather with special foil stamping, a ribbon marker, and a matching, cloth-covered slipcase, is available for $295 from the University of Oklahoma Press (www.oupress.com). The Journals are edited by Stephen S. Witte and Marsha V. Gallagher. Volumes 1 and 2 are translated by William J. Orr, Paul Schach, and Dieter Karch with forewords by John Wilson. Volume 3 is translated by Dieter Karch with a foreword by Jack Becker, Joslyn Art Museum executive director & CEO.

For more information contact Amy Rummel, director of marketing and public relations, at Joslyn Art Museum, (402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org.

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