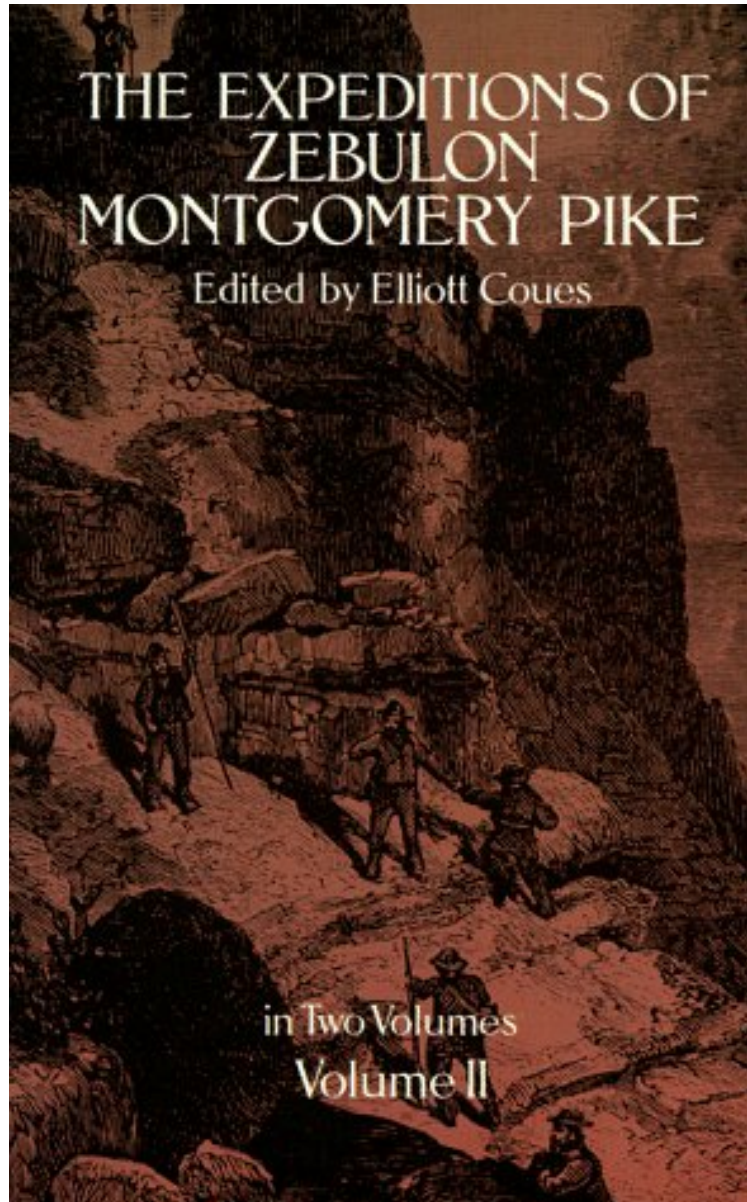


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The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike (Volume 2)

Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Elliott Coues
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Zebulon Montgomery Pike, Elliott Coues : The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike (Volume 2) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike (Volume 2):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ImpressiveBy William J. Higgins,III This review refers to Volume

Two. Although at times quite verbose and long-winded (due to the historical notation), the book did illustrate the adventure and hardships of early American explorers, along with political intrigue between Spanish and American relationships in the early 1800's. Pike left St. Louis in 1806 to explore the present southwestern United States. He and his men suffered and endured many misfortunes and hardships while in the Colorado mountains, then only to be arrested by Spanish authorities for trespassing into their territory. I suppose the debate will go on forever, did Pike intentionally get arrested in order to further explore Mexico so that the American government would be more enlightened as to their culture, military strengths and weaknesses, geography, trade possibilities, economy, etc.? It is a creditable, thorough and absorbing account of early American western history. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not very dramatic or entertaining.

By Michael Green

Volume I: Pike exhaustively recounts his daily activities on board. In almost no instance except for the frigid winter is there much drama or dialogue between he and his men. Even when he reaches what he thinks is the source of the Mississippi, he is actually mistaken, though "correct" as far as the assumptions of the day. Toward the head of the river, it is difficult to assess where Pike even is without the notes (which in themselves almost swallow the book, but of sheer necessity to the reading). We reach the headwaters of the river and return to St Louis without much fanfare or dialogue, save that Pike spoke with the English fur traders near the source and explained America's new ownership of the territory (one of his objectives).

Volume II: In this volume Pike is no better. There is an extremely boring journey across Kansas and into Colorado, and he the real drama sets in. Pike and his men are without winter clothing and now in the Colorado Rockies. The frostbite on some of his men forces them to stay behind, unable to continue. This occurs day after day, week after week, until the expedition reaches what is believed to be the source of the Arkansas River. Otherwise the volume meekly runs through Pike's capture by Spanish authorities and his return to the U.S. via Spanish escort. This last is a daily log of conversations with French or Spanish military figures, and of little interest in general. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Formatting

By Carbonbased

Get a sample first. My copy is a jumbled mess. Narrative and lists are chopped up and reassembled randomly. Reading it is like trying to reassemble the carrots in a stew.