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Montana State University Press and the Historical Society of Montana announces publication of Northwest historical documents

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"Frontier Omnibus," a collection of Northwest historical documents spanning the years from 1805 to 1883, will be issued in book form as a joint publishing project of the University and the Historical Society of Montana, it was announced by Jack Ryan, Director of the Montana State University Press.

"The 27 articles in the book cover the era of the trappers and explorers, missionaries, traders, brawling gold seekers, Indian fighters and pioneering housewives, all the way up to settlement of the raw land by sturdy stockraisers and homesteaders. This is not the kind of history that is written by professional historians. It is a series of accounts from the hearts of very human people who were there and saw it all as the Northwest opened up," he said.

The diaries, letters and official correspondence that the book contains were originally edited more than a quarter of a century ago under direction of the late Paul C. Phillips, noted Montana State University historian, and his literary colleague, Dr. H. G. Merriam. They were published at that time in The Frontier and Midland, a campus literary publication edited by Dr. Merriam.

"We have had the original series re-edited by Dr. John Hakola, who used to be a history major here at MSU and now is in the history department at the University of Maine. Through facilities of the State Historical Society of Montana, we were able to illustrate the book liberally with drawings and paintings by Montana's famed cowboy artist, Charles Russell.

"We feel that 'Frontier Omnibus', from the standpoint of readers of Northwest Americana, is going to be one of the most important books to be published this year or any other year," Ryan said.

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