

History prof's book is nominated for Pulitzer

A book by James P. Ronda, a YSU history professor, has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in American History.

Lewis and Clark among the Indians, the first and only full-scale study of the official and personal relations of the expedition and native peoples, was nominated by the University of Nebraska Press, publishers of the book.

To gather firsthand observations for the study, Ronda and his wife, Jeanne, traveled the entire Lewis and Clark route, nearly 8,000 miles, in the summer of 1980. This research was funded by a grant from the YSU Research Council.

Lewis and Clark among the Indians is Ronda's fourth book and is the first in a planned trilogy on the exploration of the American West. The second, *Astoria and Empire: The Making of an American West*, will be a study of John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company, Astoria, and the creation of an American empire in the Northwest. The third, tentatively titled *Dreams and Empires*, will focus on the legends and myths which attracted Europeans to the New World.

Pulitzer Prize winners will be announced in April, 1985 in New York City. Winners each receive \$1,000.

Ronda admits that the six-month wait for the winners to be announced will be a long one, but the nomination alone is exciting.

"I feel like a winner just being nominated," he said. "I'm very grateful to the University and the Research Council for supporting this project.

"It's exciting for me to be nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, but it is also good for the University because it shows the importance of research."

In addition to being nominated for a Pulitzer, the book has been nominated for the Ray A. Billington Prize in American Frontier History, which is presented by the Organization of American Historian.

The book is being printed and is scheduled to be released around Christmas. According to Ronda, more than 500 copies have been sold through pre-publication orders. University of Nebraska Press is making *Lewis and Clark among the Indians* its lead book this year.

The professor employed ethnohistorical techniques in the book, which utilized the disciplines of history, anthropology, archeology and historical geography together for intensive study of the original Lewis and Clark journals and maps as well artifacts they gathered during the expedition.

Illustrated by original drawings, and maps, the book offers a complete appraisal of Lewis and Clark's Indian relations and the role of the expedition in the development of western federal Indian policy. It includes a

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thorough analysis of Indian political, diplomatic and economic responses to the expedition and analyzes the complex personal relations between explorers and Indians, yet is sen-



JOHN RONDA

sitive to cultural differences.

The cover design is a full-color reproduction of the Charles Russell painting of Lewis and Clark meeting the Indians along the Columbia River. Ronda visited that site while following the Lewis and Clark route.

A native of Chicago, Ronda is a graduate of Hope College, Holland, Michigan. He received

his master of arts degree and his doctorate in American colonial history from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

In the past decade he has published 12 scholarly articles and presented some 30 papers on Indian-white relations at various conferences throughout the U.S. and Canada. Four of his essays on Indian missions have appeared in recent anthologies and two papers on native map-makers will be included in forthcoming collections.

Since joining the YSU faculty in 1969, Ronda has received several research fellowships and three Distinguished Professor Awards.

In 1982, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, a national organization devoted to the study and preservation of historic sites along the expedition's path.

Ronda was one of 30 invited participants to the National Endowment for the Humanities Planning Conference for the Columbus Quincentennial-1992, at Wingspread Conference Center in Wisconsin earlier this month.

He is also a member of the Organization of American Historians, the American Society of Ethnohistory and the Western History Association.